



The Ledger Pick-Axe



Ledger Student Newspaper

ARTS

Every Babysitter’s Nightmare

By: Reese Neumann

This year, St. Mary’s Springs Academy High School performed the fall play *Every Babysitter’s Nightmare*, by Craig Sodaro. The leadup to the play was filled with quite a bit of excitement, because there was no fall play in 2020 due to COVID-19. In fact, COVID restrictions were still placed on the cast and crew of the fall play, because SMSA does not have a theater. The play was performed on November 19, 20, and 21 at Horace Mann High School in North Fond du Lac. Since the play and rehearsals did not take place at SMSA, the cast and crew had to wear masks for the first week of on-stage rehearsals. Fortunately, the mask mandate on the cast and crew was lifted and masks were not required for the performances.



Cast of *Every Babysitter’s Nightmare*

There was a running joke among the cast, crew, and director that the play was haunted. This was partially due to one of the “nightmares” in the play being a ghost, and partially due to all of the microphone problems. In fact, many of the cast members performed without a microphone. This

was one reason that Justin, a freshman, was asked to run lights almost completely by himself. Although he had been in other theatrical productions, he had never been part of a technical crew. Still, he was asked to jump into the booth and run the lights rather suddenly; fortunately, he did a great job!



From left: Reese Neumann, Gavin Twohig

Christa Lewis, the director, had very specific reasons for choosing this lesser-known play, the most significant of which was, not surprisingly, COVID. This was a large cast, and Christa had a lot of fun casting each and every character. The cast was made up of both under and upperclassmen. This variety of age and experience was definitely a good thing, as it allowed a diversity of personalities within the cast.

When asked what her biggest motivation for choosing this play was, she responded, “I chose this play because it is funny and lighthearted. Last year was heavy, so we could all use some lighthearted fun.” This play definitely brought laughter and cheer to both audience members and those involved in the production.



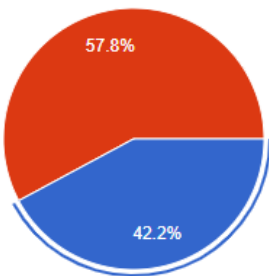
From left: Cain Neumann, Amelina Rauch

Poll

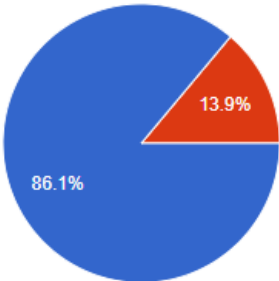
Holiday Questions

By: Cristina Lopez

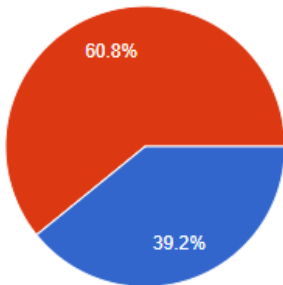
Yes or No: Does your family hide a pickle ornament on your Christmas Tree?



Do you prefer sugar cookies or candy canes?



Would you rather receive one big present or many small presents?



LET’S TALK CAREERS

Entrepreneurship

By: Klaudia Sullivan and
Samantha Fouch

Kristina Sullivan, one of Fond du Lac’s own self-made entrepreneurs and owner of FDL Lash and Wax Skinspa, has years of experience and trial and error when it comes to owning a business. She started in education, owning and operating childcare centers and preschools. She later took a position with hospice as a volunteer coordinator. Soon, Sullivan recognized her disinterest in meetings and boards of directors.



Kristina Sullivan in FDL Lash & Wax Skinspa

Sullivan’s part-time job of applying lash extensions eventually turned into a business and passion for her. The environment was relaxing and proved to be a blessing. She later bought a salon and spa and went back to school for esthetics. Her goals for her company now include providing a safe and encouraging environment for clients and making them feel more confident.

Before realizing she was an entrepreneur, she knew she liked sharing ideas and fulfilling a community need. The hard work she demonstrated and need for flexibility showed her that starting a business would be a good way to go. Her independence and value of time over money also proved the importance of her own business to her.

Building successful habits and learning also proved important. Overall, she stated that your work ethic will be your best asset. She also mentioned that volunteering provided

many benefits for her work ethic. “Doing something for others without expecting anything in return is priceless,” she shared. “You will appreciate your life more, and it’s a great way to see so many opportunities within your community. It also won’t hurt so badly when you take an unpaid internship in the future. Volunteering will also allow you to try a variety of things without too much of a commitment.”

“Doing something for others without expecting anything in return is priceless.”

Managing money and having a job as a teenager was also a main point of her advice. “If you are driving a car or spending money anywhere, you should have a job. It doesn’t have to be a lot, just a few hours each week. Earn your own gas money. Buy your own coffee. Save up for something. Be proud of something more than the winning shot or something new your parents bought you.



Door at Sullivan’s first business, Tiny Town Childcare Center

“Having a job is a wonderful introduction to having a boss and can help you understand what kind of leader you would like to be,” she added. You will have co-workers. Can you work well with others? This is literally asked at every interview. A job can help you find out where your strengths lie and where you have some growing to do.”

Due to her varied experiences, Sullivan learned many lessons along the way and has wise advice for anyone wanting to start a business.

“Do your research. Be passionate about what you do and be

willing to sacrifice at the beginning. And remember, success means something different to everyone, so never compare. It will probably take a few years to feel okay in a new business. Understand that no one will work harder for your business than you. Clean the toilets. Find out what is important to your employees.



Yard sign for Sullivan’s first business, Tiny Town Childcare Center

“When I started my child care centers, I just couldn’t believe that I was able to retain good employees for such a small wage,” she revealed. “I remember making up a survey that had a list of things regarding the workplace environment and culture. They were to rate from most important to least important. Not one staff member had wages even in the top three of importance to them. Most wanted to feel appreciated and valued and enjoy the work they do and whom they get to work with.

“So,” she concluded, “know your audience. These staff members were relationship-based. I started ordering lunch for everyone on Fridays, writing handwritten thank you cards, and overall trying to recognize their efforts in creative, thoughtful ways. If you are stepping into an existing business, be humble enough to listen to how things have been and learn their way in every single position. You will also need to be innovative and brave enough to be willing to do something other than how it has always been previously done.”

If you are thinking about becoming an entrepreneur, work hard and be consistent. It may take many tries; however, as Sullivan illustrates, believing in yourself and persevering pave the way to success.

LET'S TALK FAITH

What's Purple, Pink, and Green All Over?

By: Teresa Brunette

Advent is four weeks long, which for kids especially, can feel like an eternity. The word Advent means “coming,” which comes from the Latin word *adventus*.



Traditional Advent wreath

Upon the traditional Advent wreath are four candles representing respectively hope, faith, joy, and peace. Sometimes a fifth, representing light and purity, is added.

The first Advent candle on the wreath symbolizes hope and is also called the prophet's candle, as it is named after the prophets like Isaiah, who prophesied Jesus' coming.

Hope

Keeping with the theme of symbolism in the Advent wreath, the purple color of the candle represents repentance, royalty, and fasting. A fun fact about Advent is that in China, Christians use paper lanterns to decorate their homes for this celebratory period. The final and one of the most exciting things about the first Sunday of Advent is that it is the first day of the new liturgical year.

The second Advent candle symbolizes faith and is named Bethlehem's candle after the city of

Bethlehem. Bethlehem was the city in which both Jesus and David were born. The second candle is also purple, representing preparation for the coming king.

Another interesting fact about how Advent is celebrated is that the first Advent calendar printed was created by Gerhard Lang in 1908. As a child, Lang's mother would take the lid of a box and sew 24 cookies to it, and he would eat one each day.

Rejoice

The third candle is the one that stands out more than the other three due to its distinctive pink color. It stands alone as the only candle that is not purple. The third Sunday is named Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice, which fits for the message of the third week, joy. This third candle claims the name the shepherd's candle, reminding people of the great joy the shepherds felt when the angels told them Jesus was born. This candle is pink to express joyfulness.



Father Justin Weber, with the help of the P3 class, blesses the manger in the chapel

Faith



The fourth candle is the one most people tend to be most excited to light, as it means Christmas is only a few days away. Signifying peace, it is named angel's candle to remind us that Jesus came to bring peace on earth and goodwill to men, just as the angels announced on the night of his birth.

Love

The final candle is also purple, but it represents the fulfillment of love through the Messiah, which is different from both of the other purple candles. There is an optional fifth candle that is white and represents light and purity. It is lit on Christmas day, but is not necessarily part of a common Advent wreath.

The entire season of Advent is a joyous time, and not just on Gaudete Sunday. It is a time to prepare for the birth of the Lord, and thankfully, for many, it is also an amazing time to spend as much time as possible with friends and family. It is truly a preparation for Christmas, not only for the day itself, but also to prepare spiritually for Jesus's coming.

SPORTS NEWS

Boys' Sports Come to a Close

By: Lauren Cobb and Hailey Hoffmann

‘Tis the season’s end - not only for the year, but also for boys’ fall sports. To glean a more in-depth perspective, seniors, Colin Twohig, Shane Kaminski, and Billy Schrauth shared insights and feedback reflecting on their senior year’s season.

Cross Country



Colin Twohig

Colin Twohig reminisced on the season and the sport overall, noting that what he will miss most is the team and community built among the members, as they have constant support for one another. Although he has no plans to run on a team in the future, he does plan to continue running for fun. (It’s still being decided if running for fun is something anyone can actually do.)

When asked to give advice to his freshman self on the importance of the sport, he replied, “It teaches you the value of hard work and shows you that you can accomplish the goals you set for yourself.” Some of his favorite memories came from running at Kiekhaefer, bus rides home from meets, and jumping in the lake. The context of the last one remains unknown.

Sports, like anything else, have various challenges throughout the season. Colin explained that injuries

from running every single day remained one of the biggest problems throughout the season, indicating the intensity and positive impact of participating in any sport.

Soccer

Shane Kaminski provided a glance into his time on the soccer field and the memories he has from it. Although he has no plans to continue to play on a designated team in the future, he sees intramurals as a potential option.

Soccer had not been a part of Shane’s sports career all four years; instead, he started playing when he was a junior. Nonetheless, he would have advised his younger self to relax and have fun while he can, because the team would be welcoming to him and give him various new opportunities for friendship.



Shane Kaminski

Shane’s favorite memory is from junior year, when he made his first major play on defense by stopping someone from nearly scoring a goal.

Challenges throughout this year’s season included having few senior leaders, which led to people of all ages stepping up to lead in various ways for the team. Shane is proof that people can start a sport at any age and still be successful.

Football



Billy Schrauth

Billy Schrauth, who has participated in football at SMSA for his entire high school career, reflected on his experience with a sense of gratitude. Going forward, he will most miss the team and the bonds created from playing together. Looking back on his experiences, he would advise his freshman self to cherish the memories he would make and not take anything for granted, as time goes by so quickly.

His favorite memory came from his sophomore year when Cooper Buelow and Billy were lined up across from each other and were going at it all practice. They poked fun at each other, but it was all just competitive spirit.

“That’s what football is all about,” shared Billy, “pushing yourself and your teammates out of their comfort zone and not holding a grudge about it at the end of day, because we are all teammates with the same goal in mind.”

The first game of the season was the biggest challenge for the team, as the loss was completely unexpected. In order to overcome this defeat, the team continued to put in hard work and take the loss as motivation to better themselves. Billy credits the success of their season to the team’s dedication and determination to constantly improve themselves.

****Note:** Since this interview, Billy has announced his intention to play football for the University of Notre Dame.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Science With Sosinski

By Amelia Brinkley, Lauren Liethen,
and Sophie Vande Slunt



Mrs. Sosinski

Q: Did you see yourself becoming a teacher when you were a high school student? If not, what did you want your career to be?

A: “I loved biology and science. I was very good at math. I knew that I wanted to do something in that area, but I started in nursing. Actually, when I was in college, I started in the nursing program. I attended Marian College, and I was in that program for about two years. When we got to the clinical stuff, I didn’t really like it. I did not really think that I wanted to spend my whole life doing that, but I still wanted to do something with science and interact with people. I switched into secondary education, and I finished my teaching degree in biology.”



Q: How many years have you been teaching at Springs?

A: “This is my twenty-fifth year teaching at Springs, but it's my forty-second year of teaching.”

Q: If you could tell your old self one thing before you started teaching, what would it be?

A: “Never lose your patience.”

Q: What is your favorite memory from teaching at Springs?

A: “I have so many. My favorite memory was being able to go on the trip to Ireland with the dance team. It was just a wonderful experience. I had so much fun and the days were just so filled with activities.”



Q: What is the hardest challenge you have faced as a teacher?

A: “The hardest challenge is the constant change of principals. In all my years of teaching, I have had 17 different principals. Everytime a new principal comes in, things change a lot. I never seem to get into a routine that I can count on for more than a few years.”

Q: Is there any particular reason you have stayed teaching at Springs for this long?

A: “I love the kids. They make me laugh. They make me feel young. I am always learning new things with students, because they have such good questions and they really challenge me.”

Q: What has been your favorite class to teach?

A: “Biology, of course! I do enjoy botany too, because I’m a gardener. I love gardening and am so fascinated with flowers, so teaching botany this year was wonderful.”



Q: What are your favorite hobbies?

A: “I love to garden, and it is my favorite thing to do during the warmer months. I also enjoy bicycling. My husband and I bicycle a lot together. We enjoy camping. For quiet time, I love to read. I knit and crochet. I also enjoy playing games, so I get together with my family, and we play a lot of cribbage, Mexican Dominoes, and Sequence. We enjoy the competition and being together.”

Q: So would you consider yourself competitive?

A: “No. I just like to have fun!”

HUMAN INTEREST

Card Sale For A Cause

By: Kassie Kelnhofer

St. Mary’s Springs Academy, rooted in Christ’s teaching, academic excellence, and service to Church and community, prepares students to meet global challenges and become leaders for tomorrow - this is our mission statement, which is actively lived in our school and family community. Each year, an annual Christmas card sale becomes and exemplifies our Ledger way, by recognizing a need in the community and coming together to make a difference in the life of another, while allowing us to follow in Jesus’ footsteps.

For the last twenty-two years, St. Mary’s Springs Academy has hosted a Christmas card sale to benefit a nominated child in need of medical care from the community.

This year, nine-year-old Mason Abraham was chosen. In 2018, Mason began to have vision problems and headaches. After tests and an MRI, they found a brain tumor near his pituitary gland that is affecting his eyesight. Mason has lost all vision in his right eye and is beginning to lose it in his left. The tumor is also causing his pituitary gland to not work properly.

Over the past few weeks, Christmas cards were sold after weekend Masses at each of the Holy Family sites and at the elementary Christmas concert. Proceeds from the sale will help to defray medical expenses for Mason’s family, hopefully easing the financial strain that can be overwhelming for families facing significant health issues.



Mason Abraham

Additionally, on December 22nd, students in P3-8th grade are participating in a movie and popcorn benefit. For a \$3.00 donation to Mason and his family, students may wear pajamas or sweats, bring a 20 oz drink from home, and enjoy popcorn and a movie on the day before the holiday break.



Student-Made Christmas Cards Await Parishioners and Concert Attendees

If anyone missed out on the card sales and would still like to help Mason and his family, cards are still available for purchase in the Scrip Office, open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy Holidays from your friends at the Pick-Axe!



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