



The Red and Blue
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Inside coverage:

West is best in cross-town rivalry but moves on quickly to next match up

When opportunity knocks, FCCLA answers

Opinion: *The Blackhawk Way in the classroom*

September 9, 2011

West Aurora High School
 Aurora, Illinois

Issue 2

Yearbook celebrates its 100th anniversary

Rebekah Mallette

Photography Editor

The Eos yearbook celebrates their 100th anniversary this school year. The yearbook club is looking for people to help make the 100th anniversary edition unlike any past yearbooks.

Yearbook adviser, Kim Dirck said, "During meetings we discuss what's done and what needs to be done. We must have a set plan for the entire yearbook by the end of September."

This short deadline is difficult for the small club to achieve.

"Yearbook is looking for people who have free time for interviews," said Dirck.

Many interviews will be required to produce the unique yearbook theme to celebrate its 100th anniversary. The theme will involve

EOS

What's in a name? Eos is name given to the personification of the dawn in Greek mythology. She is the "twin sister" equivalent to the Roman goddess of dawn, Aurora.

"Students will have a voice in the yearbook. We need a diversity of students to cover everything," said Dirck.

focusing on different angles of the students.

One yearbook editor, Kim Wrona, said, "It will be cool to see what we can pull together to make the yearbook more memorable. My favorite part is knowing I had a hand in something I will remember forever." As an editor, Wrona said, "I feel more responsibility and more involvement."

Despite the editor role, the club environment remains the same. She said, "We have pop and enjoy a calm, relaxed atmosphere."

With the quick deadlines, the club is always on the lookout for new members. Students can join any Thursday after school at 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the latest. The yearbook club meets in B251. Potential members can find adviser, Kim Dirck, there throughout the day.

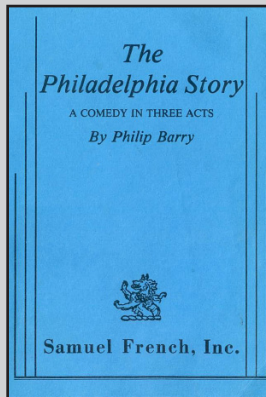
Seniors
 To be
 included in the
 yearbook,
 you must be
 photographed
 by Prestige.

Call 1-800-797-
 7571 for an
 appointment
 (last week in
 September)

Thespians, a dramatic mix, shine on stage

Mario Pidlaon

Staff Writer



FALL COMEDY

Under the direction of Jen Pauley, the fall play is "The Philadelphia Story." The play will be performed November 18 and 19.

"The main purpose of Drama club is to get individuals involved in theatre," said adviser Ken Ruffalo.

"My goal this year is to be organized, but have fun with the drama club," said senior John Whitson, President of the Drama Club.

"Drama Club is a place where we can express ourselves and have a chance to shine! We have varieties of shows and varieties of people. We have drama, comedies, and musicals," said junior Lindsey Ward.

Drama Club defies the stereotypical high school theatre troupe and always wows their audience.

"Drama Club is a family-- there's so many ways to get involved," said senior Selena Greising.

This is true; Drama Club is not just for aspiring actors. There are also people who help backstage during shows.

The fall play is "The Philadelphia Story." The show is about a "love square," as director Jen Pauley calls it, where a wedding takes place in the 1930's and there's a lot of sarcasm used in the show. "The Philadelphia Story" is the first fall play that Pauley, a former West Thespian, is directing.

When opportunity knocks for students, FCCLA answers door

Lashayla Davis

Staff Writer

Family Careers and Consumer Science classes consist of students interested in working in a variety of fields, from a carrier in fashion to the culinary arts. The "C" on the second floor houses the cluster of the various career classes.

Every student enrolled in Family Careers and Consumer Science classes are eligible to join FCCLA. (Family Career and Community Leaders of America).

FCCLA is an organization that holds many opportunities for its members. Students can obtain leadership experience through conferences and different activities. Conferences are in the fall and spring. Members also compete in regional, state, and national competitions. In fact, the executive board (which is the leaders of the club - presidents, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations and historian) plan and facilitate the sectional leadership fall conference that will be held on September 22.

"Students can gain a lot through FCCLA, like networking skills. Many members have

received jobs through the people they have met," said Stacey Enslen, one of the advisers for FCCLA.

During the course of the school year, FCCLA takes part in many different activities. Besides conferences, members partake in homecoming week with hallway decorating contests and marching in the parade. FCCLA members have traditionally participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. The members will be once again putting their best "feet" forward on October 16 with many other organizations, students and staff members.



FCCLA BOARD MEETING Working with her staff, Stacey Enslen discusses upcoming events. photo by Lashayla Davis

"West Aurora's literary magazine is 'Muses', but it is also an art magazine," said Jennifer Pauley, the adviser of "Muses." "Muses" is a publication wherein any student may contribute his art work or writing for publication.

The new adviser is Jennifer Pauley, who has been the assistant adviser for the past two years.

The co-editors are junior Sheah Foster junior and sophomore Alexandra Martinez. "Muses" is "put forth by the students, created by the students. It is a fantastic memento of a year at West," said Pauley.

The first meeting of the year was August 30th, but new members are still welcome. "There is generally an editing staff of around 10 students, but I'd like to have 15 students that I can rely on," said Pauley. The next meeting will be September 13th, however the location is still undecided.

Sheah Foster

Publicity Editor

Competitive trivia tests students with fun trifles

Sheah Foster

Publicity Editor

Scholastic Bowl is a "Jeopardy" like game where students compete against teams from other schools. There are five team members in a match at a time, but other players may sub in at the half way point. "Not only are we competing, we build relationships between teammates," said Quyen Huyhn. The varsity Scholastic Bowl team is coached by Huyhn, and Teresa Waldinger is the jv coach.

The first practice for the team is Monday, September 12th, and the club practices every Monday following. The team has a handful of competitions placed sporadically throughout the year, and they compete with other teams in the DVC. Both the varsity and jv teams go to meets at the same time, against the same schools, but the questions differ at different levels.

Scholastic Bowl is "a great way to start getting involved without getting overwhelmed and it's a great way to meet people," said Huyhn.

The cost is five dollars to join the club, but Huyhn said that it goes to pay for some people's favorite part of the club: snacks.



Quotable Quotes!

"FCCLA really helps [students] with their future. It gets you ready for what you want to do in life."

Mayberto Estrada, vice president

"I think you can learn leadership skills and speaking skills in FCCLA."

Heidi Lubeke, president

Band marches to Washington, D.C.

■ Danielle Giles

Staff Editor

Four score and one year ago, the Blackhawk marching band wowed the crowd with their Chicago themed half time show. This year is a whole new ball game with the band performing their "Amber Waves of Grain" show.

The Blackhawk marching band started their traditional band camp on August 8th. This is where all of the members meet their section leaders and conductors. The day also helped incoming freshmen meet future classmates before the first school bell rang. Freshman Megan Fitzgerald explained how band camp helped her.

"I got to meet a lot of new friends from all different middle schools. I also met some upperclassmen. It's nice to know that I have lots of friends coming into the first day of school," said Fitzgerald.

This year's patriotic theme has a special meaning for the marching band. Senior drum major Erin Kennedy stated that the theme fits perfectly as this year marks the tenth anniversary of attack on America in New York.

"We are going to Washington D.C. for our band trip [summer 2012]," said Kennedy. Junior and drum major Micah Dawkins explained how he thinks the band is doing thus far.

"On the second day of camp we already started to go over the half time show for the upcoming season. That has never been done before! It is a great accomplishment," said Dawkins. "All of the freshmen got the hang of things fast, so we got to start earlier."

The anticipation is growing to see the new marching band half time show. The band's music is sure to fill everyone's hearts with pride for their country.

■ Brandi O' Banner

Editor-in-Chief

Classroom management is no longer just the responsibility of the teacher. As Blackhawks, we are all responsible to be good citizens in the hallway and classroom.

Beginning on the first day of school, we were all challenged to follow the "Classroom Matrix" of responsibility, respect and purpose. In 2010-2011, we were challenged to be better students in the hallway. We were asked to wear our i.d.'s at all time, to follow the flow of traffic by being on the right side of the hallway, to not loiter in front of lockers, and to be mindful of our language. For the sophomores through seniors, we had one full year to practice good behavior.

Now we are being asked to bring the Blackhawk Pride into the classroom. Instead of PBIS, we are now calling the behavior guidelines "Blackhawk Pride" because we all need to show how responsible, respectful and purposeful we are.

Even though we are practicing this in the class rooms and hallways, Chris Soulsby, school psychologist, wants us to know that these behaviors are expected of us where ever we go.

"Blackhawk Pride is intended for all students in all settings," said Soulsby.

The purpose of Blackhawk Pride is to establish universal standards of practice and expectations for all staff and students. If we all know the language and what is expected of us, we will all benefit. We are a large school (over 3700 people come into our building every day). For all of us to feel secure in the hallways and classroom, we all need to "buy into" this program. Teachers can be more effective in the classroom when students are more purposeful at the task at hand. We have much of which to be proud--we have great sports teams, music programs and academic successes. Let's add civility to that list of pride.

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Life in the shoes of a X runner

Greta Meyle

Staff Writer

The girls cross country team has high expectations and a great motivation. With the boys team going down to state last year, the girls have a positive drive to step up to the challenge. The team aims for success focused on collaboration in working together to take down the competition one by one.

“My goals for the girls are that we would improve our standing in the DVC, work together as a team, and achieve higher goals for each individual” said coach Angela Cassetto. “I strongly believe the girls can be unstoppable this year--they just have to have persistence and want it, and work together to get it.”

With a history of high DVC titles and conquering the struggle of making it down to sectionals, the team must be at its prime. With losing the asset of last year’s seniors from the top seven, the question of who would fill those top varsity spots lingered through early morning practices all summer. But the girls have stepped up.

“I know the amazing talent our

team has so I want to make sure we reach our goals for not only progressing as a team, but also as individuals,” said senior Jazmin Zepeda.

Coach Cassetto has a strong team this year, with top spots filled by Rachel Cavender, Nicole Bartell, Greta Meyle, Jazmin Zepeda, Alejandra Rios, Nataly Rios, Jessica Nagel, and their new secret weapon, freshman Miranda Gollwitzer.

At the Aurora City Meet this past weekend the girls most definitely confirmed that, yes, they do have that potential. Taking first for varsity and top runner Gollwitzer taking second place overall, the girls are off to a great start. And with an astounding six runners finishing in the top twenty, the girls proved that they not only plan to work hard this year, but as a team, also.

“I love the family atmosphere we have on the team! We are always so encouraging to each other that I know we are gonna do big things this year!” said Rachel Cavender.

Step Team reaches for DVC title again this year

Rebekah Mallette

On-line Editor

“The team members join because they like to hear the crowd, feel the height, and the excitement,” said Teresa Towles, adviser of the Step Team. The group certainly felt that when they won DVC competition last year.

“They like to see other teams compete and then rising to the challenge themselves,” said Teresa Towles. “They are developing more as a team,” which, according to Towles, “will lead to success this year.”

Students, teachers, and community members who are interested in seeing the Step Team perform should visit one of the West Aurora home games.

STEP TEAM initial 2011-2012 meeting. Advisers of the Step Team are Teresa Towles and Pamela Wilkins. photo by Rebekah Mallette

The Red and Blue staff



“The Red and Blue” is produced by the journalism class of West Aurora High School. The journalism students chose the focus of each issue, conduct the needed interviews and write the copy. While we strive to have proper and correct attribution in each story, we may have a few mistakes. The staff regrets any errors, and we will correct any copy.

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West is best in cross-town rivalry, but moves on quickly to next matchups, ready to keep the wins

■ **Blake Kauffmann**

Sports Editor

2-0 RECORD

“This will be a good year. When we play to our potential and make no mistakes, we are the team to beat,” said junior Jeremiah Gaines.

The East-West rivalry has gone on for many years in Aurora. It has gone so far back it is one of the longest running rivalries between schools in Illinois to date. In 2011 the two schools went at it again on the football field, and West brought everything they had.

In the end, the Blackhawks pummeled the Tomcats 48-6 on the opponent's field.

“I felt we got off to a good start, but there still is a lot of football ahead of us,” said junior wide receiver Aaron Kenebrew. “We just have to keep getting better and better.”

With the team staying focused, they could be primed for a great season.

The first home game of the season against St. Charles East gave us a record of 2-0 with the win of 20-7. On September 9, we play the 6th ranked team in Illinois --Wheaton-Warrenville South Tigers away, with the challenge against Naperville Central on September 16.

“When we work as a team we can have the best offense and defense West has ever seen,” said junior linebacker Jeremiah Gaines.

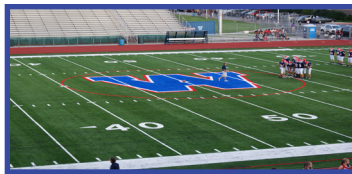
To move on in this tough DVC conference, West will have to be the best on both sides of the ball as they were in match-up against East.

“We need to stay hungry for every win. We can beat any team as long as we give it our all,” said Kenebrew. “Being the underdogs, they don't expect us to come out strong, but that's what we have to do.”

“This will be a good year. When we play to our potential and make no mistakes, we are the team to beat,” said Gaines.

With the first two games behind them, the team is focusing on the future.

Gaines finished by saying, “Fight hard and play with pride.”



NEW FIELD DEDICATION The long awaited new football field dedication, August 20 photo by Rebekah Mallette

MIGHTY BLACKHAWKS The opening game against cross-town rivals, East Aurora. photos by Sheah Foster

Boys golf looking forward to improving scores

■ **Erendira Franco**

Photo Editor

It's that time of year again and boys golf is getting back in the swing of things.

With a varsity team of mostly juniors, Coach Jay Bauer said he is looking forward to “to [seeing] how much they improve.” This season's team is comprised of six juniors and only three seniors. According to Bauer there is only one returning varsity letter winner from last year.

Senior Ricky Rivera said he is looking forward to watching the progress of his teammates.

“We have a young team [with] the majority being juniors so this season will provide good experience for them,” said Rivera

Junior Ottavio Dattolo said he is most excited about the traveling.

“We get to play at some of the top courses in Illinois,” said Dattolo.

Bauer also has a specific goal in mind for his young players this season. Bauer hopes “to finish in the top half of the DVC and have qualifiers for sectionals.” The team also has specific goals in mind. “My goals for this season [are] to improve my skills to a high level to be

able to compete with some of the top golfers in our area,” said Dattolo. “My goals are simply play well and contribute,” said Rivera.

Bauer also hopes that he can encourage his team “to commit, work hard, [and] to get better.”

UPCOMING MATCHES TO BE PLAYED

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - BATAVIA INVITE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - WHEATON NORTH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - CITY MEET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - NAPERVILLE NORTH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - AURORA CATHOLIC INVITE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - ELGIN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 - WEST CHICAGO

Girls golf up to par on the golf course

Evelyn Rocha

Staff Writer

The girls golf team is ready to take on the competition with flare by both the members and their coach Christopher Soulsby.

"[These] girls are definitely the hardest working group of girls," said Chris Soulsby.

According to the coach, the star players as of right now are Kara Smith and Lari Mitchell, but very closely behind them are Jordan Lange, Sam O'Brien, and Alex Robertson.

"So far we have started the season off pretty well, and we keep improving, so I'm looking forward to this season," said sophomore Sam O'Brien.

Despite the dream goal of sending a few golfers off to DVC, Chris Soulsby said, "My number one goal is for these girls to always have fun [and] they look forward to golf not because they win every time, but because they like each other."

"It's just a lot of fun, these girls are my sisters," said varsity captain Jen Waters, explaining why she loves golf. [The best part is] the team and the conversations."

This team sure knows how to make golf entertaining, but they also know how to put the PRO in provisional ball, so watch out because they're in it to win it!

Boys soccer kicks off season

Marlo Pidlaon

Staff Writer

"The soccer team is very motivated and they work hard to their full potential," said coach Eduardo Navarro.

Motivation is one drive to success in any sport especially soccer.

"The love for the game is my drive to play soccer," said junior Manny Gurrola.

Manny is looking forward to beating St. Charles East this year. Inspiration also is a drive to play soccer.

"What inspired me to play soccer was that I had problems with my asthma. Soccer keeps that under control, and it's the sport I love the most. My drive to play soccer is after school during soccer practice because it's a place to get away and be active," said junior Matt Michels.

"The biggest achievement in soccer last year was seeing the player's growth as individuals and a team."

During the last week of August, West Aurora's JV soccer team beat Rockford 7-0. This victory shows that a good amount of teamwork can lead to great things.

This year Navarro hopes the team will compete for the DVC championship.

"If you play hard, winning takes care of itself," Navarro added.

Rebekah Mallette

Staff Writer

Poms pumps up the crowd for West spirit

"I love doing the pre-game routines before each game starts and really pumping up the crowd," said poms co-captain Meghan Kulakowski.

The excitement the poms creates at the football games is due to the many summer hours spent preparing for the season.

"The girls worked really hard this summer at our six o'clock am practices," said Lauren Miller, poms coach. As with many sports, changes happened for this season.

"Our team is bigger. We grew from 12 dancers to 17 dancers," said Miller. Not only has the team gained more dancers, but it also has a new assistant coach. Nikki Schar will be assisting Miller this season.

"My favorite part about poms is all of the football games," said Robyn Lewandowski, poms co-captain.

Miller said, "I am looking forward to the halftime performances at football and basketball games. It is always great to see all of the girls' hard work pay off."

The poms are found at Friday night football on the field for each home game.

"My favorite part about the games is dancing to the music from the marching band, on the floor and in the stands!" said Lewandowski.

Girl's volleyball players spike

Sheah Foster

Publicity Editor

"My favorite thing about volleyball is the way you bond with the other girls and you become one big family that is really fun to play with, meeting new people each year and being able to play with returning players," said senior Nahlia Wood, varsity player.

Wood is not the only team member to feel this way.

"My favorite thing about volleyball is that all us girls and our two guy managers are like a family were all so close," said Kelsey Richmond.

"Many of our players attended camps throughout the summer to prepare for the season," said Kari Nicholson, the coach of varsity girl's volleyball.

"This year I prepared by going to the [volleyball] camp, and I ran track in the spring to stay in shape," said Wood.

Lauren Carlini, a junior, spent her summer playing for the USA national youth team.

The general consensus of the team members is that none of the other teams in the DVC will be easy to beat, but West Chicago will be the most difficult.

"Last year, our toughest competition was West Chicago, who took 1st in the DVC. It's definitely hard to tell knowing so little about each school, but generally each school in the DVC is capable of being a strong competitor," said senior Lauren Wilson.

"Nothing is better than having a large crowd cheering you on," said Nicholson. "West students can support our teams by attending matches!"

Community to serve others

New year to volunteer as ambassadors to meet and greet guests

■ Greta Meyle

Staff Writer

“Ambassadors take pride in being helpful, approachable, nice, and hardworking,” said senior Liz Held.

A new year of lending a helping hand and reaching out to the community begins for Ambassadors and with it sparks a new motivation to serve the community. With Open House two weeks ago, there is no doubt that the students are already working hard. With the break of the air conditioning, the heat during the school day [on Open house] was dreadful, so the fact alone that the ambassadors were ready to work despite those conditions shows even more the element of character they are always said to display.

“My job, along with Nicky Bartell, was to help the handicapped go up and down the chair lifter by the gym,” said junior Alejandra Rios.

New activities director and ambassador adviser Whitney Rusin led the group at Open House by getting clubs and sponsors to set up booths to inform the parents about opportunities for students. Open House was definitely a success, and she is enthusiastic about how she only expects to see even more positives to come.

“We have 90+ ambassadors this year, all

with great leadership qualities that they can use to serve their community,” said Rusin.

And even before Rusin became comfortable as the new activities director, she was given a taste of how dedicated ambassadors really are.

“Even when I first began working here I was impressed. Wendy Andrade, Shadae Pickett, and Jen Vargas were ambassadors who came in during the summer and were extremely helpful to me despite the fact that they barely knew me yet,” said Rusin.

Rusin encourages anyone with leadership skills who wants to make an impact in the community to join the club. Though the job is new to her, she already has positive feedback.

“The kids are great, the staff is great--I’ve really enjoyed my time here so far. As for students who are thinking about joining, I would strongly recommend it to anyone who has leadership qualities because there are so many ways to help out whether it’s at school, with children or parents, or outside of school. It’s an awesome way to get West High’s name out there in a positive way,” said Rusin.

Democracy among students in Student Council

■ Evelyn Rocha

Staff Writer

“The most rewarding thing is being able to help those in need,” said the Student Council adviser Bob James. “It’s a great experience to learn leadership and help in many school/community events and meet people all around,” said junior president Alejandra Rios.

Student Council aspires to take part in the community as well as be the voice for students at West High. Even though Student Council involves hard work and responsibility, the group also knows how to have a great time.

“You’re helping out the community while having

fun at the same time,” said senior Takia Wade.

“I believe Mr. James is the perfect sponsor for Student Council, because he allows us students to handle everything but he also knows when to step in,” said senior Takia Wade.

Unfortunately Robert James’s last year is 2014. “[Robert James is] extremely nice and friendly, and does care about our school and students,” said sophomore vice president Alexa Tapia.

“Joining Student Council will give you a new perspective on life and a lot of new friends,” said senior Takia Wade.

Meetings every
Monday in auditorium