Fundraising efforts support victims of Hurricane Harvey

BY KATE BERMAN & BRIAN GUTRICH

The student body did its part to raise money to assist the families in Houston affected by Hurricane Harvey.

On Sept. 1, the band and choir collected $700 in donations at the varsity football game. On Sept. 8, the National Honor Society (NHS) sponsored an event allowing students to pay $2 to wear a tank top or a hat during the school day, collecting over $800. All together, the school donated $1,100 to the Houston Food Bank.

Students at EPCHS were very excited and proud to help those impacted. Senior Joselyn Quintas feels it is important to help people in times of need. Quintas says, "No matter how big or small the help is, it can truly change the lives of others."

The Art Club, sponsored by Mrs. Sandy Safranek, made "Houses for Hurricane Victims" on Oct. 1 and 2. The 60 small houses, made from scraps of mat board and decorated with colorful patterned papers and markers, were turned into whimsical scenes. The Art Club is selling hand-crafted pins and magnets to support hurricane victims.

New stores open at EP Plaza

BY ALEXIS WITOWSKI

What was once the first ever shopping mall in the Chicagoland area, the Evergreen Plaza is now becoming an outdoor shopping center. New business are opening throughout 2017.

The demolition began about a year ago due to the property’s fall to foreclosure. It used to be a thriving place where many loved to shop and spend their day. Caroline Witowski, a local citizen of Evergreen Park, believes the renovations are a great addition to Evergreen. "They’ll unionize the community and with these stores, appeal to the younger crowd," she says.

Another person who is ecstatic about the new renovations is the Evergreen Park Mayor Mr. Jim Sexton. Sexton states that his wife’s personal favorite store is the newly-remodeled Carson’s department store and his assistant loves DSW for shoes.

Sexton believes that not only will the new outlet give people more options to shop but will have a great effect on sales tax revenue. This will help out the village’s public schools as well.

In the past, people liked the idea of going somewhere for the purpose of the destination, Sexton mentions. Today, however, people want efficiency-- to jump in and leave quickly, which this open mall concept will achieve.

continues on page 9

New fitness center construction begins

BY MALLORY BURKE

Facilities director Mr. Tim Donohoe has been directing construction for the school’s new fitness center, located in the space previously used for auto shop. The center will open on Jan. 9.

Donohoe initiated construction at the end of the summer. Students should expect all new equipment, including new weights, ten elliptical machines, eight bikes, and new leather medicine balls, all with Mustang logos. “We do it,” Donohoe explains that he initiated construction in preparation for the opening of a new fitness center on Jan. 9.

The space formerly used for auto shop classes is currently under construction in the space previously used for auto shop. The center will be complete with hardwood floors, a posed dance studio, communications lab, and cardio section to meet the needs of all students. Everything will be branded with Mustang Pride! It’s truly exciting!”

However, some music department members are displeased with the construction. Band member Faith Bain feels that music students like herself have trouble hearing beats during music classes and rehearsals due to the noisy construction. Once the project is finished, Bain predicts more foot traffic in her “little section” of the school.

The District 231 Board of Education is in the midst of generating ideas for how the current weight room will be used upon completion of the new fitness center. A proposed dance studio, complete with hardwood floors, is one possibility.
Young scientists compete in annual event

BY MYA COOPER & TAYLOR FERA

On Oct. 3, the science department held its annual science competition. Events included seedpod, toothpick bridges, catapults, solar ovens, and a brain out of clay.

The goal for the first event, seedpod, was to build a pod capable of holding five black beans and soaring through the air from five meters. The winner was the contestant whose seedpod took the longest to hit the ground.

The second choice was toothpick bridges, which involved building a bridge out of toothpicks that could hold the most mass.

For catapults, students launched a bouncy ball in a straight line.

In the next event, participants built a solar oven to cause the most change in temperature.

The objective of building a brain was to create and design a brain for an imaginary animal.

For egg drop, students made a device capable of protecting an egg from a five meter drop.

For shake it up, students built structures capable of withstanding a shaking table, designed to be like an earthquake.

In the build-a-battery contest, contestants constructed batteries of household materials. The winning battery had the highest voltage.

The last event entailed building a tower to transport a marble from start to finish in the quickest time.

While the students view the competition as entertaining and enjoyable, “it’s treated as an assessment,” remarks science department chair Mr. Mike Thomas.

Students feel too ‘cool’ in school

Classroom climate gives teens the chills

BY EMILY GOODMAN

Students have noticed that some classrooms are colder than others, especially at this time of year, as fall brings unseasonably warm temperatures.

Facilities director Mr. Tim Donohoe reveals the cause of this in a thorough explanation of the Building Automated System (BAS), which is the system used to process heating and cooling around the building. This elaborate system gives Donohoe an inside look to what is going on in each individual classroom. He can see the temperature and adjust components of the system to alter the temperature of the classroom.

Donohoe ex- plains that his office is the system used to process heating and cooling. The temperature levels from around the school even out the hallway temperature but still leave it about four or five degrees hotter than classrooms. Room 109 in particular is especially cold in the later hours of the school day because it operates on a different set of ventilators along side neighboring classrooms.

Classrooms on the east side of the main hallway use an older system that blasts much colder air into the class if the temperature begins to rise. This is the reason why certain classrooms feel much colder than others. The air that is filtered into the room to keep it around 72-75 degrees might blow air as cold as 50 degrees to even out the temperatures. In short, the reason students feel cold relates to their location in the room in correspondence to the air ventilators.

A lot of teachers will email Donohoe that their room is too hot or cold. In the case of a classroom being too cold, Donohoe simply opens up the system and opens the reheat valve. This valve will warm the air before it blows out, overall steadying the temperature of the room without trying to cool it.

College Visits:

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A closer look at the brain

PHOTO: Taylor Fera

Parents: SAVE the DATE

Dr. Bobb Darnell, speaker

“Success Strategies for High Achievement”

January 18, 2018

6:00 p.m.

EPCHS Auditorium

A map shows each individual heating/cooling system by classroom. Certain classrooms on the first floor hallway operate on different systems.

PHOTO: Emily Goodman

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253

A Village Thanksgiving

Sponsored by Evergreen Park Community High School, the District 231 Board of Education, & Mayor Jim Sexton

Thursday, November 23

11:00-1:00

EPCHS Cafeteria, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave.

Please reach out to senior citizens, shut-ins, veterans, or families in need

To make a reservation, request delivery, or make a donation, contact Lisa Shields:

(708) 398-1253
BY AMARI BROWN, COLLEEN BURNS, KINSEY CASTILLO, TAKYLA HULL, MICHAEL MALONE, ALIYAH POLK, KENZIE TELSTAD, & SAMANTHA YUNEVICH

Mr. John Schroeder, the new social worker from Burnham, Ill., has been a social worker for four years now, three of them teaching at Burnham Elementary. He graduated from EPCHS in 2006. Schroeder made a return to his alma mater because he “loved being a Mustang, because EP has great Mustang Pride,” and because “EPCHS is home for me.” He also stated that what he likes most about EP is that it is a close community and he loves the amount of pride everyone in Evergreen has. “My door is always open for anyone, for whatever they need,” says Schroeder.

Mr. Jim Donato is in charge of the district’s computer, Wi-Fi, and iPad networks. He has 15 years of education IT experience. His first impression of the school has been that “everyone’s very nice; it’s just a great environment for students and teachers alike.” Donato is looking forward to the opportunity to help people use technology in the classroom.

Ms. Dana Benda is new this year to the business department. She has been teaching for four years, originally teaching at Lockport High School. She discovered EPCHS through the principal at her previous school. Benda teaches Computer Concepts, Mobile App Development, and Financial Literacy. She is excited because of her love for children/students and also he loves the language.

Mr. Jamie Pembroke, Jr. grew up in Oak Lawn and attended Brother Rice High School. He is currently attending Governors State University at night while working as a paraprofessional at EPCHS. “I never thought I would be working with my dad [math teacher Mr. Jamie Pembroke, Sr.],” remarked Pembroke. “There are many positives to working together, including seeing each other on a daily basis.” One valuable lesson he has learned is that “there is always going to be someone bigger, stronger, faster, and more intelligent than you. The equalizer is hard work. Working hard is a recipe for success.”

Mr. Ben Levine-Drizin is new to the World Languages department this year. He has been teaching Spanish for two years. Out of all the things about EPCHS, his favorite things are diversity and how the students are on board with how the school values education, he also likes the community. He wanted to become a Spanish teacher because of his love for children/students and also he loves the language.

Ms. Katherine Hogan is new this year to the English Department. She has been teaching for 17 years, originally teaching in the city of Chicago. She decided to teach at EP because she thought it was a great opportunity and she thinks the community has a great reputation. She teaches English and reading. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, Hogan also serves as English department chair. In her free time, she reads and plays with her kids. She mostly likes how bright and funny the students are at EP. She also wants all the students to know that she is always here to help them and she cares about them succeeding.

Mr. Thomas Minarik is the latest addition to the art department. This year is his first year teaching full-time; he previously student-taught at Oak Lawn High School, followed by a job as a substitute here at EPCHS. Minarik loves everything art, but especially ceramics, which he majored in. He also loves how welcoming the staff was to him, as a couple of teachers here taught him when he was a student. He’s really looking forward to a great career here as he teaches ceramics and painting this term.

Ms. Jalyin Brown is a paraprofessional/1:1 classroom aide. Her duties include helping an amazing student transition through the school day, assisting her with staying focused, monitoring her in the hallways, motivating her and making sure she stays on task. Brown decided to work at EPCHS because she enjoyed her own experience as a student here, saying “It was a dream come true to return!” Brown adds, “I enjoy learning from my fellow coworkers, seeing my old teachers every day, and most importantly, being able to work towards my dream of becoming a special education teacher.” She encourages students to take advantage of all the great things EPCHS has to offer: “Make life-long connections with your teachers and respect them,” Brown advises. “You never know who you may need.”

Mr. John O’Connor is the new metals fabrication and technical concepts teacher. O’Connor is an Evergreen Park alumnus who is thoroughly excited to return to the classroom. O’Connor has been teaching at Evergreen Park High School since 2009, where he has taught PE and driver’s education classes. O’Connor also has coached varisty softball for six years and football for 14 years at EP. Prior to teaching at EP, O’Connor worked as a sheet metal worker for 24 years. When asked about what he looks forward to this school year, O’Connor replied, “I’m truly happy working in a new environment with awesome kids and teaching them a new skill.”

News staff join ‘the Herd’ for 2017-18

O’Malley hired as superintendent

BY BRIAN GUTCHI

Mustang Monitor: How have your first few weeks in EP been?

Mr. Tom O’Malley: The first few weeks have been great. I’m very excited about the students and the great staff here. It’s a great place, and I can see the enthusiasm from all of our students; I can certainly see the dedication of our staff.

MM: Where did you work previously?

TO: I worked at Bremen District 228; I was there for 26 years. I was a teacher for ten years, and I was assistant principal for two, and then I was at the district office for the last 14 years.

MM: What subjects did you teach?

TO: I taught pretty much everything business-related.

MM: What led you to switch from teaching to an administrative role?

TO: After teaching for 12 years I went back and I got my master’s degree in administration. I wasn’t burned out from the classroom, but I was ready for a change.

MM: What do you do for fun?

TO: I’ve coached basketball for 20 years, coaching my own kids. It kind of runs in the family—my dad’s been a lifelong coach. He coached all his teaching career and now he’s been the head coach at Saint Xavier for the past 20 years. I enjoy officiating college basketball as well.

MM: What do you want to bring to EPCHS?

TO: Well, I think one of the things that I definitely want to bring is a continued pride. I want kids to feel like this is the place where they want to be and a really welcoming place and enjoying their time while they’re here. We want to prepare our students for life after high school.

MM: Is there anything else you’d like the student body to know about you?

TO: I want them to know that I’m here for them, that my door is always open and I’m going to work very hard to see that we’re meeting the needs of our students here.
OPINION

Blake’s Take
BY BLAKE RABODZEENKO

I felt midterms gave us insight on what we needed to study for finals. Where-as now, just having a final exam, it is hard to recall what we learned in the beginning of the semester. Midterms were an easy way to figure out what you were struggling with and you had time to fix it before the final.

—EMMANI PIERRE-LOUIS, ‘20

EP is doing a good job going green. Students could make a better effort to recycle, though. There are green recycle bins in each class so we should take advantage of them.

—DANA SANDERS, ‘18

Our student body has certain “groups” of people we hang out with regularly, and once we find those groups we isolate other students. Being such a small community and school should make us all closer, and it saddens me that we aren’t. We should all interact more with our peers.

—EMILY SERAFIN, ‘20

We should do something with the third floor. We could have either an inside turf field or batting cages or golf nets or dance floors.

—CHRISTIAN EPPS, ‘20

Some dress code rules could be lifted. For instance, we should be able to wear jeans with closed rips. As for shorts, a more reasonable rule would be to take the measurements from fingers to the side to the front of the thighs and make it a fist length.

—ALIVIA ALDALPE, ‘20

Table: Your Student Voice to the Board of Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food service:</td>
<td>Lines are less efficient than last year. Students enjoy music on Fridays and were needed and a great addition!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility improvements:</td>
<td>Look nice, inspiring, great touch, paint looks great, new lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP lawn signs:</td>
<td>Great addition-- helps school spirit and sends a positive message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iced coffees:</td>
<td>Are a great idea. Suggestion: post full menu on iPads sent out in one or two-week intervals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First day: Students would like to have a half-day on the first day of school.

EP lawn signs: Great addition—helps school spirit and sends a positive message.

Food service: Lines are less efficient than last year. Students enjoy music on Fridays and being allowed to use phones.

Facility improvements: Look nice, inspiring, great touch, paint looks great, new lights were needed and a great addition!

iPads: Started up smoothly; easier for group assignments and sharing docs

from the Sept. 26 Board of Education Meeting:

School Spirit/The Herd: Freshman participation in homecoming week should increase; suggestions include talking about school spirit on freshman orientation day; start Herd Reminder text messages again; add more announcements about games

Food Service/Cafeteria: Iced coffees are a great idea. Suggestion: post full menu on iPads sent out in one or two-week intervals.

Athletic Eligibility: Students like the yellow and red card system, but feel the new LOP policy is too intense.

Homecoming Week: Online tickets are an awesome idea! Announcements were strong except for competition results not being announced. Movie night had a small turnout this year but can get bigger over time. Suggestions: Hire a new DJ or create playlist on an aux cord; relocate movie night to the football field.
‘Battlefront’ better than ever

A first-look at the latest Star Wars game

BY MICHAEL MALONE

One of the biggest video games coming out this year is Star Wars Battlefront 2, a sequel to the repetitive but still enjoyable Star Wars Battlefront 2015 and a successor to the first Battlefront series that came out in the early 2000s. Here are my first impressions of the game based on playing the open beta running from Oct. 6–9.

**Likethes**

1. Dice, the studio behind the first Battlefront series, has always had a reputation for incredible visuals and sound design and it shows: The sights, sounds and music of Battlefront II are nothing less than brilliant. The vehicles, characters and locales all look like they were pulled straight out of movies (which, in a sense, they were). The sound design team has done a fantastic job transforming the sound of the Star Wars universe into the game. Every explosion, blaster bolt, and swing of a lightsaber has never sounded better.

2. With the newly introduced class system, every player now has a unique role on the battlefield. The class system allows for a lot of experimentation seeing what weapons and abilities work best in tandem. Additionally, special classes such as Wookiees, death troopers and jump troopers can be purchased with battle points.

**Dislikes**

1. The only way to progress, get new weapons, abilities, etc. is to buy crates using in-game currency. The crates themselves have random contents. In addition, players have the option of buying crates with real world money, allowing those willing to spend a massive advantage over those who can’t or won’t.

2. The battlefront series has been known for massive battles and the latest iteration is no exception. But both the galactic assault and strike modes felt at times empty and desolate. Sometimes it took upwards of a minute to find an enemy player.

3. Finally, the last negative point I have is the sound mechanics, or rather lack thereof. Currently, every time a player respawns he or she is paired with four other players; if a player remains thereof, every character has random mechanics, or rather lack thereof. Currently, every time a player respawns he or she is paired with four other players; if a player remains with that group he or she gains extra battle points. On paper this is a great system, encouraging teamwork and coordination; in reality, it is barely used.

---

**CHICAGO LAND TAKES A ‘CHANCE’ ON LOCAL RAPPER**

Chicago’s own Chance the Rapper has been making headlines for his unique musical style, along with his charitable involvement with Chicago Public Schools.

BY RONALD FAISON

Chance the Rapper is well-regarded as a prodigy by kids, teens, and even adults throughout Chicagoland and even beyond his hometown. Many consider him one of the top rappers of his generation.

Chance the Rapper, aka Chancellor Bennett, was born April 16, 1993 in the West Chatham neighborhood. Chance began to show interest in rapping in the sixth grade when his cousin let him use the studio. His inspirations included Michael Jackson and Sam Cooke.

During the end of his junior year of high school, into the majority of his senior year, Chance began working on his debut album. He finally released the mixtape, 10 Day (referring to his ten-day suspension) in April 2012. The album was downloaded more than 300,000 times.

The young artist had a good start for his first project, but it seemed he was hungry to have more success. He got exactly what he asked for the following year. In 2015, Chance released Acid Rap, his second mixtape. The mixtape was downloaded over one million times.

Fast-forwarding to 2016, Chance released another mixtape titled Coloring Book, which went mainstream on Apple Music.

In the past year Chance has been a visible philanthropist, including donating money to CPS schools and producing an awards show to recognize teachers.

Tyson Witherspoon has been a fan of Chance since 10 Day, "I’m influenced by Chance when it mostly comes to his music because his music is mostly always uplifting and puts me in a good mood," says Witherspoon.

Senior Manuel Cumba remarks, "Ever since Acid Rap came out, I knew I was a fan because it was something different." In terms of Chance’s recent charitable activities, Cumba says, “I feel he’s doing it to be generous; he doesn’t seem to be the one to do something for attention.”

Currently, Chance is working on his debut album. The title and release date are still unknown, but it’s said that the album will sound differently than his mixtapes. A lot, Chance will be selling this album, unlike his other music, which he gave to the fans for free.

---

**WONDER WOMAN REVITALIZES FAVORITE FILM FRANCHISE**

BY SHANNON MCCONVILLE

Directed by Patty Jenkins and starring Gal Gadot, Wonder Woman tells the remarkable story of an Amazonian princess named Diana Prince.

When pilot Steve Trevor suddenly crashes offshore the island of Themyscira, Diana rescues him. He then is forced to tell the truth to the Amazons about how he came to end up on their island. He tells them about the ongoing World War.

Diana eventually leaves her home island in order to end the conflict she thinks Ares is causing. In the process she becomes Wonder Woman.

Wonder Woman is such an action-packed, intense movie that will be sure to make audiences cry and laugh.

---

**EXTRA! EXTRAI**

Join the staff of the Mustang Monitor

Contact mustangmonitor@evergreenpark.org for more information.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Mustang Pride is on display

Initiative aims to promote spirit

BY MALLORY BURKE

Evergreen Park Community High School’s theme for the 2017-2018 school year is “Mustang Pride,” chosen by Mr. Tom O’Malley, the new superintendent. O’Malley, along with principal Mr. Bill Sanderson, decided to promote Mustang Pride in part due to a lack of student involvement.

O’Malley and Sanderson have been promoting the new theme extensively by distributing “EP Pride” lawn signs for each EP family, encouraging students to attend after-school events and deriving staff support by giving each staff member a T-shirt to wear on Spirit Fridays.

With the staff on board, O’Malley and Sanderson hope for the theme to become more student-oriented. At a press conference on Sept. 5, Sanderson said that he wants the students to be “proud of who they are and where they go to school.” He also shared his thoughts on how pride can be shown in small situations, such as picking up a piece of trash in the hallway or helping a struggling student.

O’Malley also believes that pride is more than just wearing an EP shirt. “It’s how you carry yourself,” O’Malley states. He believes true pride is when students show respect for their school and their community through their actions.

Sanderson and O’Malley hope to see an increase in enrollment as a result of the new theme.

There’s no place like home

Students in the Journalistic Writing & Development class interview superintendent Tom O’Malley and principal Bill Sanderson about the Mustang Pride initiative. At the press conference on Sept. 5, the administrators shared their vision for what it means to be an EPCHS Mustang.

Show your pride!

BY COLLEEN BURNS

1. Learn “E.P. Victory,” the school song.
2. Encourage other students to get involved.
3. Reach out to freshmen and transfer students.
4. Set an example by modeling “Mustang Pride” behavior.
5. Seniors, leave a legacy of Mustang Pride by planning for the future.

Show your Mustang Pride:

Wear green & grey/your favorite E.P. gear on Fridays!

“I wear EP gear every day.”
Rashawn “Scoop” Marshall, ‘18

“I get involved with extra curricular activities.”
Courtney Hoover, ‘20

“Mustang Pride is about being positive; I love being here every day.”
Amari Brown, ‘19

“I go to every home game to support the Mustangs.”
Amani Brown, ‘19
A ‘heroic’ celebration of homecoming

BY BRIAN GUTRICH, TA’KYLA HULL, ALEXIE TELSTAD, & SAMANTHA YUNEVICH

Homecoming week for the Mustangs ran from Sept. 18-23, with the theme of Superheroes and Villians.

Participation in spirit days was strong this year, with students and staff dressing up for Pajama Day, Tacky Tourist Day, Superhero Day, Throwback Thursday, and, of course, Spirit Friday.

Seniors took the win in the Powder Puff football game, hall decorations and window decorations were beautifully done in the theme of superheroes, and movie night returned this year in the cafeteria.

Mr. Alfredo Salgado hosted the pep rally on Sept. 22 and excitement was in the air. The entire student body piled into the gymnasium that Friday afternoon in anticipation of that night’s football game against Shepard. The varsity football team was announced and the cheerleaders, dance team, and color guard performed. The senior class won tug of war and the juniors won the beach ball balance game. Finally, Mallory Burke was crowned the Homecoming Queen.

After the assembly, sports and activities spread spirit throughout the village on a new parade route, leading back to the football game. Students marched representing various clubs and sports as well as their class. Both the senior and junior floats fell, but nothing was destroyed. Besides a few minor incidents, the parade went very smoothly.

Later that night at the football game against the Shepard Astros, the varsity Mustangs suffered a hard loss. The Mustangs were unable to score and Shepard won with a score of 42-0. However, school spirit ran high with the bleachers packed with students, parents, and alumni. The crowd cheered their team on and supported them until the very end.

The festive week concluded with the annual homecoming dance in the gym on Sept. 23. Hundreds of EPHS students, plus many additional guests from other high schools, attended.

Student Government, sponsored by Mr. Brian English and Ms. Stacy Harte, set up all of the events for homecoming week. The final rankings for the EP homecoming week were seniors in first place, followed by freshmen in second place, sophomores in third place, and juniors in fourth place.
Discover why Moraine Valley is your best choice!

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-Noon
9000 W. College Parkway • Palos Hills
Building S

- Hear a short presentation about the college, admission and financial aid process, student life, and more.
- Learn about the transfer process — Complete the first two years of your bachelor’s degree here and save thousands of dollars!
- Meet faculty from some of our career programs.
- Take a tour of the campus.

There also will be information available for adult learners.

RSVP
(708) 874-6385
morainevalley.edu/openhouse

morainevalley.edu
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital recently selected 23 teenagers from Illinois to take part in the first-ever St. Jude Teen Board Leadership Society Program. The teens involved in this program helped out the hospital in multiple ways. Each teen had to fundraise a minimum of $2,000 by using a creative way to raise it. Teen member Sadie Briggs, who came up with the plan of a bags tournament, stated, “Enjoying some fun activities to pay for a child’s treatment is just so amazing.”

Amy Junge, the leader of the board, pushed the teens to help the most they possibly could. Junge arranged a visit to St. Jude’s Children’s Research hospital over the summer, which included a tour of the hospital, the opportunity for the teens to interact and make cookies with the patients and multiple banquet and dinner parties. “I couldn’t be any prouder of what my members have done,” said Junge.

The St. Jude Teen Board Leadership Society raised enough money to pay for 80 days of chemotherapy to treat the acute lymphoblastic leukemia of Mabry, age two. Junge hopes to continue this program and the positive outcomes it generates.

In addition to the renovations at the intersection of 95th St and Western Ave, residents can expect more additions to local businesses such as the remodeling of EP staple Chi Tung. They’ve already taken notice of the new Wu’s House, which will have friendly competition with Sesame Inn, located across the street on Kedzie Ave. Overall, when it comes to bringing in new businesses to the village, Mayor Sexton feels “the more, the better.”

*New plaza ‘ctd from pg 1*

*EP Baracco’s opens doors*

Longtime village staple rebuilds one year after fire

BY JAZSMIN MYTON

Sept. 24, 2017, a day some will never forget. It marked the one year anniversary of the grease fire that burned down the Baracco’s on 95th St. and Lawndale Ave. in Evergreen Park.

It might have just been a fire to Evergreen Park residents, but it was a day of heartbreak for the Barraco family. Baracco’s has multiple locations, but the family business began at the restaurant at the heart of EP.

“When our location in EP burned down, we were all devastated,” reflected Nickola Baracco, one of the owners. “That was our home, our empire, where it all began. We never imagined that anything like that would happen, but we definitely weren’t ready to hurt as bad as we did.” Baracco had pain eyes as he thought about the fire, but his spirit turned joyful when speaking about the reopening on Oct. 3.

Manager Shannon Sullivan said, “I’m not a Barraco, but when the EP Baracco’s burned down, I felt really bad for them. That’s where they all grew up and it was just destroyed. I’m so excited to see it come back and be even better than before!”

Local residents are thrilled to have one of their favorite local pizza parlors/Italian restaurants back in business and newly remodeled.

The intersection of 95th St. and Western Ave. is booming with the construction of new stores, including DSW, Five Below, 365 Whole Foods, Ulta, TJ Maxx, and Petco. The village hopes the new shopping center encourages residents to “keep the green in Evergreen” as well as brings in shoppers from surrounding communities.

*Teen events sep/oct/nov 2017*

- How to Reduce Pain and Anxiety Oct 25, 6:30 pm
- Create Thursdays Sep 28: T-shirt Toss Segment 28 Oct 5: Tape Race Time
- Oct 12: No Show Tie Fright Night
- Oct 26: Zombie dolls Now $8 DIY body scrub and $26 Custom a holiday rock & display

*Knitting Club*

How to start your own knitting club

*Tech Tuesday*

- iPad 5: Space Gray Building

*Senior Molly Ostry and her mother, Leah Ostry, were recognized by St. Jude’s.*
BY MYA WHITTON

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is an organization meant to reassure students that drug and alcohol usage is not a sufficient way of coping and how this usage can destroy students’ promising futures.

The club has held Red Ribbon Week in the previous years here at Evergreen Park and encourages students to be drug and alcohol-free. Red Ribbon Week is known nationally to promote the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

From Oct. 23-27 SADD will be sponsoring a Red-Ribbon Week with announcements on ways to restrict students from bad substance intake and facts about the destructive use of alcohol, including drunk driving. The week will also consist of giving red ribbons to students signaling positive use of alcohol, including drunk driving. The week will also consist of giving red ribbons to students signaling drug prevention, posters of awareness in opposition to drugs and alcohol, activities to promote safety away from substance abuse, and much more. These signs and activities will also help educate students on how to deal with peer pressure.

SADD sponsor Mr. Chris Mikulskis anticipates key involvement needed to make this week great. “The commitment of the SADD club here is to emphasize a drug-free lifestyle and make sure students are not pressured to make bad decisions,” said Mikulskis.

THE EPCHS music department has been filled with exciting performances and competitions throughout each class.

Marching band season is drawing to a close after performances at several competitions and football games. The band received third division at Robert Morris University, first division at Maren-go High School and third at Sandwich High School.

Drum major Isabella Vil-lamini was proud of the outcome of the competitive season, stating, “The support from everyone in band was really great, especially since this is my first year as drum major. We did really well this season in our performances, and I am so proud of how much we’ve grown since the summer band camp!”

The band will end their season with their annual Sounds of the Stadium concert, where they will be performing with the Central Middle School band, compete in the annual March Of, and give recognition to the seniors in band and color guard. Next spring the marching band will travel to Disney World to perform at various locations in the parks and take part in clinics.

The choir is preparing for their upcoming musical theatre concert, where they will be performing pieces from musicals celebrating special anniversaries. The students who sing during lunch will be performing their own songs within the pieces. The choir will also be performing at the NHS Veteran’s Breakfast, honoring the different veterans who have served in each branch of the military.

A smaller group within the choir, the Madrigals, performed at the annual Christmas Without Cancer 5K run.

The EPCHS music department has been filled with exciting performances and competitions throughout each class.

Marching band season is drawing to a close after performances at several competitions and football games. The band received third division at Robert Morris University, first division at Maren-go High School and third at Sandwich High School.

Drum major Isabella Villo-mini was proud of the outcome of the competitive season, stating, “The support from everyone in band was really great, especially since this is my first year as drum major. We did really well this season in our performances, and I am so proud of how much we’ve grown since the summer band camp!”

The band will end their season with their annual Sounds of the Stadium concert, where they will be performing with the Central Middle School band, compete in the annual March Of, and give recognition to the seniors in band and color guard. Next spring the marching band will travel to Disney World to perform at various locations in the parks and take part in clinics.

The choir is preparing for their upcoming musical theatre concert, where they will be performing pieces from musicals celebrating special anniversaries. The students who sing during lunch will be performing their own songs within the pieces. The choir will also be performing at the NHS Veteran’s Breakfast, honoring the different veterans who have served in each branch of the military.

A smaller group within the choir, the Madrigals, performed at the annual Christmas Without Cancer 5K run.

The yearbook and newspaper staffs participated in the annual SSC Publications Conference at Mo-raine Valley College on Oct. 13. Students attended various informational sessions on topics pertaining to journalism and publications. Alexis Witowski placed fourth in news writing and Kathy Ithal placed third in yearbook copy writing in the mock competition. Yearbook participants: Kathy Ithal, Kersten Brannigan, Camille Schiel, Grace Sisto, Aliyah Polk, Shannon McConnile, Caroline German, Emily Doran, Grace Huneck, Ruby Mendoza, and advisor Mrs. Libby McArthur; newspaper participants: Mya Cooper, Kenzie Telstad, Brian Gutrich, Ta-Kyle Hull, Colleen Bums, Emily Goodman, Alexis Witowski, and advisor Mrs. Mary Kate Mikulskis.

Yearbook, newspaper staffs attend annual SSC publications conference at MVCC

The yearbook and newspaper staffs participated in the annual SSC Publications Conference at Mo-raine Valley Community College on Oct. 13. Students attended various informational sessions on topics pertaining to journalism and publications. Alexis Witowski placed fourth in news writing and Kathy Ithal placed third in yearbook copy writing in the mock competition. Yearbook participants: Kathy Ithal, Kersten Brannigan, Camille Schiel, Grace Sisto, Aliyah Polk, Shannon McConnile, Caroline German, Emily Doran, Grace Huneck, Ruby Mendoza, and advisor Mrs. Libby McArthur; newspaper participants: Mya Cooper, Kenzie Telstad, Brian Gutrich, Ta-Kyle Hull, Colleen Bums, Emily Goodman, Alexis Witowski, and advisor Mrs. Mary Kate Mikulskis.

The EPCHS music department has been filled with exciting performances and competitions throughout each class.

Marching band season is drawing to a close after performances at several competitions and football games. The band received third division at Robert Morris University, first division at Maren-go High School and third at Sandwich High School.

Drum major Isabella Villo-mini was proud of the outcome of the competitive season, stating, “The support from everyone in band was really great, especially since this is my first year as drum major. We did really well this season in our performances, and I am so proud of how much we’ve grown since the summer band camp!”

The band will end their season with their annual Sounds of the Stadium concert, where they will be performing with the Central Middle School band, compete in the annual March Of, and give recognition to the seniors in band and color guard. Next spring the marching band will travel to Disney World to perform at various locations in the parks and take part in clinics.

The choir is preparing for their upcoming musical theatre concert, where they will be performing pieces from musicals celebrating special anniversaries. The students who sing during lunch will be performing their own songs within the pieces. The choir will also be performing at the NHS Veteran’s Breakfast, honoring the different veterans who have served in each branch of the military.

A smaller group within the choir, the Madrigals, performed at the annual Christmas Without Cancer 5K run.

The yearbook and newspaper staffs participated in the annual SSC Publications Conference at Mo-raine Valley Community College on Oct. 13. Students attended various informational sessions on topics pertaining to journalism and publications. Alexis Witowski placed fourth in news writing and Kathy Ithal placed third in yearbook copy writing in the mock competition. Yearbook participants: Kathy Ithal, Kersten Brannigan, Camille Schiel, Grace Sisto, Aliyah Polk, Shannon McConnile, Caroline German, Emily Doran, Grace Huneck, Ruby Mendoza, and advisor Mrs. Libby McArthur; newspaper participants: Mya Cooper, Kenzie Telstad, Brian Gutrich, Ta-Kyle Hull, Colleen Bums, Emily Goodman, Alexis Witowski, and advisor Mrs. Mary Kate Mikulskis.

BY COLLEEN BURNS

The choir is preparing for their upcoming musical theatre concert, where they will be performing pieces from musicals celebrating special anniversaries. The students who sing during lunch will be performing their own songs within the pieces. The choir will also be performing at the NHS Veteran’s Breakfast, honoring the different veterans who have served in each branch of the military.

A smaller group within the choir, the Madrigals, performed at the annual Christmas Without Cancer 5K run.

The yearbook and newspaper staffs participated in the annual SSC Publications Conference at Mo-raine Valley Community College on Oct. 13. Students attended various informational sessions on topics pertaining to journalism and publications. Alexis Witowski placed fourth in news writing and Kathy Ithal placed third in yearbook copy writing in the mock competition. Yearbook participants: Kathy Ithal, Kersten Brannigan, Camille Schiel, Grace Sisto, Aliyah Polk, Shannon McConnile, Caroline German, Emily Doran, Grace Huneck, Ruby Mendoza, and advisor Mrs. Libby McArthur; newspaper participants: Mya Cooper, Kenzie Telstad, Brian Gutrich, Ta-Kyle Hull, Colleen Bums, Emily Goodman, Alexis Witowski, and advisor Mrs. Mary Kate Mikulskis.

BY KENZIE TELSTAD

Oct. 16 was the start of this year’s Anti-Bullying Week, led by the Student Leadership team, consisting of Ms. Beth Hinde, Mrs. Libby McArthur, Mr. Ray Schellenberger, and Mrs. Serene Dorgan.

On Sun., Oct. 15, the day before the week officially started, there was a walk-a-thon at the EPCHS track from noon-3 p.m. to raise money for charity.

All throughout the week, student leaders sold anti-bullying ribbons for $1.00 during all lunch periods. The cafeteria was decorated with boards painted by students that portrayed powerful anti-bullying messages.

Each day of the week included a different activity. On Monday, Snowball stu-dent leaders sold lollipops of kindness during lunch. On Tuesday, blue ribbons were distributed. On Wednesday morning, students arrived at school to find their lockers decorated with inspirational messages that included the hashtag #passiton. On Thursday, students painted rocks with uplifting messages for the LRC’s “Kindness Rocks” campaign. The week concluded on Friday with an assembly featuring guest speaker Andre Anderson. Students packed the auditorium dressed in blue to show support for Anderson’s anti-bullying message.

The faculty and staff got involved, too, by showing random acts of kindness to one another during the week.

2017 Veteran’s Breakfast sponsored by NHS
Mon. Nov. 13 7:30 a.m.
EPCHS Cafeteria
EP students with U.S. veteran family members invited
To register, email bnesler@evergreenpark.org by Nov. 1
The EP Mustang varsity and frosh/soph soccer teams started the year off with a couple of strong home wins. The varsity team won their first home game led by seniors Terrace Hawkins, Bless Alexander, Phil Moran, Lake Notorangelo, Logan Kantzler and Sean Doherty.

Two particular games that stood out this season were against Riverside-Brookfield and Rich Central. During the match against Riverside-Brookfield, the Mustangs won 1-0 with a shootout. Another standout game, the last home game of the season, was also Senior Night. The Mustangs played an outstanding game, defeating Rich Central 1-0.

Not only has the team been amazing on the field, but also off the field. The team is learning how to trust one another by creating a stronger bond with each other. Captain Terrace Hawkins states, "We really came together this year since our team has been putting the team before themselves."

Aaron Rodriguez comments, "The team is growing a lot because we've all learned how to work together."

Both Hawkins and Rodriguez have been on the varsity team years prior and agree that this year is a lot better than previous years. They also mention that the team has grown tremendously over the last two years and playing for the EP Mustangs has been an honor.

The season began on a high note with two big wins. At the season opener, the Mustangs had an impressive 43-6 victory against Cicero Longwood, followed the next week with another win of 41-0 against Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences.

Once the SSC Conference competition began, however, the season began to take a different turn. The Mustangs ended up 0-5 in conference, including a nail-biting loss of 21-20 to Argo on Sept. 15. On Oct. 13, the Mustangs' luck began to change with a 49-24 victory against Oak Lawn High School.

Looking back on the season, assistant coach Mr. Jason Fundukian says, "The players have shown growth throughout the season, and we are continuing to improve on all aspects of being a student athlete."

Regardless of the outcome, the competition and strength was there in all games. The Herd came to all the games, showing Mustang Pride by dressing for theme nights and standing proud in the stands. Even though the conference record fell short of expectations, the Mustangs kept striving for success and never lost hope.
Boys, girls cross country having successful seasons
Both teams place first at OFHS ‘Mad Dash’

By Kallie Schilho

This season for the Evergreen Park girls’ cross country team was one of the best yet. The girls worked hard over the summer and during the season to improve their times as a team.

The top seven girls runners, including Kayley Burke, Lilly Gozum, Izzy Villamil, Grace Hunek, Kallie Schillo, Emily Walden and Kayla Carpenter, ran their personal records. In fact, Burke took 13th place out of more than 160 runners, breaking the school record and running a personal record of 19:42.

As a team, the girls have won many Tuesday meets and even placed first at the OFHS Cross Town Mad Dash.

At conference, the girls placed third out of seven teams. Burke came in second place overall, and the rest of the team contributed to their third place finish.

The girls continue to work hard and push each other for the upcoming regional and sectional meets. The girls have done exceptionally well with the help of their coach, Eva Manzke. Manzke works the girls to their full potential and sets goals for them to achieve.

The Everett Park girls’ cross country team continues to enhance the program and there is a bright future to come.

This season for the Evergreen Park boys’ cross country team has gone remarkably well. The boys work hard every day with the help of their coaches, Mr. Mike Strubin and Coach Dave.

Several boys on the team ran their personal bests of the year and continue to work at practices and meets to better themselves.

“Boys have really started to put it together this season,” remarked Strubin. “We have a bright future due to a core group of juniors and sophomores.”

An exceptional meet this season was the OFHS Cross Town Mad Dash, where both the girls and boys placed first out of all teams. At the OFHS Cross Town Mad Dash, Miguel Xique placed fifth overall, getting his personal record of 16:25.

Horace Holfiend, another top five runner, placed top 30 at the Warrior Classic invite with a time of 17:02. The boys ran their hardest at conference and continue to train for their upcoming regional and sectional meets.

Girls swim preps for conference

By Colleen Burns

As the girls swim season draws to a close, the team members and coaches are proud of their accomplishments. Katie Jacobson described the team as a “kind, tight-knit community.”

The varsity team has only lost two meets and head coach Mrs. Sarah Marshall reports that the team has been more competitive this year than in the past. The junior varsity had a record of 1-1-9 and varsity’s record was 7-4.

The girls are preparing for their conference meet Oct. 28 at Shepard. “They have been working extremely hard in and out of the pool all season for this meet,” said assistant coach Mrs. Michelle Kuelzio. With senior night approaching, the team will celebrate the achievements and dedication of seniors Britanni Edgeworth, Hailey Getz, Dominique McBride, Camille Shiel, Kat Ithal, Kelly Farmer, and Sade Moore.

By Jasmin Myton

The 2017 Mustang golf team had an amazing season. With only two losses and a conference title, it’s safe to say this season will not be forgotten.

In Coach Scott Pasek’s eyes, this season has made his “dean’s list top five.” With a record of 15-2, the Mustangs were unstoppable this year.

Senior Declan Smyth did amazing this season and Coach Pasek expected nothing less from greatness from him. As a conference medalist shooting 76, Smyth helped to make this season very memorable for Pasek.

In addition, senior David Schultz and sophomore Michael Schultz played impressive games this season. So impressive, in fact, that Michael became one of the team’s four top players of the season, shot 83 and placed fifth at conference. Meanwhile, David shot 81 and placed third at conference.

Freshman Marty Bennett really shined this past season, put in tremendous work and became one of the top players on the varsity team. Pasek also gives special shout outs to Michael Klier, Joseph Ostry and Matthew Visser on amazing work and effort this season.

Pasek is sad to be losing all of his senior athletes (especially Ryan Kompape, “because nobody can compare to Ryan Kompape”) but he is very excited to see what new talent will be coming in the next year.

BY JASZMIN MYTON

Impressive season boasts a winning record of 15-2

Boys basketball, Coach Pasek expected nothing amazing this season and Senior Declan Smyth did this year. Mustangs were unstoppable in Coach Scott Pasek’s “dean’s list top five.” Eyes, this season has made his “dean’s list top five.” Safe to say this season will not be forgotten. The 2017 Mustang golf team had an amazing season. With only two losses and a conference title, it’s safe to say this season will not be forgotten.

Girls swim preps for conference

BY COLLEEN BURNS

The girls swim season draws to a close, the team members and coaches are proud of their accomplishments. Katie Jacobson described the team as a “kind, tight-knit community.”

The varsity team has only lost two meets and head coach Mrs. Sarah Marshall reports that the team has been more competitive this year than in the past. The junior varsity had a record of 1-1-9 and varsity’s record was 7-4.

The girls are preparing for their conference meet Oct. 28 at Shepard. “They have been working extremely hard in and out of the pool all season for this meet,” said assistant coach Mrs. Michelle Kuelzio. With senior night approaching, the team will celebrate the achievements and dedication of seniors Britanni Edgeworth, Hailey Getz, Dominique McBride, Camille Shiel, Kat Ithal, Kelly Farmer, and Sade Moore.

Girls swim preps for conference

Girls swim preps for conference

Girls swim preps for conference

Girls swim preps for conference