

State Representative visits Appleton North

By Maya Murzello

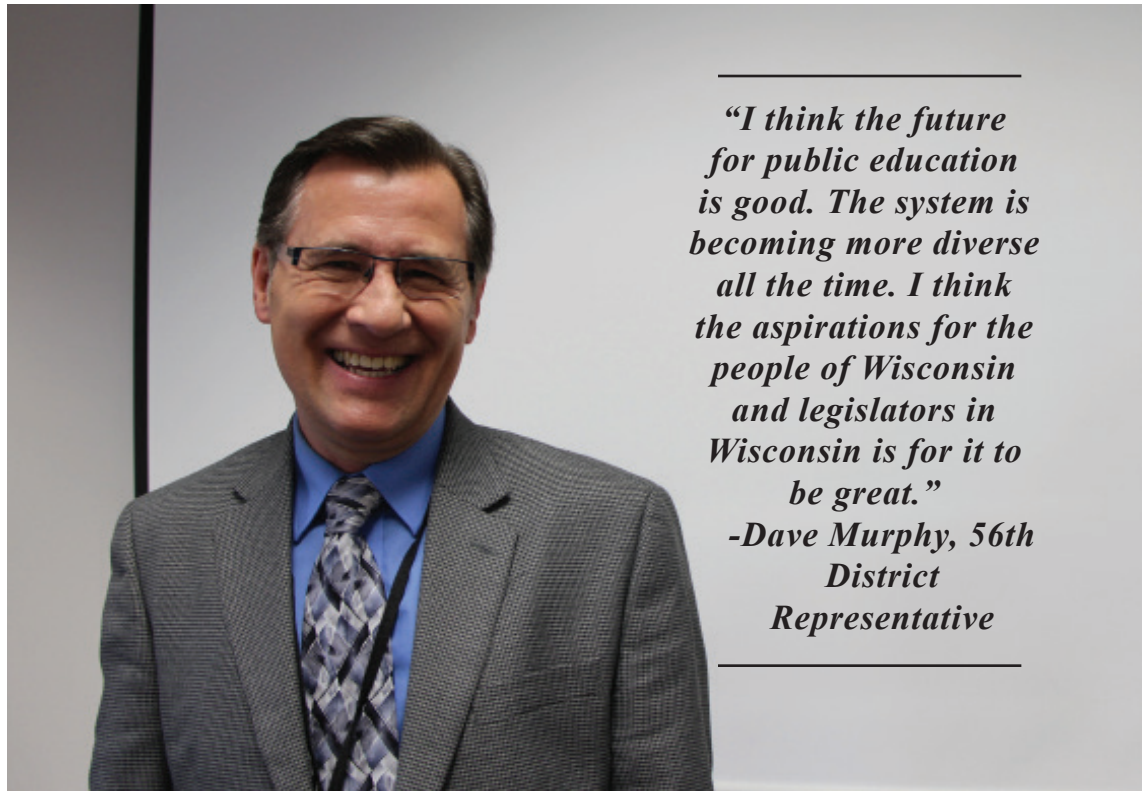
At the invitation of Superintendent Dr. Allinger, State Representative Dave Murphy visited Appleton North on March 9 to observe classes and learn more about the Appleton Area School District. He represents the 56th District of Wisconsin which includes Appleton.

According to Representative Murphy, he often hears in the media negative reports about teenager's behavior and how they dress.

"I was pleasantly surprised that I didn't see anybody that I really thought was dressed inappropriately," he said. "Teenagers nowadays dress a bit different than we did."

One of the issues he explored while touring the school was college readiness. He is the chairman of the Colleges/Universities Committee and part of the K-12 committee for legislators and is looking into the connection between them.

Representative Murphy said, "They [colleges and high schools] don't always talk to each other very well. Universities will sometimes complain about the knowledge and skills that the high school students come to them with, but they never talk to the schools to tell them what the problem is."



State Representative Dave Murphy toured Appleton North High School, observed classes, and talked with school district leaders. He has positive views for the future of public education in Wisconsin. Photo by Maya Murzello

He was surprised at the variety of ways in which students learn and at the 15 charter schools in the Appleton school district. He observed Appleton Career Academy, a charter school in North.

"The fact that kids can learn in different ways is really a huge benefit," Murphy said.

An improvement needed for schools Murphy said, is career

counseling. He believes that schools need to move away from only looking at skills and aptitudes.

"People have such different personalities and personality has a lot to do with how you learn. For many years, we didn't address that," Murphy said. He decided to become a pharmacist based on his science aptitude. However, when

looking back, he was glad that he didn't choose that career path because he felt he would have been bored.

He wants kids to discover their career by learning about the requirements and what a person actually does as part of that occupation.

"I think young people sometimes have a romantic notion of maybe what a job will be or

look like," Murphy said. He gave the example of his daughter and how she went to University of Wisconsin-Madison as a pre-med scholar. After she learned what a physician does on a daily basis by shadowing doctors, she decided to choose a different career and went on to become a successful lawyer in New York City.

The budget proposed by the governor is being revised by legislators and he hopes more funding will be distributed to the K-12 system. "I can't guarantee anything, but I am feeling optimistic in that area. Being on the K-12 Education Committee, I have quite a bit of opportunity to work on that," he said.

"As a legislator, I have to look at things in a broader and more general way and when I look at it in the broader sense, I think most students are succeeding and most students are doing well," he said.

When discussing the future of public education in Wisconsin, Murphy was optimistic. "I think the future for public education is good," he said. "The system is becoming more diverse all the time. I think the aspirations for the people of Wisconsin and legislators in Wisconsin is for it to be great."

Approaching Day of Silence supports LGBTQ+ community

By Rachel Flom

In mid-April, many members of the Appleton North student body will be participating in Words Hurt Week. The week comprises of informing students and faculty about the power of words.

According to a survey taken by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network in 2009, four out of five LGBTQ+ students had reported either verbal, physical, or sexual harassment at school. Words Hurt Week and its affiliated events shine a light on not only LGBTQ+ identifiers who have taken their own life but also promotes ways to help those who may be feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts.

The two major events during Words Hurt Week are Day of Silence and Night of Noise.

Day of Silence will occur the last school day of the week, and is meant to recognize and



North's Alliance Club supports the school's LGBTQ+ community through the Day of Silence. This year the event will take place in mid-April. Photo by Mrs. Ehlers

stand as tribute to LGBTQ+ high school students who have taken their lives due to severe discrimination and homophobia. This event will occur on April 17.

Appleton North's Alliance Club (also known as GSA) includes many of the participating students, and meetings leading up to Day of Silence are spent planning and discuss-

ing the event.

"Nationally, over 450,000 students participate in the Day of Silence," said Mrs. Strick, the adviser for North's Alliance Club. "And last year we had close to 200 of our own students joining in with many more showing their support by wearing a Day of Silence T-shirt, rainbow colored ribbon or Love Knows No Gender

wristband. These subtle yet powerful gestures of support mean so much to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning students."

Many North students value what the week has to offer and particularly how many students are willing to sacrifice their speech for their beliefs.

"The Day of Silence is a very important day at Appleton North High School," said Nick Riva, senior, "It really helps people show their support of LGBTQ+ personnel that have lost their lives. During my time here at Appleton North I have seen nothing but more people sign up for Day of Silence to participate, to educate themselves on this issue and to just simply show their support every year."

Appleton North is known for having one of the largest Alliance clubs in the Fox Cities

high schools due in part to the emphasis on Words Hurt Week.

"All of these events are a great way to show support and allyship towards the LGBTQ+ community," said Cassi Jolitz, junior and co-president of the Alliance Club.

The event that ends Words Hurt Week is Night of Noise, which takes place shortly after Day of Silence, usually at one of the Goodwill locations. Night of Noise is not just for youth, and usually has fairly exceptional attendance. It's a social function that not only includes a celebration for the success of the week, but also provides community members with important information and resources about health and safety.

To get involved
Contact Mrs. Strick or
an Alliance member

Spree tickets prove to be a hot commodity

By Rachel Brosman

The annual winter dance, Spree, was held this past February, but it wasn't just finding the right dress or bow tie that was difficult for attendees.

For all three public Appleton high schools and Xavier private high school, all grades besides freshmen could attend: about 3,275 invited students in total. Each attendee could bring a "guest," which could be a freshman, a graduated college student, or a high schooler from a different school around the Fox Cities. However, the capacity of the UW-Fox Valley location holds less than 1,000 students. Therefore, there was only limited numbers of tickets to be sold.

Instead of selling tickets at the door to upset excited students, organizers decided to pre-sell tickets at schools. Approximately 300 tickets were sold at North on a Wednesday after school, the week of the Spree dance.

Considering there were about 500 ticket-hungry students clawing to buy two each, the tickets were a hot commodity, to say the least. During 8th hour, the line began.

Students stood in a large



The line

Many North students turned to social media to convey their frustration with the Spree ticket line. Of the approximately 500 students in line for tickets, only 300 were able to purchase them. Photo courtesy of Emil Mostrom

group outside the auditorium, even though the sales people had not even arrived yet. By the time the 3:05 bell rang,

students were racing down the halls to get to the commons. Some students even attempted to leave class early.



Alyssa Gruender
@Agruender

One girl decked me, and another straight up pulled a Jackie Chan on me to get a ticket. #Truth

2/18/15, 4:14 PM

1 RETWEET 5 FAVORITES



Olivia
@LiviCheckalski

Minor riot at Appleton North. Four hospitalized, and one casualty #spreetickets2k15

2/18/15, 3:47 PM

3 RETWEETS 26 FAVORITES



Commentary

try and eliminate some of the rambunctious crowding.

North's Principal Mr. Hugins even had to calm the crowd and determine where the best spot for tickets to be sold was. Within about 15 minutes, tickets sold out. Some left North that day jumping for joy, while others were sulking in their failure.

Of course, students expressed their feelings, both positive and negative, on social media.

"Having a spree ticket is probably the most rewarding feeling," tweeted junior Collin Brinkhoff.

Similarly, senior Emily Jones tweeted, "Proud to say I was the second person in line to get a spree ticket."

Others did not have the same luck. Many "rejects" sought out tickets from other students.

"Someone, give me your spree ticket," tweeted junior Dezmond Keys.

In addition, snapchat stories were littered with photos and videos of the massive crowd in the commons. The experience certainly proved to be dramatic for many students wishing to attend Spree 2015.

North students attend DECA state competition

By Ally Price

Nineteen Appleton North students, along with hundreds of other regional students, participated in the State DECA Career Development Conference on March 10. This statewide competition allows qualifying students to compete against students from all across Wisconsin.

"The Wisconsin State DECA Career Development Conference gives dedicated DECA Members the opportunity to showcase their marketing and business skills while developing essential traits needed in the workplace," said Mrs. Cynthia Dechant, DECA advisor at North.

DECA is an extracurricular organization for students with an interest in marketing, finance, hospitality, and/or entrepreneurship. It helps to prepare students to excel in these areas by having them participate in community service, learn about the business and marketing world, and compete in a series of competitions.

Among the many competitions hosted by DECA are the



Nineteen Appleton North students participated in the DECA state competition on March 10. The event took place in Lake Geneva. Photo by Mrs. Dechant

district, state, and international competitions. Appleton North students and others participated in the district competition in January of this year at Preble High School in Green Bay. Students who either placed first or second in their category at districts qualified to move on to the state competition. Students could also qualify for state by completing various projects and being in the top five or six to complete this. The three day state competition, March 10-12 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, featured a variety of competi-

tions in topics such as marketing communications, financial literacy, and sports and entertainment marketing.

After this competition, students who place will qualify for the International Career Development Conference, which takes place in Orlando this April.

At this state competition, students will perform two role-plays in the categories of their choice; they also take a cluster exam relating to their chosen category. In the role play, which is like a job inter-

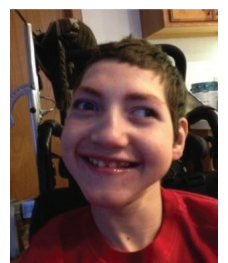
view, students are given a scenario and then time to prepare to present their information to a judge. While the DECA competitions may seem hard to those not involved, DECA students say they really enjoy them.

"There are so many opportunities to network and meet new people at DECA State. It's just natural to chat with others about your event while waiting for your next role play or walking to the next session," said senior Sydney Werlein about the competitions.

While many DECA students will be attending the state competition, not nearly all of the DECA students will be there. Hundreds of students across the state will be attending, but there are over 11,200 DECA members in the state of Wisconsin alone. Students enjoy participating in DECA for a variety of reasons.

"I love DECA because you get to network with others who share the same passion in a professional atmosphere," said Genevieve Martin, the president of DECA at North.

Obituary: Sierra Coulter



Sierra Coulter, a student at North, passed away on March 1st at home with his family. We will always be grateful for the time we had and for the impression Sierra made in our lives.

The good times were flavored with trips to Disneyland, Washington D.C. and Florida, family apple picking, pumpkin carving and birthday celebrations with pop rocks. But Sierra's most favorite pastime was sitting on his dad's lap, which he did often.

We are thankful for the people that unconditionally loved him: Sage, Indigo, Finnley, Olive, Nana and Grandpa Ed, Grandma Sherry, Grandpa Mark and Marcia, Great grandma Wanda, Aunties Madison, Ella, Sarah and Steph, and Uncles Brian, Scott and Bear and all the other friends and family that took the time to know him.

Noctiluca Editorial

The First Amendment, letting all voices ring

We must be aware of the First Amendment for the rights it grants us have been in question the past few months. As seen with the Charlie Hebdo cartoons, deeply offensive ideas can be published in newspapers, but that never warrants violent acts.

There is a line that many papers will not cross, but others do, knowing they are able to. The Noctiluca has its own policy and members of the editorial board have regular discussions regarding protected and unprotected speech.

It is really important to analyze each potentially offensive piece of work and have a discussion as to whether it is morally or ethically wrong. When articles on abortion, sex and drugs are published many readers would undoubtedly not be at ease, yet this is freedom of the press.

Publishing almost anything without the fear of censorship is one of the most



Student Oscar Brautigam poses in front of the expressive artwork in the library as he utilizes his freedom of speech. Photo Illustration by Nora Ptacek

nor Scott Walker abolished unions in 2011 which led to massive protests in and around the Madison Capitol. The number of protesters rose to 100,000 people through February of 2011. Eventually, a recall election occurred, which was, in part, a result of the tremendous protest movement that exemplified the power of the first amendment.

More recently, youth have staged walkouts in Madison high schools in protest of the shooting of Tony Robinson. Others rallied at the state Capitol to try and bring change with their actions and words.

Voices ring across history because of freedom of speech but not all voices were speaking words of love and truth.

The First Amendment is an easy concept for most to grasp as a beneficial tool for expres-

sion of ideas. Almost all can come together and agree, "yes we should be able to petition our government" or "yeah, we should be able to speak our mind by way of press." The hard part is realizing that hurtful speech must also be protected under the First Amendment.

The horrid actions of the Westboro Baptist Church and their hate speech against the gay community is, although hard to comprehend at times, protected and perfectly legal. Racist protesters or hateful speech, although painful, is protected.

Understanding that the First Amendment can bring about astronomical change yet also protects speech that bring pain is challenging to grasp.

The First Amendment fosters love and hate, affirmation and opposition, and hilarity and sorrow. It will always be a part of this school, state, and nation; letting voices ring for ages to come.

integral proponents of American society.

Shying away from discussions on controversial issues does not lead to progressive conclusions or a world of understanding. Press provides the platform for these discussions to occur and bold topics should not be censored unless they are illegal or cross deep moral lines.

Throughout history freedom of the press has allowed groups and individuals to ex-

press their opinions on issues; whether it be their disappointment or lack of support in government. This is a right we are fortunate to have. It is vital that we have this right to speak our mind whether it be through press, protest, or speech.

Another proponent to the First Amendment is freedom to peacefully assemble and petition the government. This right has been especially impactful in Wisconsin. Gover-

Charter schools do not guarantee academic success

By Fatima Ali

Everyone knows that one specific group of students who came from Classical, Magellan, Kaleidoscope, or some other charter school around the area. The most interesting thing however is hearing the remarks from other students in regards to the intelligence of these charter school "nerds."

For example, whenever someone introduces him/herself to the class on the first day of school, naturally the name of their middle school comes up in the conversation. You can only imagine the remarks from other students, when someone states that they are from [insert name of an AASD charter school]. Instantaneously, students start staring at this "genius" and at once, they all want this specific student to be in their study group, because for some odd reason, they think that befriending this charter school student will help their grades in a very positive way.

But is it really fair that all these charter school students should be burdened with the duty of being the most intelligent pupil in the class? I

think not. First of all, just because a charter school follows somewhat of a different curriculum than a public school, does that mean a student is automatically inclined to learn and more importantly, remember everything that was ever taught at their former school?

The answer is no. There's a saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink it." That saying is actually very valid in real life. You can introduce a student to so many different pieces of literature, historical facts, and Greek/Latin roots, as well as other copious factoids, but at the end of the day, you sadly can't force the student to be interested in all of these new bits of knowledge.

That equates to saying that not all charter school students are overly intelligent, some may in fact be having trouble in a specific subject area.

Ultimately, the student's intentions, are the key factor to determining what the student will want to learn, and how much effort the student will actually put forth once they enter high school. In re-

ality, there can be many scenarios created based on the so-called middle school situation.

Here are four examples. First off, there can be an average student from a non-charter school, who doesn't put much effort into high school, and thus doesn't do well in his/her high school career.

Next there's an average student who went to one of the charter-schools; however, he/she didn't really care about what was being taught at the school. Thus, when they started high school, they started slacking off, and in the end, they weren't considered to be "smart" anymore, because they lost all of their former knowledge from their former school.

Next there's a really motivated student, but he/she goes to a non-charter school. Not to worry, they continuously worked hard at the middle school they attended, in ways like reading new books for fun, reading about science topics in their free time, etc.

Once they got to high school, they continued their hard work, and ultimately became very successful in their



Classical Charter school is one of the many charter schools in Appleton. Do charter schools set students on a specific path? Photo by Paige Beckum

high school career.

The last scenario is a highly motivated student from a charter school, who never stopped working hard, took quite rigorous classes in high school, and eventually had some very successful school years. See the pattern here?

The key to success in high school is not the school you came from but the amount of motivation you have. So if you happen to be from a non-charter middle school, and you talk to that person

from [insert name of charter school], don't feel so intimidated by them. Instead, if you really want to be intelligent, just work hard, maintain good work ethics, and keep a smile on your face. In fact, who knows, maybe you are way more intelligent than these other charter school students.

Let me state once again, that it's your character and intention that shapes what your future in high school will be like, not your former middle school.

Noctiluca Mission Statement

Published nine times per year, the student newspaper of Appleton North High School is a public forum in which its student editorial board makes decisions regarding its contents. Its mission is to publish news, information, entertainment and opinion articles about our community. Our goal is to maintain high ethical standards and provide a public forum for free and responsible expression of views. The newspaper strives for a high level of competency and welcomes diversity of scope, depth and breadth of coverage in order to heighten mutual understanding and awareness through our entire school community.

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ALICE; a reflection on a changing time

By Elise Painton

The media presents us with stories of violence in American schools about once or twice per year-- which is all too much. However, it doesn't happen enough to constantly plague our thoughts. Walking into school, it's doubtful that most of us are on constant watch for a potential intruder wandering our hallways. Because, really, the chances of a threat are pretty slim--but that doesn't mean it's impossible.

Added security and locks on the doors has definitely made North safer. It isn't uncommon to see a kid knocking on the Commons doors during a lunch hour after neglecting to carry his ID with him. In a strange way, it's comforting. If one of our kind can't get in, what are

the chances that some shady shooter can maneuver his or her way into North?

Administration has also introduced ALICE. It's different--students grew up following red card procedures, pulling their knees to their chest in a dusty corner. I never really understood why at 10:15 on a Tuesday we were trying to trick an intruder into thinking the school was empty.

Clearly, unless we had a snow day (unlikely, as we all know) or another holiday pardoning us from school, students would be in the classrooms. I'm not sure who we would really be fooling. It's probable that after similar methods of safety measures failed to work at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012, the administration realized that changes were necessary.

ALICE introduces new safety strategies that involve coming face to face with the intruder by fighting back, or finding a proper escape method. The "fighting back" concept makes a decent amount of sense. Intruders know we are here, but they definitely aren't expecting a small troop of tenth graders to literally charge them, wielding adrenaline and Chromebooks for shields.

Despite the new option to surge an attacker, I honestly think most students would pass up on it. Consider this: in a fight or flight situation, after years of being trained to sit quietly in a concealed area of a classroom, how many students will willingly stand in the way of an intruder? Not many. Exiting from a window just seems more sensible.

While any position in this situation involves high amount of danger and risk, fighting back against an intruder clearly puts students at an elevated level of danger.

Yes, many targets running toward an armed person would overwhelm him or her, but it's impossible to determine the motive or skill level the intruder has with his or her weapon. If two random shots were sent into a frenzied, frightened, and disorganized group of twenty five kids, the outlook is not so great.

In the end, there isn't any great solution to the potential of this horrible reality. Frankly, it's atrocious we even need to consider an intruder drill. It's comforting to know the district cares, but it's a bit frightening to wonder and consider the "what-ifs".

Point VS Counterpoint Arming teachers with firearms in school

By George Kunesh

The advent of a new plan has radically changed our view of how to deal with the situation of a potentially violent intruder in our schools.

Rather than cower in a corner with the lights off as easy targets- a façade any criminal could easily see through- ALICE includes the option of retaliatory self defense as a method for our protection.

In the case of a gunman on a mission to harm school children currently armed with only their knowledge and textbooks, there are no means that do not justify the safety of the students.

To provide adequate defense for students the possibility of providing teachers with guns must be considered. In addition, it is an individual's right to be able to execute some means of self defense.

This is obviously a radical idea that is often condemned for its seemingly dangerous implications, but strict guidelines would be established to ensure the absolute safety of this plan.

Given the appropriate training, licensing, and tools, teachers would be better equipped to deal with a situation that could previously end only in tragedy.

Locked boxes with a small

handgun and a detailed plan in case of emergency are all that would be required in order to greatly increase the odds against a criminal's intent to cause harm.

With an average of one school shooting every five weeks in the U.S., implementing greater means of self defense is absolutely necessary to the welfare of our schools.

Besides the possibility of better potential protection in the case of an attack on a school, the sheer existence of such a means of defense would act as a deterrent to many would-be attacks.

Though it may seem like a radical idea at first, allowing teachers to have guns should be considered a vital aspect of our plan for safety.

It would completely change the way potential intruders and disturbed students think about school. Though there still must be consideration for the financial aspect of equipping our teachers, the greater security would be arguably beneficial.

Moving away from the "duck and cover" mentality that has been instituted in schools since before the 1950's is the only way to progress- and until another solution can be found, this is the most viable option for our time.

By Kate Bennet

Gun violence in schools is by no means a new topic in the American education system. With 74 shootings occurring in the last 18 months alone, there's no doubt that this rising problem is in dire need of a strong response.

However, arming our school faculty isn't the step forward that our country needs to take. As the in-school violence across our nation grows, the natural response of some organizations has been to fight fire with fire. This is a flawed proposition, presenting more risk of injury than it stands to prevent.

By giving school staff guns, you introduce a new form of risk into the learning environment. Because teachers won't have constant training and use of their weapons, it is unlikely that they will be able to use the firearm effectively in the face of an attack.

When put under the extreme amount of stress presented in this situation, it seems more likely that a teacher could ac-

cidentally shoot a student or other staff member instead of the perpetrator. Or, worse yet, the teacher could lose their weapon to the assailant in the attack, only furthering the potential damage.

Rather than risk endangering student's lives and setting a dangerous predisposition towards violence, our schools and government would be much better off taking proactive measures to ending gun violence.

Through stricter gun control laws and tighter school building security, two practices that European nations have already implemented, we can work to stop the assault before it occurs.

In a time where school shootings can be seen almost weekly throughout our nation, it's important to have an appropriate and effective plan in place in every school to counteract the attack, without adding extra risk to the situation and lacing violent undertones into the very foundation of our education.

Officer Enriquez is trained to protect Appleton North students. He does carry a firearm with him. What if all teachers had a weapon such as the one on Officer Enriquez's side? Would you be comfortable in school? Photo by Paige



LMC hopes to bring change with art

By AJ Floodstrand

The walls of the Library Media Center are getting a new touch of art.

Currently, the walls above the pillars are filled with artwork from a year ago.

Librarian Patricia Milheiser and art teachers Terri Westby and Renee Ulman, decided to make that change as soon as possible.

"It's an opportunity for students to showcase their work," Mrs. Milheiser said.

The project is new and has endless possibilities.

Anyone who is interested can participate; they don't need to be in an art class. Mrs. Milheiser, Mrs. Westby, and Mrs. Ulman presented the opportunity to students during a recent Intervention and Enrichment time.

Students who were interested submitted a worksheet with a rough draft of their idea, supplies needed to create their art piece, and their artist statement.

"I think we have about six to eight students [who have submitted their design]," Milheiser said.

Before the project becomes final, the art project must be



The current art pieces in the library will soon be replaced. Various students are creating new works, which hopefully will be seen in the 2015 school year. Photo by Elise Painton

proposed for a grant.

The design must also be bold, so it can be easy to see.

Students are exploring the idea of their art projects in various ways — from incorporating manga from books,

using detail with watercolors, and charcoal.

Not everyone is working alone. "Some students are either working alone, or in a group," Milheiser said.

If everything works out,

the project should be completed by Fall 2015. Mrs. Milheiser believes since it's the first time doing an open student art project, it may be tricky, but she has some goals set for the project.

"One of our goals is to make the showcase environment by the students for the students," Milheiser said.

LK SASSI'S Funhouse

By Lauren Sassi



Senior Whitney Ryan places in DNR Contest

By AJ Floodstrand

Every year students enrolled in Mr. Joel Edler's Graphic Arts class participate in the annual Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources State Park Sticker contest.

Throughout the state of Wisconsin, hundreds of different designs were submitted. Appleton North's very own Whitney Ryan placed second out of hundreds of other designs.

Ryan, a senior, was rewarded with a plaque, and her design was placed on the Wisconsin DNR website.

Ryan was surprised when she heard of the news. "I actually forgot I had entered it, and was surprised when I received a plaque in the mail," Ryan said.

The contest requires designs to be unique, and for all participants to follow various rules and guidelines for the design to be qualified.

"My design is of a heron flying over the water as the sun sets. I used the colors white, gold, and shades of blue."

One of the requirements for

the contest is that you only use four colors," Ryan said.

Ryan enjoys the graphic arts class, however she considers it more of a hobby.

"I love graphic arts and messing around on various Adobe programs, but I consider it more of a hobby than a career," Ryan said.

If anything, Ryan would encourage enrolling in a Graphic Arts class. "Take Graphic Arts, it's a fun class."



Senior Whitney Ryan's design is pictured above. Her design is featured on the DNR website. Illustration courtesy of Whitney Ryan.

March: The most

Cheers and Jeers for the month of March

March is a month of ups, downs, highs, lows and everything in between, so the *Noctiluca* brings you Cheers and Jeers, back for a limited time only (just like a shamrock shake).

Cheers



Spring Break- *So close, yet so far away...*

Spring sports- *Get ready to hit tennis balls around the upper gym with Burt, because the courts are still snow covered.*

Chocolate/marshmallows in the form of baby animals- *Even if you don't celebrate Easter, marshmallow Peeps are every American's birthright, according to the Constitution or something.*

Jeers



Shamrock Shakes- *Sorry, McDonald's. Your stock is dropping because no one wants to eat "pink slime" anymore. See the bottom of this page to make your own shake.*

March Madness- *All fun and games, until your team loses.*

Public education- *We're sick of you.*

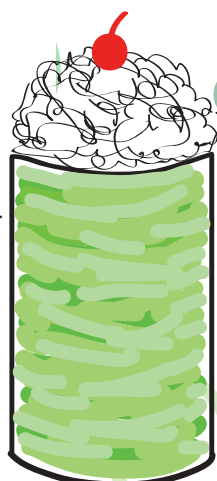
Overly optimistic freshmen boys wearing shorts and T-shirts- *It's still 30 degrees outside, bro.*

According to the Huffington Post, everyone's annual favorite mint beverage, the Shamrock Shake, has 55 total ingredients. It also has 530 grams of sugar! Making one at home ensures that you know exactly what is going into your drink.

A Real Shamrock Shake

- Vanilla Ice cream (or non-dairy substitute)
 - Milk (or non-dairy substitute)
 - Mint leaves or flavoring
- Green food coloring (optional)

Scoop three scoops of vanilla ice cream into a blender and pour enough milk into the blender to completely cover the ice cream. Use mint leaves or a teaspoon of mint flavoring. If you can not call it a Shamrock Shake without the green color, feel free to add a bit of green food coloring. Blend until smooth and creamy, then top with whipped cream and a cherry, and enjoy!



magical month

How to catch a leprechaun

By Isabel Edmonds

With winter losing its grip on the world, many Appleton North students are looking to spend some more time outside, eager to shed their winter jackets and finally feel sunlight. While some turn to spring sports, others lace up their hiking boots and head to Plamann Park. But for those not interested in sports and who don't own a pair of hiking boots, look no further than Appleton's newest outdoor activity fad: Leprechaun Hunting.

Though now I am a celebrated leprechaun hunter and taxidermist, I was once a novice and a skeptic, asking foolish questions such as, "Do leprechauns even exist?" Why hunt them for their skin and not their meat? Is it right to kill these creatures?" But eventually I learned that hunting leprechauns was way more fun than posing ethical questions and now I want to share that joy with others.

The first thing to know about hunting these small male fairies is that preparation is key. It takes a lot of work to outsmart these guys so this must be taken seriously.

Health is always a foremost concern. Make sure to get vaccinated for Leprechaun Rabies. You can usually get an affordable shot at your local Walgreens.

Next, it is important to educate yourself on the appearance of a leprechaun. These little green men are in the profession of shoemaking, so you will typically be looking for a shod person dressed in green. Traditional folklore often describes the leprechaun as smoking a foul smelling pipe, but various reports indicate that the modern leprechaun has switched to e-cigs. All leprechauns are short, but make sure that you are not mistaking a child for a leprechaun because those are not the same things.

After you know how to spot a leprechaun, there are a few more things you need to do.

The Ginger Blessing is one of the most important parts of leprechaun hunting because it guarantees you will be lucky on your expedition.



This amateur sketch depicts an average leprechaun. This is what one could look like but they don't all look the same.

Simply lure a ginger into a dark, candle lit room and have them stand in the middle of a four leaf clover drawn on the ground. After draping them with the Irish flag, rub their forehead with two fingers in a clockwise motion until you feel the Irish luck transferring from the ginger to you.

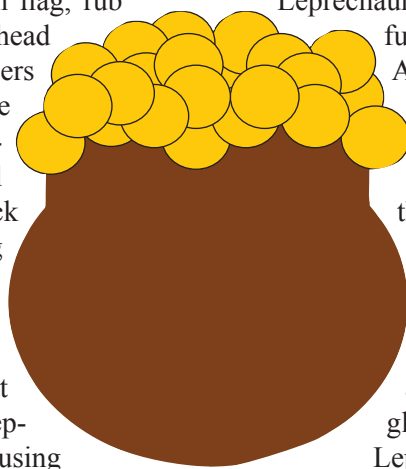
Another important step in the preparation is dousing your clothes in Leprechaun urine to mask your human stench and to mimic the natural scent of leprechauns.

Also, make sure to bring your hand knit sweater made from the finest Irish wool in case you get chilly!

Now that you've prepared yourself to go on a hunt, it is time to get properly equipped and find the right location. To sniff out your leprechaun, ditch the bloodhound and instead use a person with Irish blood. In my endeavours, a pureblood Irishman is most effective. To encourage their thirst for leprechaun blood, use Lucky Charms as a food reward when training them and starve them a day and a half before you go hunting.

When you and your Irish man (or woman) are ready to go, the next step is to find that lucky location. I can usually find one or two at the Dirty Leprechaun in beautiful downtown Appleton. There have also been some reported sightings of these little green men getting turned at Luna Nightclub, because they are attracted by the glitz and glam.

Leprechaun hunting is a time honored tradition in Ireland and it is catching on in the Fox Valley. Not only is this a family friendly activity, but it is a great way to get outside and enjoy spring! Better start thinking of what you are going to spend your gold on!



Senior Isabel Edmonds is a world-renowned leprechaun hunter. Here, she demonstrates how to use a pureblood Irish person to sniff out leprechauns. Photo by Julia Lammers

Book Festival brings authors to North

By Rachel Brosman

Literature buffs and communication arts teachers around the Fox Cities will be in heaven from April 20-26, as Appleton North is the home school for the Fox Cities Book Festival this year.

Events will be held all around the local area, from Kaukauna and Menasha, and especially at public libraries.

Mr. Bernard Edmonds is commonly known as a laid-back freshmen English teacher; however, he is also on the board of directors for the book festival.

The purpose of this festival, he says, is to “Bring readers and writers together.”

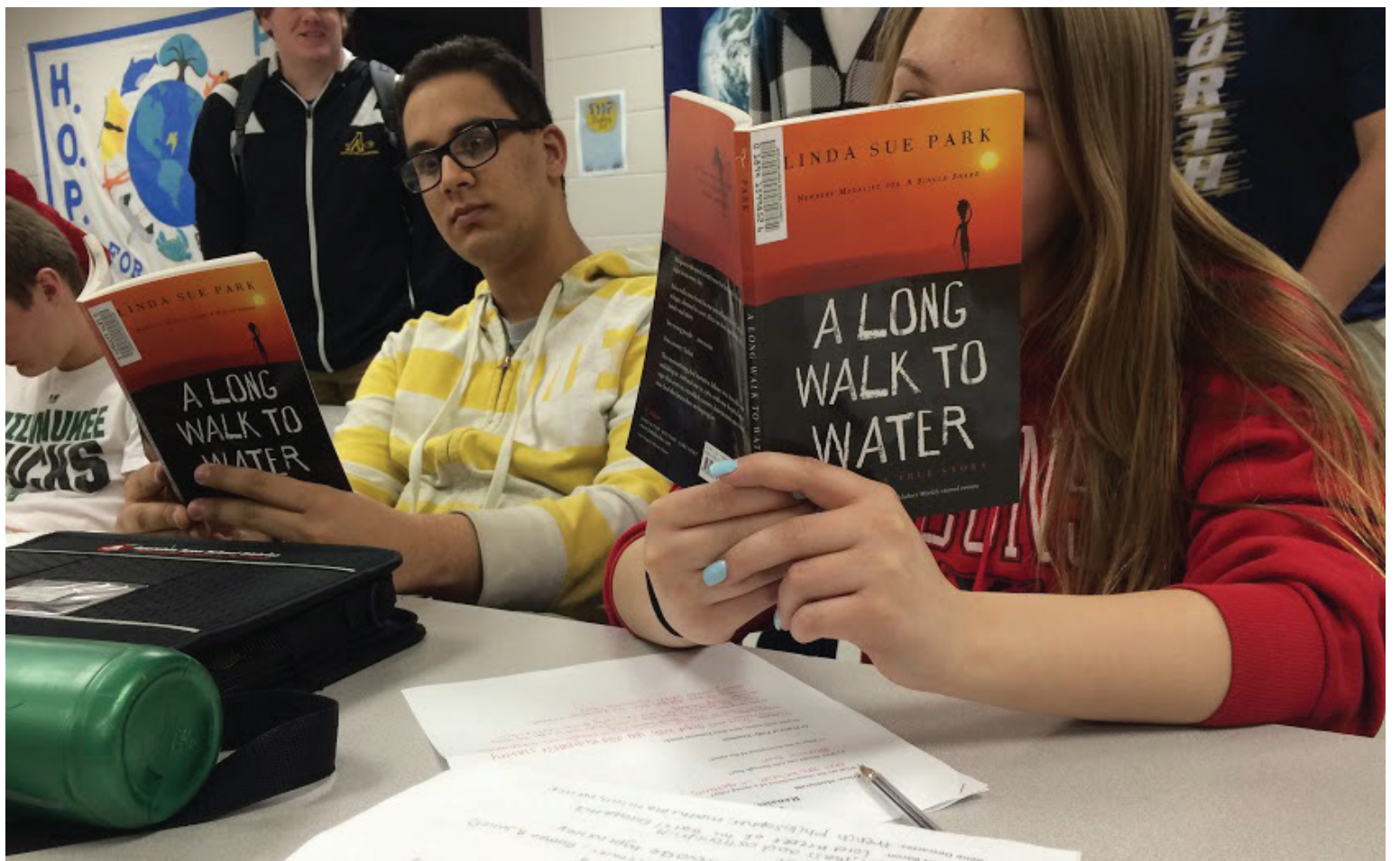
The week will mostly consist of authors coming to local venues to discuss their books.

There will be some local authors as well as some bigger names attending.

If you are in an environmental science class here at North, you are familiar with the book “A Long Walk to Water,” a dual-perspective account of children in Southern Sudan and their struggle to obtain clean water.

Its author, Linda Sue Park, will be one of the authors to be speaking at the festival this year.

At last year’s festival, author R.J. Palacio was a stand-out guest.



Juniors Aditya Kaushika and Autumn Smerlinski read *A Long Walk to Water* for their environmental science class. The students learn about water conservation and other water-related environmental issues. Photo illustration by Elise Painton

Her bestselling novel about a child with a facial deformity, *Wonder*, was widely read among students at North at the time.

“We try to get authors that everybody wants to see,” Edmonds said.

Fortunately, all author visits are free to attend and open to the public.

In fact, the entire budget (about \$40-60K) was all donated by community foundations and the general public.

Although the festival may not be well-known among North students, Fox Cities residents are very fond of the literary efforts of these individuals.

This is actually the ninth

year of the festival. Wisconsin’s first poet laureate, Ellen Kort, started the festival in Appleton to celebrate poets and writers from around the globe.

She is an esteemed local writer that has set a high standard for authors in the Fox Cities.

You may recognize her

work just by a slight glance around the food court at the Fox River Mall.

For more information on the Fox Cities Book Festival and the authors that will be attending, visit www.foxcitiesbookfestival.org.

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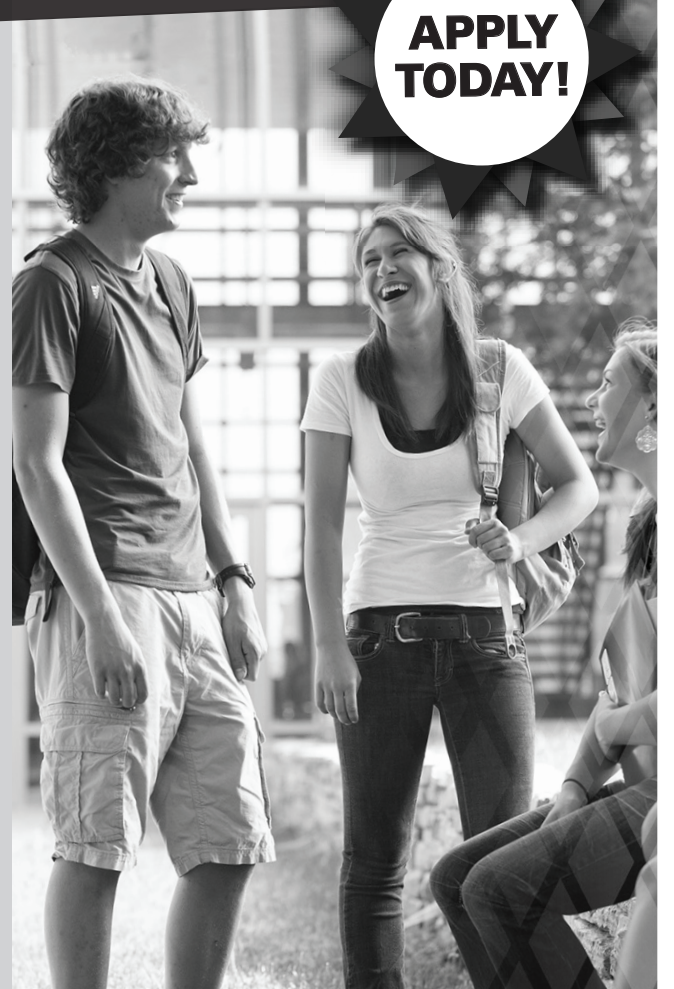
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Fashion club plans the runway

By Rachel Brosman

Marc Jacobs, Valentino, and Jeremy Scott were some of the most raved about designers this February during NYC's fashion week for fall 2015 collections. Following the fashion week buzz, Appleton North will be hosting its own fashion show on April 24 during lunch hours in the commons.

The fashion club and design classes will be putting on the runway show. During I/E time, fashion club meets once a month with students who are interested in fashion, design, and the fashion industry. They discuss upcoming trends and things that are going on in the fashion industry.

Then, the club spends time doing hands-on projects such as coordinating a hot chocolate sale, making holiday ornaments, and making fashion themed posters.

In fact, the club used to be called design club; however, adviser Mrs. Kelly Camber, says that design club is "so 2014."

"It's just a good opportunity for anyone who wants to be in the fashion industry,"



Kyler Nichols, Kirsten Rich, and other members of fashion club plan for the upcoming fashion show during I/E time. Photo by Rachel Brosman

said junior Nicole Holtan, who is the co-president of fashion club.

A spring fashion show has actually been a tradition at Appleton North; however, the fashion classes decided against it last year. This year will bring current styles from retailers in the Fox River Mall.

Fashion Club co-president, junior Kyler Nichols, cites a variety of stores as tentative clothing resources: PacSun, Francesca's, Buckle, and David's Bridal. Not only will the fashion show display clothing from local

clothing stores, but it will also feature student designs.

Nicole Holtan has been designing for as long as she can remember, and she will be showcasing a collection of original dresses at the show. Holtan also mentioned junior Noreen Alam and sophomore Caitlin Lostocco as possible student designers for the show.

Everything from accessories to dresses to full outfits will be incorporated from students' original designs. As there is no strict theme to the show, the designers will get free artistic reign on their

pieces.

The student designs will certainly give the show a genuine Appleton North appeal, and the models will also be students.

Treasurer of Fashion Club, senior Kirsten Rich, said that "the show will be really fun because you will get to see your peers walk the runway."

The club is looking for more male models, so feel free to contact any of the Fashion Club council if you are interested. Models can walk alongside their friends. "We want people to be comfortable," Nichols said.

With the models commanding attention, April 24th's lunch-time show will require some loud tunes, as Holtan said, "We are going to make it a party in there."

The Noctiluca: How did you guys discover your love of fashion or designing?

Kyler: "I was sorta into it last year, but after Mrs. Camber's fashion class and the New York trip last year I was set on being in the fashion industry."

Nicole: "I've always

known. I found design sketches from when I was 6, actually. I've always like watching fashion TV shows and everything."

Kirsten: "I just love dressing up, creating outfits, and styling."

The Noctiluca: How much time do you estimate that all the planning for the show will entail?

Kyler: We started in January. We know who is helping backstage, who is modeling. Within the next month, we are going to have to pick out decorations once we finalize the stores we are getting the clothes from.

The Noctiluca: Why should people watch the show?

Kyler: "They are already gonna be there because it is in the lunch room. I'm not letting them go home."

Kirsten: "Their peers will be in the show, so it will be really fun to see."

Nicole: "We have some cool clothes, especially if you're interested in trends. It's always neat to see what the students make. The combination of the social aspect and the fashion elements."



Kyler Nichols

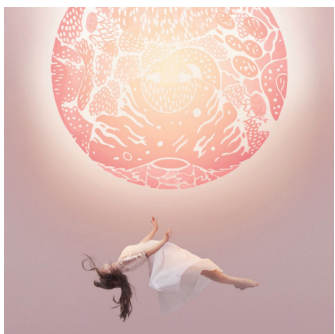
Don't wait *Another Eternity* to listen

By Caroline Augustine

In 2011 synthpop group Purity Ring debuted their first album, *Shrine*. Four years later, this Canadian duo has released their sophomore album, *Another Eternity*. Within the first minute of listening to the album, their memorable sounds are easily recognizable, even with the ever-increasing world of the future pop genre.

The single "Begin Again" has nods to past songs such as "Belispeak" with its dream-like vocals and synth instrumentals.

Megan James and Corrin Roddick have included a more personal perspective to this album. Prior to *Another Eternity*'s debut, they released the lyrics to the



Another Eternity is Purity Ring's sophomore album, which features ten new tracks.

public.

In general the album may seem similar in song length and chorus layout, but considering the fluctuation in this style of music since their freshman album, *Shrines*, they have stayed true to their sound, while still managing bring forth a refreshing tone.



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Mary Poppins: The Musical

Students involved in Mary Poppins at Appleton North have taken their finals bows. Here are a few moments to capture the supercalifragilisticexpialidocious experience.



During the dress rehearsals parents provide dinners for students involved in the show. Anne Vanderlinden plays trumpet and Kate Bennett plays guitar in the pit. Ashley Lehr is a part of the tech crew who helps backstage.



Jaya Mallela, who plays Mary Poppins in Cast A, strolls across the stage with Bert who is played by Joey Krohlow.



Alex Cronmiller plays the doll and is a part of the toys in the children's toy box. Their vibrant colors and sounds light up the stage. Photos by Appleton North Theater and Catherine McKenzie



Mary Dinkler, who plays Mary Poppins in Cast B, practices flying. For this musical, they hired a crew to install the flying system and taught cast members how to use it.



Maddie Shilling plays Mrs. Corey, the owner of a magical talking shop. Around her are customers in the shop dressed in a variety of attire based off of the idea of steam-punk. This scene is the setting of the famous song Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

Alex Hasse, Kayla Berceau, Caroline Augustine, Rachel Sina, and Mary Dinkler march around the kitchen as a part of their blocking for the song "Spoonful of Sugar."



Freddie Xu helps run and set lighting for every show. Long hours are spent programming the lights that are set in each scene.

Performance team travels to Florida

By Ashley Pierson

Throughout the summer, here at North, you can see athletes coming to NASSA and weightlifting to prepare for their upcoming

seasons. However, the Performance Team's season is already under way. They have practiced since June with one goal in mind—

Nationals. The Performance Team consists of two teams, the dance team and the tumble team. Although they cheer together

at football games, once basketball rolls around, they split up and start focusing on their main priority: competitions. Every

year both teams go to Orlando, Florida to compete at nationals in February.

Tumble team

"We've been preparing for Nationals since summer," said Megan Fahey, a senior, and captain of the tumble team. "We have gone to camps, tumbling classes, as well as had practice regularly 3 times a week."

Abigail Kuenster, a junior on the tumble team says, "Our coaches work the team extremely hard. We practice three days a week, have tumbling once a week at Ultimate Fusion, and typically have a competition on the weekend. They are hard on us, but only because they want us to succeed just as much as we want to. Even if they are frustrated and yell at us, we know that it is only because they know what we are capable of and they want us to reach our full potential. Without them pushing us and believing in us, we wouldn't have been able to accomplish anything worthwhile this season."

Fahey gave us a background of what it is like at UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) nationals, "At nationals, teams from all over the country compete for a national title. There are different divisions depending on the size of your school, if there are boys on your team, and how many people are actually on the mat. Since there are so many teams, there are 3 rounds of competition: prelims, semifinals, and finals. Everyone competes in the first prelims and then teams get to go on based on their scores." Prior to and after competing, the team has free time to go to Walt Disney World and Downtown Disney. Although they get to create memorable experiences in Disney, they still hold practices before the actual competition happens.

Kuenster comments, "The morning after we arrived in Florida, we practiced at Orlando Gymnastics Center for a couple of hours. This was a great opportunity; in years past, we typically would practice on the grass outside of our hotel. This year, since we had access to mats, we were able to work on both our tumbling and stunting with no problem.

We also practiced the day before we competed at Disney's All Star Sports Resort, along with all of the other Wisconsin teams competing at nationals. This was also a great opportunity, because it gave us a chance to perform in front of a crowd before we competed the next morning."

Kuenster also talked about how the team prepares for their performances. "We have what we call our 'pump-up jam' that consists of 15 snippets of songs. Each team member contributed one song to the mix. We listen to that on repeat for about an hour before we compete. We also have a girl on our team (Trinity Mueller) who has a 10 dollar app on her phone called 'The Lucky Cactus'. She makes all of us tap the cactus on her screen before we perform. It's super weird, but surprisingly, it works pretty well."

This year, the tumble team made it to Semifinals in Small Varsity Division I. This is usually one of the hardest divisions within the competition, so making it to semifinals is something to be proud of. Kuenster and Fahey both told us what their proudest moment of their season was. Fahey said, "Overall, I'm most proud of my team for over coming all the obstacles we've faced this year. It's been a rough season with injuries and people quitting, but we worked through it and were able to perform our two best routines at nationals." Kuenster also commented, "I could not be more proud of the two routines that we performed at nationals. The feeling of stepping off the mat after you nailed your routine, after eight months of hard work, is indescribable. Overall, I am so incredibly proud of the team for being able to keep working their absolute hardest and never giving up hope, regardless of the challenges that came with people quitting or getting injured. This season definitely had its ups and downs, but I could not be happier about how things turned out. I can't wait to see what next season has in store for us."



The stage which the dancers performed on was located in the Wide World of Sports facility in Florida. Photo from Payton Blessing



The dance team competed in two routines; pom, top, and jazz, bottom. The team has been working on their routines since summer. Photo by Payton Blessing

Dance

The dance team also went to Florida in February. Payton Blessing, a senior, gives us some insight on what happens at their nationals.

"UDA (Universal Dance Association) Nationals is held at the Wide World of Sports in Disney world. It has hundreds of different teams from all over the country who compete for national titles in their respective categories: Kick, Hip Hop, Jazz, and Pom. Appleton North competes in Pom and Jazz. In each category, there are several Preliminary groups who then move into the Semi Final rounds, the best of those teams then move on and compete in the Final rounds of competition where the winner of the entire category is crowned."

Blessing also talks about how the dance team has prepared for nationals; "Our team begins preparing for nationals in the end of May when our season begins. We start off our season, as well as our summer, right away by heading off to one of the Universal Dance Association's Qualifying Camps. Towards the end of the summer, we fly in our professional choreographer, who is also the head coach for one of the best finalist teams at nationals, from Maryland who teaches us our Jazz and Pom routines that we take on the floor during competition season, which starts around the middle to end of November. During the school year, we practice generally 3-4 times per week with games of either football or basketball depending on the time of year mixed into our week, as well as going to competitions between November and January."

Blessing also gives insight on what her favorite part about nationals is, "My favorite part of nationals is when we're standing backstage waiting to go on. More specifically, it's when we're on deck. Our team stands in a circle and wraps our arms around each other for our last few seconds before going on stage and there's a silence that happens. We all make eye contact for just a short second and soak in all of the feelings and emotions that are flying around."

Girls track anticipates strong season...

By Katie Flood

The days are growing longer, the training runs are getting lengthier, and the weather isn't getting any warmer. This all means one thing: girls track is here. On Monday, March 9, track athletes around the state gathered to begin the 3-month journey of intervals, morning lifting, meets, and, of course, post-meet team dinners at Culvers. The indoor season for Appleton North officially began on St Patrick's Day (Tuesday, March 17) at Neenah High School. The Lightning team will compete in four indoor meets before making the jump to the great outdoors. This transition has historically been a rocky one, with rain, snow, and cold temperatures caus-

ing meet cancellations. However, the endurance of winter weather is nothing compared to the endurance of the Appleton North Girls Track Team.

The Lightning will return many state-qualifiers this year and are looking to send even more girls to the state meet at UW-La Crosse this year. Among the returning state qualifiers are seniors Kendra Jensen, Claire Fischer (a UW-Eau Claire track commit), Tamara Price (a Winona State University track commit), Kaitlin Squier, and juniors Annalise Peebles and Lauren Farina. Jensen, Fisher, Peebles, and Squier were members of the 4x100m and 4x200m relay teams that qualified for state in 2014. Annalise Peebles also competed in the 100 meter dash

at the state meet. Tamara Price competed in the high jump and had an astounding top-10 finish with 8th place. Lauren Farina competed in the 3200 meter (2 mile) run and placed an impressive 6th in the state. Lauren attributes her success to having the "Ricky Bobby Mindset" — "If you ain't first, you're last."

The Lightning are looking to improve upon last year's 3rd place finish in the FVA Conference Meet. Missing 2nd place by only 3 points, the Lightning feel confident that they are contenders for the coveted conference title. Depth is key to success for the Lightning. Track is often thought of as only a "running sport," when in actuality it is a sport made up of many sports — sprinting, distance running, high jump, long and

triple jump, pole vault, shot put, and discus. The Lightning strives to be strong in all areas this season. Junior 2-miler Dakota Holzem hopes that those considering joining the track team will try it out this year. "There is something for everyone in track," says Holzem. "It's really fun to try all the new things... give it a shot(put)!"

With their sights set on success within the FVA Conference and a trip to the state meet in La Crosse, the Lightning have set high expectations for themselves and hope that the determination and enthusiasm of returning athletes and new recruits will fuel the team to victory.



The girls had their first meet at the Neenah indoor track. Junior Annalise Peebles, right, and senior Claire Fischer, left, represented North in the 200m race. Photo by Alex Neumann

... and so do the boys

By Adam Larsen

As winter fades away and the spring season starts, Appleton North's boys track athletes are looking to improve on their past success.

With the typical Wisconsin winter weather, the athletes can't always get outside to the track, but this doesn't slow them down from striv-

ing to improve. As the start of spring gets closer, they are preparing for the season and can be found working on their strength and speed inside at the weight room or at NASSA.

With the last year's boys team finishing second, the top spot in conference is within reach. The athletes are looking to work hard and do their best to improve on last season.

The guys also had some success with athletes going to state to compete in the past year. Some athletes returning to the boys team are Jeff Steers, Max Ritzow, Jeff Miller, and Jack Fisher, and they all are looking to make a trip to state this year.

The team is looking to continue their success by rebuilding and replacing the key se-

niors that they lost last year. "I think everyone is looking to improve upon last year's performances, no matter what the outcome was. It is going to be a great year to see who can step up and fill those roster spots," Max Ritzow said.

Also they look to send some more athletes to state this year and win conference for the first time since 2011. The

upcoming 2015 track season looks like a promising one for Appleton North with lots of success from multiple athletes. Both teams are looking to compete for a conference championship and send athletes to state. "As a team we are very strong this year," Ritzow said. "I don't see any reason why we can't take a big group to state."

Baseball plans for a run at state title

By Becca Finger

The baseball team is coming into this season with three Division One committed athletes along with a first place finish in conference and advancement to semi-finals as of last season. With these assets the team has set high goals for the season. "We want to make it to state this year," said senior Alex Henwood.

The team has lost four starting players since last year due to graduating seniors like pitcher and outfielder Evan Polce and outfielder Conner Rolain. Other starting seniors were Keegan Krueel in the outfield and Dan Rothbaur as pitcher and outfield. However the gaps will be filled by players like junior Taylor Borchers along with Conner Wolershiem and Jack Harvath as pitchers, and Chase Krueel and Kody Frito as first and third



Senior and team captain Alex Henwood has played short stop on the team for the entirety of his high school career. Henwood has committed to play at Nebraska. Photo provided by Alex Henwood

basemen.

"I look forward to making a run at state this year, and also the trip we are planning to go to the Timber Rattlers stadium," said senior Connor Wol-

ershiem. "It should be fun."

Senior Tyce Wheeler will be playing catcher this year. "I really feel like we can reach our goal and make it to state," Wheeler said. "I'm looking



Taylor Borchers is a junior at Appleton North and plays the position of pitcher. Borchers has committed to play at Gonzaga. Photo provided by Alex Henwood

forward to playing Oshkosh North, they are a big competitor." The team will play Osh-

kosh North first towards the beginning of their season.