

What are you most awaiting this holiday? Read p. 3



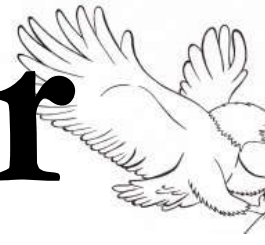
It's back: the annual Christmas Wish List for faculty, staff Read p. 7



Football continues 50-year tradition with Crosby. Read page 8.



The Eagle Flyer



December 2015
Kennedy High School
422 Highland Avenue
Waterbury, Conn. 06708
Volume XII, Issue III

Take new angle this holiday; volunteer

Students decorate St. Vincent DePaul shelter

By Carlie Collini
Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

WATERBURY - It's as simple as some garland and twinkling lights.

Thirteen students from National Honor Society, along with their advisor, science teacher Mrs. White-Clark, visited the St. Vincent De Paul Shelter at 114 Benedict Street to decorate the dining room, living area and front desk for Christmas, Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015.

At times we all can lose sight of how blessed we really are, so for me it was important this holiday season to ground the members of National Honor Society and give back in the small way we could.

From 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. we decorated every empty wall we could find and every branch on the tree.

Seeing the children get so excited about the decorations we brought in was overwhelming. They started singing and dancing and if you were watching you couldn't help but join in. Their smiles and laughter alone made the whole trip worth it. They joined us in decorating until they had to leave.

The experience was humbling and eye opening. The romanticized idea of living "the struggle" turned into a reality as we watched mothers and fathers prepare their children for a day of walking in the cold. It wasn't a movie, or a story... it was real life and as we watched the residents of the shelter leave for the day, a sense of obligation and commitment overtook us.

This small gesture meant a lot to the residents and it only took a few hours along with decorations.

HELPING OUT In front of the Christmas tree they helped decorate at the St. Vincent DePaul Shelter on Benedict Street Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 are seniors Carlie Collini (taking photo), Bryan Garcia-Medina, Monica Collette, Francesca Araujo, Kathryn O'Donnell, Katelyn Shappy, Sara Aldarondo, advisor Mrs. White-Clark and bottom row (left to right) seniors Alexander Moreno, Paola Robles, Selina Kamo, and Alyssa DiGiovancarlo.



Photo (right) by Carlie Collini/staff



DECORATING (Above photo) National Honor Society seniors (left to right) Selina Kamo, Alexander Moreno, Francesca Araujo, Miranda Scott, Monica Collette, and Kathryn O'Donnell hang a string of lights in the dining area at the St. Vincent's DePaul shelter on Benedict Street Nov. 21, 2015. (Right photo) Seniors Miranda Scott, Isabella Fazo and Monica Collette decorate the Christmas tree in the women's living space.



Photos compiled by Selina Kamo/staff

Bring toys to DECA's fill-a-bus Dec. 5

By Francesca Araujo
Staff Writer

13 million. That is the number of children who are living in poverty in America; translating to about one in five children who live in a household struggling to get by during the holiday season.

As a yearly response to this unfortunate situation DECA will hold their annual "Fill-a-Bus" to collect enough toys for children in need during the holidays to fill a school bus in the Kennedy parking lot from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015.

"All children deserve to have a carefree childhood," said DECA vice president, senior Raylene Borges.

Sadly, that is not always the case.

"The holiday season is a time for kids to be happy and this is DECA's way of trying to do our part to do something good for our community," said former DECA president and Kennedy graduate, Zuanny Araujo, class of 2015.

The organization receiving the toys is the vessel through which that happiness is brought to children.

The toys were donated to the Salvation Army last year, said DECA advisor and business teacher Mrs. Sasso, who recalled how "grateful" the organization was to receive them.

Kennedy's contribution has been vital for the Fill-a-Bus to succeed each year.

"All of the teachers, students, and even people just driving past Kennedy who donated toys were part of a bigger effort to spread happiness to young kids. We were really grateful to all of the people who donated," said Araujo.

DECA members stressed the personal value of those donations, and how every individual toy has its own very special recipient.

"Toys are important to donate during the holiday season because you know that your toy is going to go to one specific child and that makes it really special and individualistic," said Araujo.

The feeling of a collective commitment is recurrent in this event.

"Seeing all the donations and work DECA members and donors did last year was amazing. It's kind of our obligation to do good for our community," said Borges.

Donated toys should be new and unwrapped, said Sasso, making sure to explain overly-expensive toys are not necessary to spread holiday cheer and that every donation counts.

Attending the Fill-a-Bus is a great way to show support, but if any prospective donors cannot make it, they should feel free to leave any toys in Sasso's room, 136 (located on the first floor in the Business wing), on any days leading up to the event.

Making music history by auditioning

By Caitlin Abrantes
Staff Writer

Students' advice: start practicing immediately to join this experience

Don't go flat!

Two students who represented Kennedy in auditions at the Southern Region Music Festival at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, senior Jenna Latulippe and freshman Wilberto Vergeli, said they were astonished by the experience Nov. 21, 2015.

"It was the first time in almost 10 years that Kennedy students have participated," said band director and music teacher Mr. Knecht.

These two students had to perform a solo, along with scales and sight reading in front of two judges.

"I didn't really know what to expect. But towards the end I honestly felt very welcomed, and felt comfortable around the judges," said Vergeli, who auditioned with Voice Tenor.

"It was nerve-racking. Though the more I walked around, the more comfortable I got," said Latulippe, who auditioned with the Alto Sax.

Both students who participated said the experience was nerve-racking, but both were glad to be able to partake in such an event.

"If I had to give advice to people who wanted to participate, they need to start rehearsing their

“ It was nerve-racking. Though the more I walked around, the more comfortable I got. ”

Wilberto Vergeli, freshman who auditioned

song, their scales, and sight reading now," said Latulippe.

Both Latulippe and Vergeli give the advice to any students wanting to partake in the next Music Festival to start practicing immediately, and encourage all music fans to join in on the experience.

Speaking of music, Kennedy's band and Western Connecticut State University's jazz performers performed a concert benefit in the auditorium Saturday Nov. 21, 2015.

"The concert was fantastic. Improv was spot on," said Knecht.

Performers from both schools interacted with each other, creating music on the spot, and playing off each other.


"We will be having another benefit here at Kennedy in the near future," said Knecht, for all those who were unable to attend Saturday, Nov. 21.



PERFORMERS Senior Jenna Latulippe (top photo) and freshman Wilberto Vergeli auditioned for the Southern Region Music Festival.

Photos by Caitlin Abrantes/staff

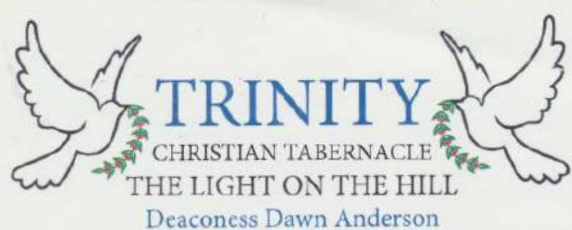
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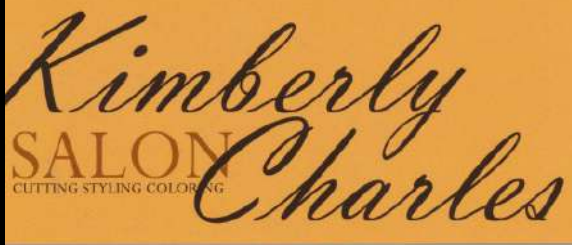
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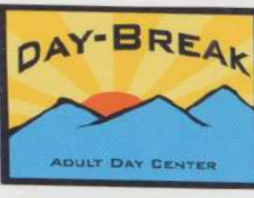
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Students volunteer at city carnival, again

By K. O'Donnell
Correspondent

National Honor Society provides face painting in cold weather

Picture this: you're sitting outside, without a roof or walls to protect you from the wind and no heat to stop you from freezing, with face paint at the ready, hoping for a customer, when suddenly snow begins to fall.

That's what students felt Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 15-18, 2015 when for the second year, a Kennedy club volunteered to help a fellow Waterbury school: Blessed Sacrament.

In 2014, the Kennedy Student Theatre hosted a fundraiser at the Blessed Sacrament Carnival in late September. In 2015, Kennedy's chapter of the National Honor Society took its place, this time two weeks later, as a service project.

In 2014, the booth was visited by more than 50 children during the carnival, with eager faces, waiting to be turned into a princess or superhero. This year, however, there were no more than 15.

"It's a good idea for carnivals," said Frenkli Rusi, senior in the Honor Society. "It was just too late in the year."

The members who worked the face painting table at the carnival found the event being held two weeks later than it was last year due to availability was a huge factor in this.

"It was really cold," said senior Kathryn O'Donnell and National Honor Society vice president. "I wore gloves every night and my hands were still cold. It'd be difficult to even hold a paintbrush in that weather."

Those who were brave enough to come back multiple nights prepared for the weather, however.

"I wore at least three layers," said senior and National Honor Society secretary Paola Robles. "The first night was

cold enough for me to get the hint."

Even the weather couldn't stop these high school students from giving back to their community, although it seemed to stop a lot of visitors from coming out in comparison to past years. In 2014 there were roughly 1,000 people in attendance, but in 2015 there were an estimated 600.

"In reality it was kind of underwhelming because the amount of people we got was fairly low," said senior and National Honor Society member Francis Kompare. "Regardless, it was a fun way back to give back to the community."

Despite the chill, the members who participated had fun. "I'd definitely go back and do it again," said Rusi. "As long as it was a bit warmer."

The time was well spent, and worth sitting outside while it snowed, students said.

"It was fun to be with friends and to help out the neighborhood," said Kompare.

The club has come to a mutual consensus: the gain is worth the trouble.

"I felt really good afterwards," said Isabella Fazo, senior and National Honor Society treasurer. "Helping the community gives you a feeling you can't get anywhere else."

Giving back to the community that built you is immensely important; just ask O'Donnell and Kompare, who are Blessed Sacrament Alumni, class of 2012.

"The school definitely helped me grow into who I am," said Kompare. "I love helping them as much as I can."

Giving anything, even just volunteering one's time, results in a feeling that one cannot replicate anywhere else.

"It's really important to me, since I grew up at Blessed Sacrament," said O'Donnell. "The community around the school constantly gives back, and I love to contribute as

frequently as possible."

BUNDLED UP
Seniors Kathryn O'Donnell and Miranda Scott advertise some of the face paint available to children at the Blessed Sacrament Carnival. Photos compiled by Selina Kamo/staff



ARTISTS Seniors (left to right) Liliana Oliveira, Jeanette Rendon, Kathryn O'Donnell, Andrea de Valle, Miranda Scott, Selina Kamo, and Isabella Fazo helped face paint at Blessed Sacrament.



Cold temps persist in new wing Inconsistent environment leaves some wearing jackets

By Darian Houghtaling, Hailey Muccino, Jydia Davis, Madison Turner
Staff Writers

"Brrr, I wish I was a bear with furry furry hair, it's coooold."

That's what English teacher Ms. Griffin said about the temperature in the new wing at Kennedy, completed fall 2015, that despite state-of-the-art technology many students are saying is too cold.

"The ac is always on so it's cold," said senior Tavhii Smith Rush

It would make sense if the air conditioning was on in the warmer months, but even as November and December occur, the colder parts of the year, the ac remains on.

"It hasn't gotten better, it's still very cold," said Smith Rush.

"It's like really cold, when

I would walk into my classroom," said senior Xhoana Koca.

This isn't just a small part of the school either: the new wing has three floors, 15 rooms, and an auxiliary gym which temporarily housed the band class. If each room has an average of 20 students, which is around 320 students, that is roughly a fifth to a quarter of Kennedy's student body dealing with the cold.

However, the cold doesn't bother some people.

"It's a little cold when I walk in but then you get used to it," said senior Ashley Nandkumar.

Some students have even decided to wear their

jackets to deal with the cold.

"I wear a jacket so the cold doesn't really bother me," said senior Jordan Antrum.

To others however the cold isn't really the only problem, it's the temperature inconsistency.

"It's inconsistent; sometimes it's better and the next it's not," said band director and music teacher Mr. Knecht.

"Sometimes it's cold and sometimes it's not, it's never a constant," said world history teacher Mrs. Joyce.

Whether it's too cold for some or too hot for others, one thing most people can agree on, the new wing has a temperature problem.

Lockdown turns real

By Rozalynn Facondini
Staff Writer

"We're in a lockdown, we are in a lockdown."

These words from principal Mr. Johnston came on the intercom third period informing everyone the school needs to go into lockdown Monday, Oct. 26, 2015.

This was no ordinary practice lockdown. It lasted about an hour, starting within the first five minutes of third period and ended within the first ten minutes of fourth period.

This practice soon turned into reality since a nearby bank was robbed. The suspected bank robber headed towards Chase Park on Highland Avenue after handing the bank teller a note informing her he had a weapon, according to News Channel 8.

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What are you most looking forward to this Christmas season?

By Caitlin Abrantes
with Lyne Charles
Staff Writers



"My sister coming home."

Paola Robles, senior (left)

"Getting to sleep in over break and watch movies."

Kathryn O'Donnell, senior (right)



"I like getting gifts and giving gifts. Getting together with family and relaxing with loved ones."

Mr. Johnston, principal



"Winter break. And pie!"

Sydney Dawson, senior



"Food, family and friends."

Mr. Poulter, guidance counselor



"I look forward to seeing friends I only see once a year, and watching my nieces and nephews open presents."

Ms. George, building substitute



"Being with my family and hopefully my kids from North Carolina and Rhode Island will come up."

Mr. DeVizia Sr., substitute

Holiday movies entertain

By Talia Bairstow
Staff Writer



OLAF FEVER? When it comes to holiday movies, although 'Frozen' fever is still going strong, some in Waterbury said 'A Christmas Carol' remains their favorite.

Lights! Camera! Holidays!

The tradition of holiday movies has been around for decades and most have a favorite, since interviewing a variety of people in the Waterbury, Conn. community shows 'A Christmas Carol' is the most popular.

"My favorite holiday movie is the Disney 'Christmas Carol,' it's a traditional Christmas movie and the memories along with that movie are good to remember," said junior Kendra McDermott.

McDermott was not the only one to prefer that movie.

"My favorite Christmas movie is 'A Christmas Carol' because it teaches the value of simplicity and that how your thoughts affect how you see the world," said junior Gabriella Santana.

The popularity grows with 'A Christmas Carol.'

"'A Christmas Carol' is definitely a classic," said James Santiago, a local store clerk.

Although 'A Christmas Carol' is popular, other holiday movies exist that catch one's eye.

"My favorite holiday movie is 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' because I love the storyline and it shows how one person can make a huge difference on another person's life," said sophomore Zhealyn Cooper.

There's plenty of "old school" classics as well.

"My favorite Christmas movie is 'March of the Wooden Soldiers' because I like the characters' humor," said Raul Rodriguez, father of three children.

"My favorite Christmas movie is 'A Christmas Story' because it's really funny," said Stephanie Rodriguez, mother of four children.

Who says we can't love them all?

"Any Christmas movie is a holiday blessing; we watch a different one every year," said Barbara Tevans, a woman interviewed in downtown Waterbury.

How one field trip impacts all ages

By Alani Arias
Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

Teenagers and kindergarteners.

A big age gap, but perfect for being buddies during field trips.

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, the Y.E.S. (Young Educators Society) Club took some kids from Duggan Elementary School on a field trip to Maritime Aquarium.

Fortunately, I've been to this aquarium multiple times, but I've never been there in charge of a little 5-6 year old. As the children got onto our bus, we got to choose which one we were to supervise throughout the day and become our official "buddy."

This buddy, I believe, is the one we

will be partnered with for the remainder of the school year. I didn't even get to choose which kid I wanted; my buddy just sat down next to me. He was adorable so, of course, I didn't mind. Soon enough, I found out his name was Jaedin and it was funny and cute hearing him try to spell his name.

I also found out that he likes sharks, the Wolverine, the Hulk, and playing with cars. This type of information will help me for when I have to buy my buddy a Christmas present. He was very shy at first, but then we started talking more and I could see him getting more comfortable with me.

During all the exhibits we saw, like me, he was utterly fascinated and it

was fun to watch him enjoy himself. Throughout the day, we saw seals, stingrays, otters, sea horses, fish, sharks, jellyfish, and more behind the huge tanks of water. We had a great time.

To keep him occupied during our ride there and back home, I allowed him to play a lot of games on my phone. He was especially fascinated with the effects on Snapchat I let him try; effects such as the camera changing your face into a bear or, his favorite, a flaming skeleton.

That day was amazing and so much fun, and not only because I didn't have to go to any classes. I can't wait to continue working with my buddy Jaedin!

Making new friends in Norwalk, Conn.

By Micaela Snow
Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

Looking at those doors couldn't have made a young child happier, oh and the buddy I took as well! That's right; the young girl is this writer!

The Y.E.S. Club (Young Educators' Society) paired up with Duggan Elementary School to do fun activities with their first graders during each school year, including this October trip to Norwalk's Maritime Aquarium.

My Duggan buddy was pulling at my black North Face sleeve as she saw us pull into the front of Maritime Aquarium. Noticing the arrival, I smiled and pointed, saying, "look" and

"isn't it cool" as my four-year-old buddy nodded in agreement. After getting off the bus, all the students and their buddies went into the lunch area to have the rules and regulations reviewed before officially entering.

After the manager's short, choppy instructions, my buddy and I were off to discover life by sea! The seals were the first thing in our eyesight so we watched as they swam by, greeting us with smiling eyes. After this, my buddy led the way, watching the stingrays with amusement and astonishment. She waved hi to 'Nemo' and 'Dori' as they swam by in the big fish tanks.

I learned something new today: there is so much more to an aquarium

than what I thought! There were frogs, lizards, turtles, and more. We saw things we didn't expect to see and I discovered something I didn't expect to happen. I made a new friend.

My buddy Candi and I had a great time exploring the unknown life at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Conn. Though half of her time was spent in the playing area, Candi and I took a lot of time exploring new things. Some scary and some fun, but we overcame it all, like Candi's fear of animals that sting and my urge to play with toys in the gift shop (so overcame that). At the end of the day we had lots of fun and slept the whole way back until we arrived at the school around 1:55 p.m.

Revise honor code, raise student integrity

Staff Editorial

Integrity is the quality of having strong moral values. High schools, such as Kennedy, have honor codes or systems to plant the seed of honesty amongst students. However, since some students currently disregard the honor system, Kennedy should revise these principles, as evidenced by the competitive environment, confrontations and altercations, and PRIDE.

Students will go to great lengths to maintain the perfect GPA. It is this pressure to do well and be better than others that allows students to accept the mentality that cheating, although they think with good intentions, is acceptable. McCabe and Pavela (2005) further support this since some college students observe “everyone else” is cheating,” so “they have no choice but to do the same to remain competitive.” At Kennedy this is common, especially within the competitive academic program since some see nothing wrong with copying homework or sharing answers. To eliminate these bad, dishonest habits, the weak honor system should be revised with more enforcement by teachers.

Another option is more discretion in reporting. High schools with honor codes in effect accurately found most students “feared that a mandate to confront peers would create friction and that a subsequent report could not easily be kept confidential,” as Vangelli (1999) discovered. Students who witness cheating are afraid to speak out because of the potential threat of the student who cheated; it is common for this to happen. Also, an ongoing five-year study at a public university (Pringle, 2010) shows people will refrain from reporting cheating. Although 88% of 275 responses believed “failure on the assignment was a reasonable sanction for a violation of the honor code,” only 8% would report their peer for cheating. Whether it is because they are afraid, a revision to the honor system that is secure and confidential in reports would result in more reporting, thus less cheating would exist.

Although Kennedy has its own honor code under PRIDE, there should be a separate division that is more specific. Kennedy’s PRIDE initiative stands for personal responsibility, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence, but integrity should be stressed more. Pringle (2010) found not even 50% of students know the range of sanctions when violating honor codes. The honor system at Kennedy should be revised to specifically discuss dishonesty for schoolwork. Students should be made aware of it and the sanctions that could occur if they violate the honor code.

Unfortunately, some students take honor systems as a joke, and cheat. To eliminate such violations and to promote integrity, Kennedy’s should be revised. The fears of confrontation by a cheating student will also no longer be a problem under the revised system by confidential reports. Lastly, the PRIDE initiative should promote integrity specifically. Isn’t our integrity worth it?



What happens to our humanity after terrorism?

By Almesa Sabovic

Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris, France Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 our English class discussed the events.

Overall, I was pleased with the way the class conducted itself, considering if this were a class of less responsible students, the discussion would have been much more out of control, derailed and students wouldn’t be defending their opinion in an educational way rather than an aggressive way.

I know there are some news stations and journalists trying their best to give correct information, but it is a

Changes needed in media coverage, facts about religion

lot less likely for the public to see their work when all of the big name news stations like Fox News are throwing around titles like “Islamic Terrorists Attack Again” as if they have no meaning.

When people hear titles like that, their minds are being primed to associate Islam with terrorism. I knew there was going to be a lot of talk about the Paris attacks after that night, so I decided to start a binder.

In this binder I write a fact about Islam for every time I hear someone making degrading jokes about the attacks or Islam, or even when

someone asks things like, “So are you secretly a part

“ I saw an image online of a man in Syria crying over a young girl who lost half her head in one of the bombings (with the caption) ‘I’m glad Muslims are getting what they deserve’ and this ignorance is spreading. ”

Almesa Sabovic
junior

of ISIS? Are you and your family getting us next?” just because they know I am Muslim.

Not even counting anything I may have heard on the news, I am up to 51 facts in under four days. However, it’s not even about how this hurts my life, the only thing I did not like about our class discussion was that it was starting to only be about how it affected us, not the families in Paris, Baghdad, Syria, and more.

It isn’t fair the big name media is mostly covering Paris, but not that France almost immediately responded with 20 bombs in Syria.

Innocent people have died in both acts of aggression, innocent people have nowhere to go with countries closing borders.

This morning I saw an image online of a man in Syria crying over a young girl who lost half her head in one of the bombings and the person captioned it, “I’m glad Muslims are getting what they deserve,” and this kind of ignorance is spreading, and making it dangerous to follow a religion.

It is even said in the Islamic Holy Book, the Qur’an, that “Whoever has killed an innocent person is as if he has killed all of humanity,” (Qur’an 5:32).

This religion specifically does not allow its followers to kill a spider so if someone is truly Muslim they would not be capable of what ISIS is doing.

Share your thoughts on current events or school happenings. Visit room 105 for information.

Poetry Corner

Wasted Life

by Hallie Facondini

“A wasted life is worse than death.”

I want a life filled with memories.

Happy,

Sad,

Angry,

Scared.

I want to feel it all.

City lights blooming in the sky,

an atmosphere of laughing.

Embrace it.

Enjoy it.

Live in every moment.

I live in a stage of constant fear,

At the thought I may be wasting

My life.

I want to sing ‘til,

I lose my voice.

I want to notice every smile I see

And mesmerize its own beauty and

Happiness.

I want to feel my words

Paint the sky for everyone to see and

cherish.

I want to live in every story and

Figure out life’s mysteries.

I want to feel and live for everything

‘til I got nothing.

We need you: calling all poets. Submit your work—get published! See Kailee Alvarado in room 105 period 3.



The Eagle Flyer

The Eagle Flyer is published monthly and distributed free of charge to Kennedy High School and the greater Waterbury community.

Our mission is to educate, enlighten and inform our school and community while developing our journalism skills in both Editorial and Business areas.

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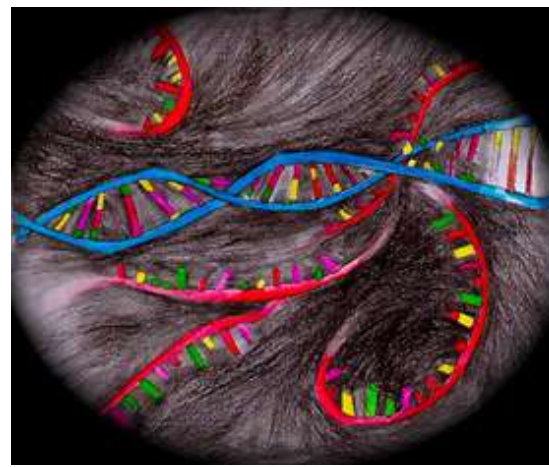
Mrs. Cybart-Persenaire

Audubon Society blog recruits writers, gives service hours

By Almesa Sabovic
Staff Writer

COMMENTARY

The Audubon Society Club at Kennedy was created to better students' writing ability and sense of being in a community. By creating this blog, students would have absolute access and control over their own creation. In addition to writing, we also express art through both sketches and photography of wildlife. The goal of our club is to improve the students' writing abilities through editing and gathering information from science articles to conduct it into their own writing pieces. There's also community service involved--something students always need. There are monthly nature walks and other social activities dealing with science and wildlife throughout the year. Students have the opportunity to express themselves as well as have the opportunity to participate in an established society in Connecticut.



DNA VISUAL
Audubon Society Club blog co-founder, junior Almesa Sabovic, created this illustration for Mr. Cyr's commentary on gene editing and splicing (read below). This visual and article are reprinted as samples of what is found online on the club blog.

Illustration created by Almesa Sabovic/staff

Gene editing, splicing: will it start controlling us?

As part of the blog's uploading rotation, we are introducing regular guest writers. This time around we have Kennedy science department chair Mr. Gil Cyr. He decided to write on new discoveries in genetics and gene-splicing. We hope you're interested:

The Church of Genetics
By Gil Cyr

COMMENTARY

The idea of inserting (what amounts to a data storage device the size of a period at the end of a sentence, which contains more data than a Google search engine), into the DNA of a human being and then having that human being be able to access this data base with his or her brain, is not only radical in nature, but it also conjures up many ethical, moral and scientific questions associated with it. This is one of several revolutionary projects that Mr. George Church (and his team) is working on in the Harvard Medical Labs, in Boston, Mass.

Church, who is referred to as a "Revolutionary Geneticist," and who

is currently a professor at the Harvard Medical School, is pioneering and bringing forth a new era combination of biology and technology. The question then becomes which one is influencing the other? Is technology reshaping biology, or is biology reshaping technology? Whichever is influencing the other, the truth of the matter is that data storage (as we know it) is entering a new era.

Church's adventure began one day while sitting at his desk, where in the span of just a few minutes, he proceeded to write a computer program (on paper), which was later translated from Roman letters into binary code, and then into the genetic code. The document contains A's, T's, C's and G's, shorthand for the nucleotides in DNA. DNA is a four letter alphabet for the four bases (Adenine, Thymine, Guanine, and Cytosine) that make up our DNA.

Church then put these ideas into a book called *Regenesis*. He spent a few days adapting his program, and converted all 350 pages of his book into a string of A's, T's, G's, and C's. In the

lab, he synthesized a strand of DNA to match the code, replicated it many times over, and dabbed a drop of the synthetic DNA onto a scrap of paper. The dot contained 70 billion copies of the book. It was not bigger than a period. Hence, in the blink of an evolutionary eye, the concept of "data stor-

“While the idea of curing horrible diseases through gene editing and splicing is extremely hopeful, where does such a procedure end? Can we use (this) to design the child we would like? Blue eyes, athletic, pretty, handsome?”

Mr. Cyr,
science department chair

age” took on a whole new significance.

Church took his "data storage" concept one step further, by encoding this data storage into human DNA. If he succeeds, Church will not only revolutionize data storage, but he will usher in a new era in biology and technology; the era when our capacity to manipulate the basic code of life dwarfs the capacity of even our most advanced computers.

While the data storage revolution continues to develop, Church and his team are also instrumental in the creation and development of the "CRISPR" tool, another revolutionary initiative, which is growing in popularity as this is written. The CRISPR tool allows gene editing and splicing, which allows one to locate a defective (disease-causing) gene, and replace it with a healthy gene. This has enormous implications for diseases like cancer, ALS, Huntington's disease, and cystic fibrosis. Obviously the earlier you can cut a gene, and replace it with a healthy gene (ideally the embryonic stage), the more time the correction will have to unfold

within the human body.

While the idea of curing horrible diseases through gene editing and splicing is extremely hopeful, where does such a procedure end? Can we use the CRIPR tool to modify normal embryos in an attempt to design the child we would like? Blue-eyes, athletic, pretty, handsome?

As if this isn't enough, Church and his team are working on still another revolutionary initiative in coaxing the woolly mammoth back from extinction by blending its genome to an elephant's. Are we prepared for bringing back extinct species from the dead?

There are obvious questions we have associated with all of these revolutionary ideas; scientific, ethical and moral. For example, is the person who receives this data storage file classified as a Genetically Modified Human? Is this "artificial intelligence"? Will the data storage chip be transmissible to offspring? It goes on and on, and so do the revolutionary ideas Church and his team are working on in the Harvard Medical School Labs, in Boston, Mass.

Gift Streetwear



Gift Streetwear is a men's streetwear shop, located in the Brass Mill Center. We provide the best in today's streetwear including but not limited to 10 Deep, Alife, Huf, Diamond Supply, BBC, Undeafated, etc. We also provide the best in sportswear apparel, i.e. Starter, Majestic, Mitchell and Ness, and American Needle.

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Hungry for new, healthy holiday treats?



By Mahalia Anderson
Staff Writer

Bagel Treats

Here's a quick and easy treat to eat:
8 slices of mini bagels
1/4 cup pizza sauce
1/3 cup shredded pizza cheese blend
16 slices pepperoni (or any topping).

DIRECTIONS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Ready in 20 minutes
Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Arrange bagels on prepared baking sheet, cut sides up. Spoon a thin layer of pizza sauce over each bagel half and sprinkle with pizza cheese. Place two pepperoni slices on each bagel. Bake in the preheated oven until cheese is melted and pepperoni is lightly browned, about 6 minutes.

Vegetarian Lasagna

A meatless lasagna for veggie lovers:
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 45 minutes
Ready in 55 minutes

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 quarts spaghetti sauce (your favorite homemade or jar spaghetti sauce)
1/2 cup grated carrots
1/2 teaspoon oregano
6 cooked lasagna noodles
1 (16 ounce) container ricotta cheese
1 (16 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups thinly sliced zucchini
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
3 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS

Mix carrots, oregano, and spaghetti sauce together.
Mix ricotta, spinach and eggs together in separate bowl.
Spread 1/2 cup spaghetti sauce in bottom of 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
Layer three lasagna noodles, 1/2 remaining sauce, 1/2 ricotta mixture, 1/2 sliced zucchini, 1/2 sliced mushrooms, 1/2 mozzarella, and 1/2 parmesan.



Repeat layers with remaining ingredients.
Bake in 350-degree oven for about 45 minutes.

Test your snow trivia

By Dylan McGrath
Staff Writer

The chill of the winter season returns, bringing with it some frosty fun trivia questions.



- How many sides do snowflakes have?
 - 5 sides
 - 6 sides
 - 7 sides
 - 8 sides
- How wide was the biggest snowflake ever recorded?
 - 4 inches
 - 8 inches
 - 12 inches
 - 15 inches
- Name the largest snowfall ever recorded in the United States.
 - 48 inches
 - 63 inches
 - 76 inches
 - 84 inches
- Where were the first Winter Olympics hosted?
 - Beijing, China
 - Chamonix, France
 - St. Moritz, Switzerland
 - Calgary, Canada
- Which of the following animals does NOT change color in the winter?
 - arctic fox
 - arctic hare
 - snow leopard
 - barren-ground caribou

Answer Key:
1.b, 2.d, 3.c, 4.b, 5.c



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2015 Christmas Wish List

By Bryan Garcia-Medina, Carlie Collini and Franchesca Araujo
Staff Writers



It's that time again.

Every November, for the past 28 years, Kennedy faculty and staff find themselves at a loss for words when asked "What do you want for Christmas this year?" After giving it thought and consideration this is what they have come up with:

ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. Johnston: "the renovation to be completely finished"
Mr. Gwiazdoski: "I want hair plugs for Mr. Clark"
Mrs. Glass: "health and happiness"
Mr. McCasland: "Officer McCormick to take detective classes to make detective status"

ALLIED HEALTH

Mrs. Micelli: "roller skates to travel back and forth from the hospital"
Mrs. O'Connor: a time travel machine

ART DEPARTMENT

Ms. Loomis-Pisani: "to be a professor in Hogwarts"
Ms. McBride: "a nice piano"
Mr. Proto: the best success for his first year at Kennedy

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Rossi: no event postponements or cancellations

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lucian: "make everyone laugh at my new jokes"
Ms. Graham: "to flee to Florida and not come back"
Mrs. Sasso: "to have all of my children home for the holidays"
Mr. DosSantos: "continued health and happiness for my family"
Mr. McGrath: "a trip to Hawaii"

CAFETERIA

Mrs. Finnegan: "peace for the world"
Mrs. Brites: "peace and much happiness"
Ms. Coelho: "to find a cure for diabetes for my son and millions of other kids"
Mrs. Cortes: "good health for my family"
Mrs. D'Aloia: "good health"
Mrs. Destefano: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Dery: "grandson to grow up healthy and strong"
Mrs. Marrone: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Ramos: "world peace"
Mrs. Rinaldi: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Santos: "win the lotto"
Mrs. Vaitkus: "good health"
Mrs. Yong: peace and much happiness
Mr. Wright: peace and much happiness

CAREER CENTER

Mrs. Cicchetti: "that all people would respect and appreciate each other"

CUSTODIAL STAFF

Mr. Thomas: "I want the rest of this building to look like the renovated part and for construction to be over"
Mr. Brunelli: "hit the lotto"
Mr. Garcia: peace and much happiness
Mr. Mancinone: "I wish they'd find the cure for cancer"
Mr. Soden: "for the Giants to win the Superbowl"
Mr. Veillette: peace and much happiness
Mr. Walaitis: peace and much happiness

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Cybart-Persenaire: "less violence and more kindness in the world"
Mr. Caruso: "for my laundry mat to start serving pizza and beer"
Mr. Collins: best wishes for improved health
Ms. Danay: her own classroom
Ms. Griffin: "a few extra inches for Mrs. Harris"
Mrs. Deveau: "for my student loans to be paid off"
Ms. Hicock: "for Mrs. Deveau's icy heart to warm up"
Mrs. Lawrence: "peace on earth"

Mrs. Martins: "world peace"
Mr. Morgan: peace and much happiness
Mr. Murphy: "end of terrorist regime"
Mrs. Sochacki: "a date with Mr. Caruso"
Mrs. Sullivan: "health and happiness for my family and friends and a big sparkly gift under the tree for me, preferably in a blue box"
Ms. Travisano: her own classroom and more success on donors. choose

ESL/ SHELTERED INSTRUCTION

Ms. Martinez: "to have a nice Christmas dinner with all my family from Puerto Rico, New York and Florida like we used to"
Mr. Pantoni: "people to stop killing in the name of religion"
Ms. Vargas: "my own classroom at Kennedy"

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Ms. Balnis: "my family and friends have good health for the new year"
Mrs. Fann-Pierce: "peace for the world"
Ms. Langlais: "cherish family times and the love of Jesus to be abundantly displayed"

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Cinquegrana: "for my Hogwart's letter"
Ms. Ferrer: "an all-inclusive round trip around the world with Ms. Griffin"
Mrs. Hutchings: ice-free commutes and for all early-morning doors to be unlocked
Mr. Likorama: "trip to New York City to see the Christmas trees and lights"
Mr. Lopez: "go on a nice Caribbean cruise"
Mrs. Rincon: unlimited supply of banana bread from the cafe
Dr. Sagnella: "that there's peace in the world and no terrorism"

GUIDANCE

Mrs. Ortiz: "I want my son to pass the police test and for my five-year-old son to improve his handwriting"
Dr. Mikael: "peace all over the world"
Mrs. Mulligan: "I have everything, I would really like to work on community projects and make a difference"
Mr. Poulter: "a happy and safe holiday"
Mr. Shocki: "a healthy, happy baby girl"

MATH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Diorio: "win the lotto"
Mrs. Cutrali: "a room with normal temperature"
Ms. Deveau: "to have it nationally known that all lines are straight"
Mr. Edwards: "peace on earth"
Mr. Flaherty: "enjoy the day with family and a hippopotamus"
Ms. Moffo: "world peace"
Mrs. Rothen: "I need a new iPad"
Ms. Scialla: "to see more teachers get the respect they deserve"
Mrs. Szwaba: "health and happiness for all my friends and family"

Mr. Unluturk: "nothing"

MULTI-MEDIA CENTER

Ms. Lizak: "a plastic Jesus"

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Pape: "peace and much happiness"
Mr. Knecht: "a publishing contract with Manhattan Beach Music"

NURSE'S OFFICE

Mrs. Esposito: "peace on earth"
Mrs. Owens: "everybody is healthy and respectful to themselves and others"

PARAPROFESSIONALS

Mrs. Cosme: "a week vacation in Puerto Rico"
Mrs. DeJesus: "studious students"
Mrs. Finnelli: "world peace, health, happiness, and joy to all"
Mrs. Hodges: "I just want to be healthy and happy and safe"
Mrs. Marshall: "that the world finds peace"
Mrs. Rivera: "prosperity for my children"
Mrs. Samaha: "to reunite with people in the holiday spirit"
Mrs. Seeley: "snow on Christmas Day"
Mrs. Whidhey: peace and much happiness

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Ms. Cumbo: "snow on Christmas"
Mr. Ferrare: "for everyone and their families to have a safe and happy holiday"
Ms. Highsmith: "Christian Louboutin red bottom heels"
Mr. Stango: "a safe flight to Florida because that's where I'll be spending Christmas"

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Cyr: "a Bowl win for the Badgers"
Mr. Awwad: "tablesaw"
Ms. Borges: "good college for my daughter, Raylene"
Ms. Conway: "I hope my students enjoy their break and spend time with their families"
Mr. DelDebbio: "the new Black-Ops"
Mrs. Gaydosh: "I want to be able to utilize my new classroom fully"
Mr. Lafayette: "peace, quiet and world harmony"
Mrs. Morris: peace and much happiness
Ms. Velez: "all of my students to gain a useful understanding of physics"
Mr. Walker: "good health for my family"
Mrs. White-Clark: "a new car"
Mrs. Wright: "sleep"

SECRETARIAL STAFF

Mrs. Feliciano: "all of staff to have perfect attendance"
Mrs. Vazquez: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Wendy: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Rodriquez: "have all my kids under the same roof"
Mrs. Hinton: "a vacation"

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Mr. Feola: "people in this world to be so well adjusted that we no longer need leaders leading us around by the nose"
Mrs. Capolupo: "that I have a better year this year than I did last year"
Mrs. Fitzpatrick: "to be Nicole Taylor when I grow up"
Mrs. Harris: "trip to Fiji during April break"
Mrs. Hayes: "for 2015 to never end"
Mrs. Hermes: "peace on earth and people to stop shooting each other"
Mrs. Joyce: "all of my students on the same day to be in dress code, do the assignment, and no phone"
Mr. Mobilio: "people to show common sense when they vote"
Ms. Salcito: "an all-expense paid trip to London"
Mr. Sarlo: "a Brass City Division title in the city championship for football"
Mrs. Tuttle: "I wish everyone would be politically incorrect"

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Phostole: "redo my bathroom"
Mrs. Berger: "for it to be hot and sunny"
Mrs. Calabro: peace and much happiness
Ms. Clark: a calm, quiet start to each day
Ms. Davis: early morning productivity
Dr. Gagne-Grosso: a beautiful gingerbread village of her very own
Ms. Gaynes: "continue to be happy and healthy with family and friends"
Ms. Grendzinski: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Gomulinski: "peace around the world"
Ms. Hagley: "world peace"
Mrs. Mead: "health for family and friends and a lifetime of horses"
Mrs. Scrivano: "enjoy holidays with my two children"
Mr. Schmidt: "for ISIS to stop attacking"
Ms. Villafane: relaxing, peaceful, stress-free days

SPECIALISTS

Mrs. Currier: "to complete my kitchen renovation"
Ms. Doyle: "I wish Mrs. Griffin would have lunch with me every day"
Mrs. Gugliemo: "happiness and good health and for people to feel safe"
Ms. Naughton: Disney treats
Mrs. Sideravage: "for family and friends to be healthy and happy"
Mrs. Sarris: "peace on earth"
Ms. Stevens: peace and much happiness
Mrs. Jacobson: "health for everyone in my family"

SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATOR

Ms. Dilorenzo: "a yoga studio"

SUPPORT STAFF

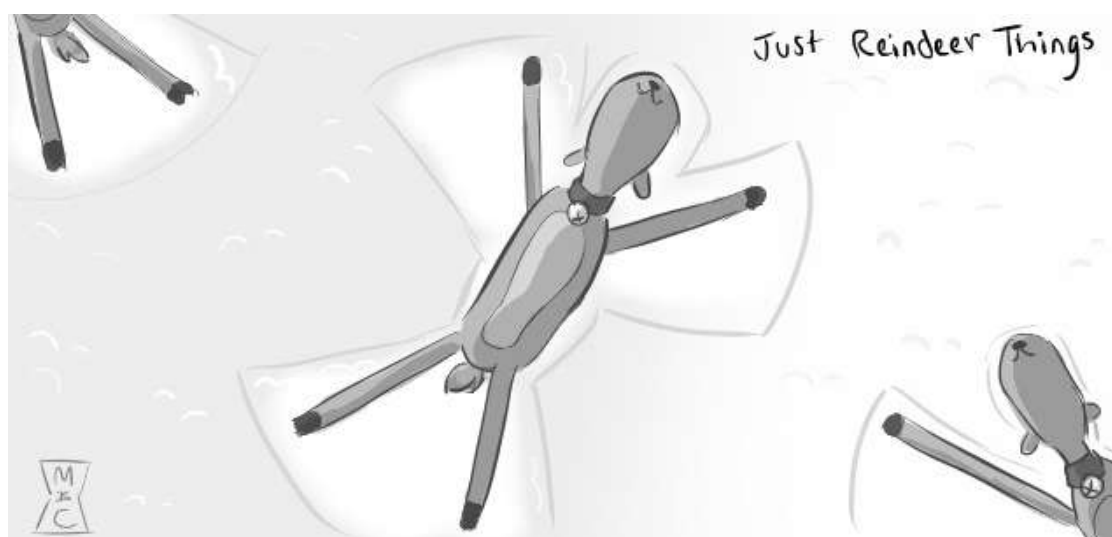
Officer Todd: peace and much happiness
Mr. Cammelletti: "I'd like to wish Mr. McCasland the best of luck with his new job as a milk man"
Ms. George: "world peace"
Mr. Lawlor: "for everybody to be healthy"
Mr. Krisavage: "Bah humbug"
Mr. Reidel: Dunkin Donuts coffee without preservatives

TALENTED & GIFTED

Mr. Clark: "a healthy baby boy and a gold Jaguar's jersey"

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Mr. Mancuso: "new corny jokes"
Mr. Conway: "hit the lotto"
Mr. Danaher: "health and happiness for family"
Mr. Ludwig: "lots of snow"
Mr. Saraceno: "a scan tool for the automotive shop"



Football keeps 50-year holiday tradition despite Crosby win

GOAL
Junior Jacob Colon (#20) makes a 50-yard field goal after the second touchdown of the game against Crosby Nov. 26, 2015 at Municipal Stadium.



Photos by Kathy Ramos



TEAMWORK The Eagles (above) participate in a group chant before the game against Crosby, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26 at Waterbury's Municipal Stadium. Crosby won, 18-15.

LEADERS MEET

(Photo near right) Seniors Bryan Garcia-Medina, Christian Curry, Joshua (Bubba) Rivera, and Jose Cardona meet up with city rival Crosby's captains for the coin toss prior to the Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day game, which continues a 50-year tradition of the two schools meeting.

TEAMWORK

(Photo far right) Junior Jacob Colon (#20) cheers after a 50-yard field goal Nov. 26 against Crosby at Waterbury's Municipal Stadium.

Photos by Kathy Ramos

By Talia Bairstow
Staff Writer

Eight seniors earn recognition Thanksgiving Day

Tackling 50 years!
The Kennedy Eagles and Crosby Bulldogs participated in an ongoing 50-year traditional Thanksgiving game at Waterbury's Municipal Stadium, also holding senior appreciation day for the Eagles, where both teams fought for the end-of-the season win Nov. 26, 2015, and Crosby captured it.

"The tradition the last 50 years is Kennedy plays Crosby, regardless what your record is. The kids go into it like it's a championship game, it's exciting to be a part of that," said Mr. Christopher Sarlo, Kennedy's football head coach and history teacher.

With a close but unfortunate loss 15-18, the Eagles were stripped of their number one rank in the Brass City Division.

"It sucks because I feel like I could've done better," said senior Anthony Williams.

Prior to the game, some Eagles players admitted to their apprehension of the traditional game.

"It's nerve racking because we can't mess up," said Williams.

The Eagles stuck it out the 2015

season with bumps in the road and worked as a team, they said, earning a 3-0 division record prior to playing Crosby.

"I pushed to play for my team and be a role model even with my injuries," said junior Jacob Colon.

Football season for the Eagles flew by in record time.

"I'm upset that the season ended so quickly," said junior Terrence Bridgeforth.

All eight seniors were recognized in a ceremony, and said they will strive to enjoy their last game.

"First, I wanna cry, I am excited to play my last game and since the future isn't for sure for my football career, I'm going to cherish the last game of this year," said senior and one of the captains, Bryan Garcia-Medina.

“ My best memory of the season was when I had two interception returns for a touchdown against Sacred Heart. ”

Bryan Garcia-Medina,
senior and captain

Medina.

Memories were created during the 2015 season.

"The best memory was being on the field with my brothers," said junior Jarrett Ladd.

Likewise, seniors had their highlights in 2015.

"My best memory of the season was when I had two interception returns for a touchdown against Sacred Heart," said Garcia-Medina.

The Eagles also missed out on players due to injuries.

"I regret getting hurt and missing four games," said junior Marc-Anthony Telusma.

Kennedy supporters played a part in the team's confidence.

"Today was the first game I attended and everyone in the stands seemed to be one big family," said Raul Rodriguez, who attended the Thanksgiving Day game Nov. 26.

Kennedy staff members came to support the team, including principal Mr. Robert Johnston.

"It's nice to have our school support our team," said Esmeralda Anaya.



Boys' swim team seeks members

Attend Saturday, Dec. 5 meeting for information

By Dylan McGrath
Staff Writer

Do you have what it takes to be a swimmer?

The boys' swimming team is looking for new and interested swimmers to join the team. If interested, you need to attend the first meeting, Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015, at the school pool.

"It requires a lot of motivation, and a desire to improve yourself," said senior

captain Matias Fejzaj.

Fejzaj, who has been swimming for Kennedy all four years, has passion for the sport.

"I really enjoy swimming, and it feels good to see how I've improved over the years," said Fejzaj.

Although, it hasn't been without its struggles. For example, they have not had a diving coach.

"Not having a diving

coach hasn't had too big an impact on the team because Coach can teach us both, but it can get annoying when he has to keep switching back and forth," said Fejzaj.

In spite of that, Fejzaj cherishes the time he has had with his team.

"Joining the swim team was one of the best decisions I've made in high school. No regrets," he said.

Teams need coaches but new hire athletic trainer works 25-hour week

By Jaleesa Bellamy and Mahalia Anderson
Staff Writers

While six school teams lack coaches as of November 2015, an athletic trainer has officially been hired to work with student athletes, according to principal Mr. Johnson.

"Yes, he's been working," said Johnson of the new trainer, who will be at the school 25 hours a week and who is provided by an outside company.

Yet as of Nov. 16, 2015, there were no coaching applicants for golf, assistant boys' swimming, or softball. There are coaching applicants for cheerleading and assistant outdoor track, according to Johnston.

"I would suspect they be filled by December," said Johnston.

Why do so many openings exist, and have remained open like cheerleading, which lacked a head coach since 2014?

"Cheerleading has always been difficult to fill permanently, softball had some difficulties," said Johnston.

One challenge may have been the system of advertising or posting for these athletic vacancies.

"There were some issues downtown for coaches' positions being posted and getting posted," said Johnston.

He indicated some changes may have already been made downtown.

"They made adjustment as to who's handling these things," said Johnston.

So what are the six vacant coaching positions? They are head and assistant cheerleading coaches, assistant coach for boys' swimming, golf coach, assistant outdoor track coach, and assistant softball coach, according to Johnston.

Prior to Thanksgiving, Johnston said he had a timeline for reviewing the applicants along with priorities.

"Probably next week we'll look into applicants, cheerleading is one we want first, next boys' swimming," said Johnston.

Some cheerleaders like senior Carlie Collini had participated since freshman year.

"I've been a cheerleader for three years," said Collini, but now there is no team.

"Because there's no team I resorted to taking stats for football. Even when we did have a coach we still struggled," said Collini.

Girls' basketball resumes after 17-6 season

By J. Benton
Correspondent

Three seems to be the major number for the 2015 girls' basketball team. There are three coaches: head coach Jennifer Deeley, JV coach Erine Blue and freshmen coach Mr. Nadir, then three seniors, Lynadia Whiting, Emily Ramos and Sarah Norwood (who is currently out on an injury) to lead the team.

The major three are the power goals for this season: qualify for the NVLs, qualify for States, and number one, gain the Brass Division Championship banner. This would be the first since 2009 that the Kennedy girls' basketball team would be the division champs out of the five schools who compete: Kennedy, Crosby, Wilby, Holy Cross, and Sacred Heart.

Coming back from a 17-6 season and making it to the quarter finals for States, the team has much to live up to. On the other hand, with three days of rigorous try-outs, Monday Nov. 30, Tuesday Dec. 1 and Wednesday Dec. 2, 2015, returning players have shown they are up to the challenge. Any newcomers are allowed to try out if they were unable to make the dates.