



## the loudoun raider

Loudoun County High School's  
Quarterly Newspaper

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## NO PARKING

**PAGE 3:** Why do students at other schools get to paint their parking spaces?



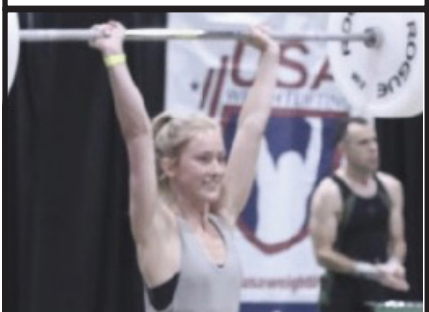
## HOCO

**PAGE 6:** Football, twins, and board games in 2019 Homecoming in Photos



## LIP SYNC

**PAGE 9:** Choir battles JLSMS singers on stage



## HEAVY LIFTING

**PAGE 12:** Mild-mannered English teacher moonlights as a weightlifter.

# STADIUM DEDICATION



*Beth Williams and family attend the dedication of the stadium in honor of Frank Sonny Pearson. Pearson was a long-time educator in Loudoun County known and loved for his dedication to sports and students. Photo: Olivia Zavadil*

## STADIUM NAMED IN HONOR OF FRANK SONNY PEARSON, LONGTIME EDUCATOR

**Karen Cortes**  
Raider Staff

On September 20, the stadium was renamed after the late **Frank Sonny Pearson**. The dedication took place during the Loudoun County versus Loudoun Valley football game. Pearson's wife **Jo Ann Pearson**, a retired English teacher, daughter **Beth Williams**, also a County English teacher, son **Duffy Pearson**, and Grandson **Franklin Williams** were present.

A member of Loudoun County High School's class of 1965, Pearson played basketball, football, and baseball for the school. After serving in the Army, Pearson came back to teach and coach in Loudoun County schools for 34 years.

Williams has been teaching English in Loudoun County public schools for 16 years and is thrilled to see her father's name above the scoreboard.

"It's obviously very special, because I'm here everyday, so I feel like there's kind of this connection left with his name being on the field," Williams said.

Williams credits her mother and her father for inspiring her to be a teacher. "My parents were teachers," Williams said. "So, I guess you can kind of say it's in my blood. I saw the connections they made with some of their students."

Williams saw this connection even after her father's passing. "When my father passed away, all these former players and students that he had came back for the funeral," she said. "He just really made lifelong connections with people. I could see how much his students looked up to him."

Williams was present at the renaming of the stadium for Pearson along with her mother,



*The Raiders enjoy their lead, displayed on scoreboard with the stadium's new name proudly displayed, during their game with Loudoun Valley. Following the stadium dedication, the Raiders won the game 17-7. Photo: Jim Klimavicz*

her son, and her brother. "It was good, it was quite an honor, and it was neat to be out there with my family. It was a little overwhelming at times. It brought back a lot of memories," she said.

Williams' mother, a retired English teacher, shared Williams' feeling about it being an honor. "My parents went to high school together, so I think it was really special for her," Williams said.

Athletic director **Kate Cassidy** was instrumental in the renaming of the stadium after Pearson. "I have known the Pearsons for years," said Cassidy. "He's given a lot to the community, and I thought it was the proper thing to do."

Pearson coached at Loudoun County, Loudoun Valley, Park View, and Heritage, and he was a physical education teacher for 34 years, according to the LCHS fall sports program.

Although it isn't easy to

rename a stadium in Loudoun County, there was a lot of support for Pearson.

"You have to get letters of support from myself, Dr. Luttrell, the SCA, the PTA, and then we have to apply to the county, and the county then takes it and checks to make sure the person has good character, good standing," Cassidy said. "Then it goes to a school board committee and a financial committee that talks about it. Then it goes to a school board meeting where they present it to the public."

Cassidy had to return a month later when the board voted on it.

Williams said her father taught her to be kind.

"To treat everybody equally," Williams said. "He really didn't care what color someone's skin was or how much money they have, just be kind to everyone. You don't know what kind of road someone else has to walk, so you should always be nice."

# OPINION

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH GOES UNAPPRECIATED EDITORIAL

This October, our staff had the chance to visit the Newseum in Washington, DC, just a few months before it closes its doors. With its closing came discussions of free speech and the importance of the press in this country.

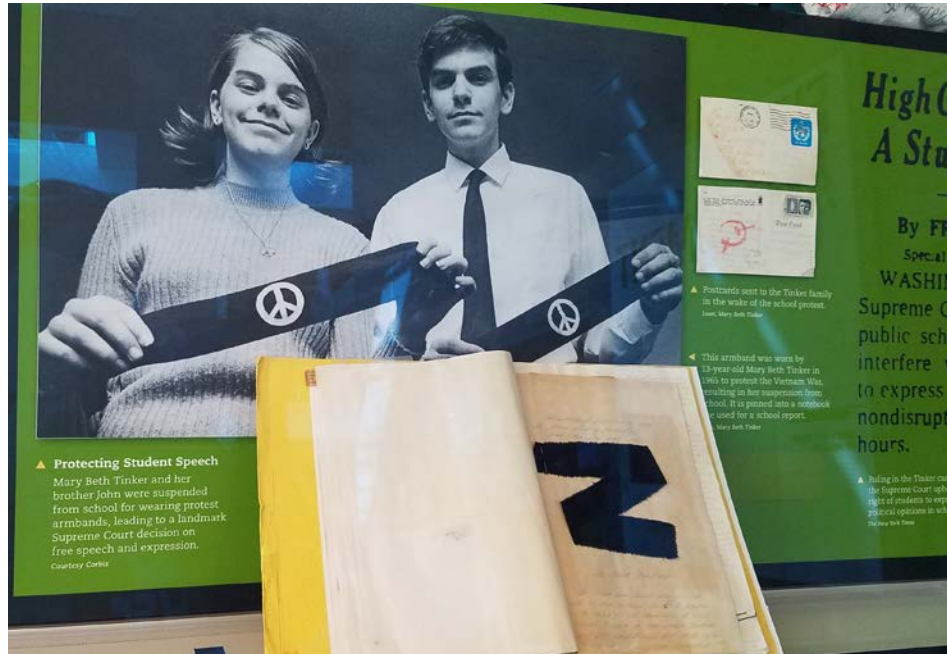
Upon entry, we noticed a banner on the museum exterior with the hashtag #FreeAustinTice, “held captive for being a journalist since August 2012.” A former Marine, Tice went to Syria as a freelance journalist before his last year of law school. He never returned.

Tice wanted to report from inside Syria because of the lack of reliable sources—almost nothing being reported from on the ground—regarding the civil war there. He did, for several months, contributing helpful information that increased our awareness of the conflict there.

After he stopped tweeting and sending reports in August 2012, a brief video was released showing him bound and blindfolded, but no group has taken credit.

In 2018, the US State Department and FBI worked under the assumption that Tice is still alive and potentially held by Syrian government. This remains unconfirmed.

Sadly, Tice is not unique. As the Newseum showed us, journalists have been threatened and even killed for their work in uncovering the truth. But this is a true testament to human



The armband that started the landmark Tinker case is on display at the Newseum in Washington, DC. The Tinker case is instrumental in establishing student freedom in a public school setting. Unfortunately, too many students take their rights for granted. Photo: Valerie Egger

willpower: journalists are those willing to use their voice to uncover the truth, even at cost to themselves.

One of the startling displays in the Newseum was a map of free press in the world. The US, thankfully, was in the “green,” showing that we—like a few other nations—have the power to express the truth. Sadly, this power does not extend to much of the world.

Without a free press, there is no one to question the decisions of those in power. Without a free press, government is left unchecked, the oppressed have no voice, and change for the better is unlikely to occur.

We are fortunate to live in the nation with the most freedom of the press. We have access to all sorts of information. Too often, we see people our age—and even older—taking their freedoms for granted, distracted instead by Instagram or games and ignorant of the news. And we are always on our phones.

Our challenge to you is to spend some of your swiping time reading the news instead.

We are fortunate enough to live exposed to the free flow of news. It’s time we take advantage of that and help journalists, some of whom risk their lives, fulfill their purpose of informing the public.

## COURSE SELECTION GUIDANCE: TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE?

**Karen Cortes**  
Raider Staff

When it comes to choosing our classes, our school offers several resources.

**Dan Croyle**, the director of counseling, stated that the school used to print off a schedule sheet for every student, but not anymore. “Now that we’ve gone paperless with a lot of things, it’s online.” But as with a lot of things online, “people just don’t look for it or don’t know where it is,” Croyle said.

Croyle made it very clear where to find the program of studies: “If you go to Loudoun County High School, school counseling webpage, under academics, under P for program, it’s right there.”

But that requires students to actively search. And there’s little to no communication among teachers, counselors, and students that benefits students.

While the program of studies is available, it provides a formal description of the course with little description to help students decide what is right for them. While teachers do show brief presentations about classes in their departments, they are broad and presented quickly.

Counselors do meet with students individually, but they are each assigned 300 students, so how can they be expected to know each student’s strengths and weaknesses, other than what they hear from teachers or see from transcripts?

And it’s really not their fault. When the time comes to choose classes and you know what you want to do, you might sit down at a counselor’s office and they might say you’re not fit for it, or they might let you try it.

When it comes down to it, students don’t know what they

don’t know. Teachers don’t realize students need direct suggestions for next year’s classes. Our teachers aren’t really telling us what they think we should sign up for, and it really isn’t their fault.

Sometimes students don’t know what to ask when it comes to classes for next year; an informal poll showed that not many students know there is a program of studies available online, and those who were aware don’t really seem to take advantage of it.

To help students with a decision that impacts them significantly the following year, the school should allow a two-day window in which teachers use class time simply to meet with students one-on-one to discuss plans for next year’s classes.

Taking two full days for teachers to have a one-on-one conversation with each student

### THE LOUDOUN RAIDER

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Loudoun Raider is produced by students in Newspaper Journalism I, II, and III under the direction of an adviser. Topics are student-chosen, student-researched, and student-driven, but all content is subject to administrator review.

### Letters to the editor:

The staff of The Loudoun Raider welcomes guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor. Pieces should be no more than 400 words and must be founded on researched fact. Any student, faculty, staff, or alumni interested in contributing to the newspaper should contact the adviser, Valerie Egger, at [valerie.egger@lcps.org](mailto:valerie.egger@lcps.org).

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for an average of 2-3 minutes before winter break would be useful, because the last thing on a student’s mind is work before Christmas break.

An A day and B day “meeting day” with teachers would limit teacher frustrations when students choose the wrong level class and find it either too easy or too hard. Two days of class is worth limiting that frustration.

# LOUDOUN COUNTY EMPLOYS FIRST SERVICE DOG

**Michaela Scott**  
Raider Staff

Students traveling the halls may hear the typical sounds of high school: shuffling feet, happy banter, zipping backpacks, beeping phones. But this year, there is a new addition: the patter of paws. For the first time in history Loudoun County High School has a service animal, a medical alert dog. The dog, whose name is kept anonymous for privacy reasons, is an essential aid for senior **Kayla Elahi** throughout the school day.

Elahi was halfway through high school when she was diagnosed with an aggressive case of POTS (postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome.) POTS is a condition in which a change from lying to standing causes an abnormally large increase in heart rate. Students with POTS may have difficulty paying attention in classes because of frequent brain fog, and they may struggle in school because of frequent fainting and having to leave classes.

After countless doctors' treatments failed, Elahi was left with a tough question: how will I continue to attend public school?

"I can't have a person holding my hand waiting for me to have issues, so the next best option was to train a medical alert service animal," said Elahi.

Elahi got her dog from a breeder specifically for the purpose of being a service dog. This way she

knows her dog's history, and her dog is "bulletproof" to do the job. The eight week old puppy began training at home for one year, followed by a two week training with a professional to solidify obedience. The dog's first time in public was during this past March to begin general service.

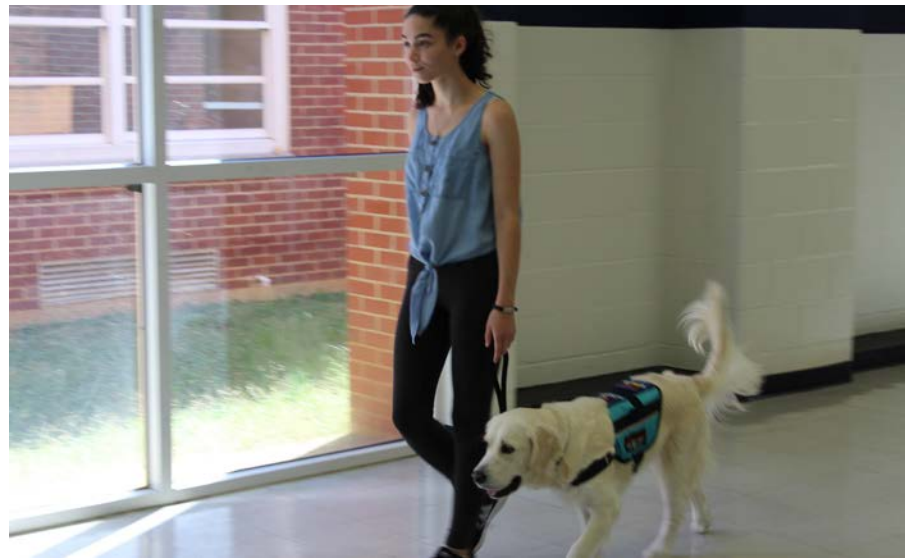
"By the time she was going in public she was so ready," Elahi said. "Some service dogs can take up to three years to train."

Elahi admits that this year has required more responsibility because a dog is like a toddler, you must watch out for them and make sure they're comfortable; however, LCHS is now a safer place for Elahi. She said that during her junior year she was constantly anxious about hitting her head, or falling somewhere.

"Not everybody with an illness needs a seizure alert dog, it's the people that are disabled and can't do any of the major life functions without the assistance of a dog," stated Elahi.

Elahi's service animal tells her before she passes out by smelling pheromone changes and looking at physical cues. The dog also conducts deep pressure therapy to regulate Elahi's autonomic nervous system after she's having issues or after she passes out.

"Last year I was passing out all over the hallways and getting wheeled out," said Elahi. "This year is so much better because I'm not at risk anymore. She prevented a



**Kayla Elahi** walks her medical alert dog through the halls on her way to class. This is County's first year having a service dog at the school. Photo: **Michaela Scott**

hospital visit a week ago. She's doing her job great."

In the hallways Elahi's dog gets the most commotion and attention, while in the classroom the dog is overlooked—intentionally—by the classmates. In an announcement at the beginning of the school year, Principal **Michelle Luttrell** reminded students that the service dog is here to provide a medical service to a student and is not to be pet or addressed. Overall, the student body has understood and complied.

The dog was only pet once, according to Elahi. "Someone yelled 'the dog!' and everyone started screaming at him, so the whole student body really

understands," Elahi confirmed.

According to history teacher **Tracy Cody**, "Having the dog in class is like she's not even there. She just walks in with Kayla and minds her own business."

Elahi gives her dog treats as a form of paycheck, because she wants the dog to associate this place as positive and welcoming. Luckily, her dog loves people and enjoys seeing them pass in the halls.

Elahi's service dog has been a turnaround for the better. "This year I don't feel as alone walking in the hallways," Elahi revealed. "I feel so much more independent and confident because I know to help myself out beforehand."

## MISSED OPPORTUNITY DISCOURAGES STUDENT CREATIVITY

**Maggie Sheridan**  
Raider Staff

Many students have the same question running through their minds during the start of the school year, which is, why aren't we allowed to paint parking spots? A handful of other high schools in the county have gone ahead and painted theirs.

It's something students have wanted to do because it's a fun activity and it's been done in the past. The SCA has set up fundraisers in the past so people can buy paints for it. A handful of seniors admitted they would be very sad if they weren't able to paint their spots.

Students continued this tradition until about eleven years ago. Nowadays, the parking lot remains completely bare. "They approved it last year for seniors, but in years past they would say no," said **Matthew Prince**, math teacher and senior class adviser.

As part of allowing students spots, schools are required to repaint the spots at the end of the year. This is an issue because there was no money in the budget dedicated to it and students are unwilling to pay

more for the repainting. Principal **Michelle Luttrell** said, "Since students already pay 200 dollars for their spots, no one is going to want to pay an additional fee to paint them."

The senior class was in charge of it last year and had students each pay ten dollars in order to fund the repainting of the pavement the following year. Unfortunately, no one ended up painting their spot.

"Someone has to use it and take advantage of it," said Prince. "The senior counsel decided not to because they thought it would be a good junior class counsel fundraiser."

Earlier this year, Luttrell said Facilities and Operations don't allow us to paint spots anymore.

However, public information officer **Wayde Byard** has said otherwise. "Students can paint the spaces if approved by school administrators and if it does not generate additional work for Facilities Services," said Byard.

Independence High School has also recently finished painting their spots. "Our principal, **Mr. Gabriel**, gave students two days the week



The Stone Bridge parking lot boasts several painted student parking spots. Stone Bridge students were able to personalize their parking spots this year despite County students being told they could not. Photo: **Valerie Egger**

before school starting that they were allowed to come in and paint their spots," said assistant principal, **John Bonner**.

Independence has ensured someone is in charge of running the whole thing before going through with it. "Mr. Gabriel played a big role in organizing this summer since we are a new school. Usually the Junior class sponsors will organize this since it is a fundraiser for them," said Bonner.

Many other schools have painted as well, including Riverside and Stonebridge. The schools have been getting different information regarding whether or not they are allowed to. Luttrell has decided to contact the school board again in order to understand their policy.

People are anxiously waiting for the go ahead, but for now, we will have to park our ideas and painting will be stalled.

# NEWS

## LOOK AHEAD: SCA PLANS MORE INCLUSIVE “MINI PEP RALLIES”

**Mackenzie Munn**  
*Managing Editor*

At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, SCA started a series of “mini pep rallies” in order to celebrate teams and boost school spirit.

“Last year the response was good so we kept doing it this year,” SCA Treasurer **Harrison Rands** said. “But because they were so frequent and so close together students just didn’t like them. I think a pep rally is special and when you do it every week, it takes away from that.”

SCA hosted two pep rallies, one on September 13 and the second on September 20. They were hosted in order to raise school spirit and encourage students to go to the home football games on those nights. A mini pep rally was planned to take place for the football game we hosted against Warren County, but was canceled due to the busy schedule with club hour on the same day as well as the pep rallies not having the same exciting effect on students. It took away time in class for something that students weren’t excited for.

“We put three in a row and thought it wasn’t for a big game so we wanted to see where we could put it that it would maybe be a better fit,” SCA sponsor, **Nancy Thomas** said.

A third mini pep rally was held at the start of the second quarter to celebrate the last home football game of the season.

With the first three scheduled pep rallies only being for the home football games, other extracurriculars are in the future plans for these pep rallies.

“We are at the beginning stages of this,” Thomas said. “We are trying to figure out how to showcase everybody and support them.”

Other extracurriculars that would potentially be included in these pep rallies would include drama, choir, marching band, and other groups within the arts.

“It would really help get people to come to the shows and embrace the arts within the school,” **Kate Manson**, a member of the drama department, said.

The different departments within the arts believe that having pep rallies for their



**Harrison Bradford** gives impromptu speech after being crowned homecoming king. The homecoming pep rally, with its focus on the homecoming court and upcoming game, is one of the most popular pep rallies of the year. Photo: **Cara Hodge**

events would show the hard work they put into what they do.

“The arts should be just as appreciated as sports are,” said **Abigail Castello**, a member of the drama department. “We work just as hard as the sports teams do.”

The yearbook is hopeful for the future of the pep rallies and

is excited for the other groups in the school to get the same recognition as sports.

“Being more inclusive would show more school spirit and represent what county is really about, getting everybody to come together,” member of the yearbook staff **Caroline Layne** said.

*Leesburg*  
**DINER**  
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# RAIDER RUNDOWN

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### TEACHER CADETS PERFORM AT SYCOLIN CREEK

On October 29, Teacher Cadets performed "Giraffes Can't Dance" as part of their self-esteem unit at Sycolin Creek. The kindergarten audience seemed to enjoy the performance, according to sponsor **Tricia Virts**.

The play, about a giraffe who cannot dance even though all the other animals can, is all about self esteem, according to junior **Emily Taylor**: "It was good to show to elementary school students," she said.

Teacher Cadets helps high school students experience teaching as a career, giving them the opportunity to observe, and later teach, in elementary school classrooms. Many students find it is a way to build self confidence. Junior **Alexa Novak** was hesitant at first to perform in front of an audience. "It ended up being fun because the kids see high schoolers in onesies and think, 'Wow, they're really cool,'" she said. "It was fun to see their reactions and how much they loved it."

Junior **Brady Hunt** played the role of narrator, so he had the chance to watch the kindergarteners' reactions. "At one point, the giraffe fell down, and everyone started giggling," he said, noting that a highlight was playing Baby Shark, when they all started dancing.

After the performance, the group was contacted by Leesburg Elementary school with a request for a repeat. "They enjoyed it. They were laughing and dancing along with us," said Taylor.

### DRAMA EARNS THIRD IN VHSL ONE-ACT PLAY COMPETITION

The arts department performed the one act play "Rehearsal for Life," written by drama teacher, **John Wells**, during October's VHSL One-Act Play competition. Wells wrote the 35 minute play, with a male lead, back in 2003, and his Drama 3-4 class began working on the play in late August.

The group performed Saturday, October 26 and placed third in the one act play competition. In addition, senior **Harrison Rands** was chosen as the best actor overall and was awarded a gold medal at the end of all the performances. According to Rands, there were around 100 actors involved, so being chosen as first was quite an honor.

This is Rands' first year officially involved in drama at the high school, and he is devoted to continuing his passion into college. Rands intends on majoring in theater, such as set design or acting in the future.

### MARCHING BAND EARNS TOP HONORS FOR SECOND YEAR

On November 2, the Marching Raiders won the Class V-A Championship at the USBands National Marching Band Championship held in Allentown, PA, a repeat of last year's championship win.

The Marching Raiders earned a score of 98.4, nearly four points ahead of the next-best school and earning the highest score among all USBands in the nation for their show "Finding Light Finding Life."

The Marching Raiders perform under the direction of **Darron Young, Kristy Lemieux, Aaron Bertoglio** and **Mika Saario**, with drum majors **Sophia Macchiarolo** (senior) and **Hannah Fox** (senior). Senior **Amber Trinh** is executive officer.

"Their win proves that all that hard work and long hours in the summer pays off," said school secretary **Amy Perkins**. "Mr. Young is a musical genius."

### GERMAN STUDENTS COMPETE AT BUSCH GARDENS

German students traveled to Busch Gardens on Saturday, October 26 to attend the annual Virginia Organization of German Students meeting. Over 400 other German students, teachers, parents and friends from all across Virginia were there. Students rode rides, ate German food, and participated in contests. In the song contest, Voice of VOGS, **Anika Patel**, Sophomore **Brighton Lieu** and Sophomore **Nazi Zahiri** sung *Lasst uns froh und munter sein* for first place. Freshman **Ava Willis** sung *99 Luftballons* solo to win second place. And, according to German teacher **Eva Yerkes**, all won delicious Gummibears.

Willis was especially surprised that she won. "We found out last minute that we would be competing," she said, so she had not had much time to prepare mentally. Still, it did not detract from her enjoyment. "It was amazing," Willis said.

### PUBLICATIONS EARN TOP RANKINGS IN VHSL

The Lord Loudoun yearbook's 2019 edition earned a first-place designation in the Virginia High School League yearbook competition with its theme "LoudounN'Proud" with senior editors **Elena Dinman, Sawyer Treat, Shirin Faqiri, and Kendall Chambers**.

The literary magazine *Crossed Sabres* earned trophy class in VHSL for its 2019 theme "UNcertainty" with **Serene Singh** as editor-in-chief.



Teacher cadets pose as the animal cast of characters in "Giraffes Can't Dance," which they performed in front of the Sycolin Creek kindergarten class in October. The play helped children learn about self esteem and gave cadets the chance to perform in front of others. Photo: **Courtney Jones**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 22: Club Day. Homeroom with an adjusted schedule.  
 November 27-29: No School. Thanksgiving Break  
 December 2: PTSA meeting.  
 December 5: Tacky Sweater Friday. Play.  
 December 5-7: Play, 7 p.m.  
 December 9: Guitar concert.  
 December 10: String Concert. Guitar Winter Rehearsal.  
 December 11: Wellness Wednesday. String Winter Concert. Booster Club Meeting.  
 December 12: NHS Meeting. Play practice. Band Winter Concert.  
 December 13: Tacky Sweater Friday.  
 December 16: Winter spirit week. Play practice.  
 December 17: JLSMS Winter Concert.  
 December 19: Winter Choir Concert.  
 December 20: LCHS Music Assemblies. Tacky Sweater Friday.  
 December 23- January 3: No school. Winter Break  
 January 8: Booster Club Meeting.  
 January 9: NHS Meeting. Play practice.  
 January 17: End of Second Quarter.  
 January 20-21: No school. Student holiday.  
 January 23: NHS Induction.  
 January 28: College Financial Aid Workshop.  
 January 30: Blood Drive. Play practice  
 January 31: Club day. Adjusted schedule.  
 February 4: Blood Drive. Play practice. PTSA Meeting.  
 February 12: Wellness Wednesday. Play practice. Academic Night.  
 February 13: NHS Meeting. Band Pre-Assessment Concert  
 February 19: Academic night.  
 February 20-22: Play, 7 p.m.  
 February 28: Club days  
 March 3: Student Holiday.  
 March 5-7: Play, 7 p.m.  
 March 10: PTSA Meeting. Rising Senior Information Night.  
 March 20: Club days.  
 March 26: End of quarter.  
 March 27: Student Holiday  
 April 1: Rising 9th Grade Visit.  
 April 6-10: No school. Spring Break.  
 April 14: PTSA Meeting.  
 April 15: Booster Club Meeting.  
 April 16: NHS Meeting.  
 April 22: Wellness Wednesday. Guitar Concert.  
 April 23: Guitar Spring Concert.  
 April 24: Prom.  
 April 29: Spring Concert. College Commitment Day.  
 April 30: String Spring Concert.  
 May 5: PTSA Meeting.  
 May 13: Booster Club Meeting.  
 May 14: NHS Meeting. Play.  
 May 14-16: Play, 7 p.m.  
 May 19: Guitar/Orchestra Concert.  
 May 21: Choir Spring Concert.  
 May 22: Choir/Banquet/Senior Showcase.  
 May 26: Band Spring Concert.  
 May 28: JLSMS Spring Concert.  
 June 2: PTSA Meeting.  
 June 4: Senior Awards Ceremony & Yearbook Dist. NHS Meeting.  
 June 8: Year Distribution  
 June 10: Last Day of School.  
 June 12: Graduation

# SPIRIT WEEK



# HOMECOMING

The idea behind this year's spirit week was to show how our differences unite us. Spirit week left to right: Sophomores Sarah Jordan, Hanna Mullen, Morgan Appel, Nina Segura all dress up as the Incredibles for the Twins and Opposites day. • Tonya Dagastani dresses up as a wrestler for the Mathletes and Athletes spirit day. • Oliver Olsen and Fiona Flaherty dress up as peanut butter and jelly for the Twins and Opposites spirit day. • Nancy Thomas, Mark Patterson, and Amy Perkins all dress up as punks for the Preppy and Punk spirit day. • Cara Scalia, Briana Arroyo, and Noelle Sanders dress up as frat boys for the Twins and Opposites Spirit Day. • Bella Hoffheins, Lauren Pidcock, Jane Stockton, Mckenzie Rowell, Kristin Gettier, Brinley Bell, Chandler Vaughan, Alexandra Avjean, and Brooke Kirstien, all dress up as punks and preps for the Preppy and Punk Spirit day.



# HOMECOMING HALLWAY DECOR

For this year's Homecoming hallways each grade level's hallway was inspired by different board games. Homecoming Hallways: Seniors Lesly Molualisi and Daniel Gribbin hand out candy in the senior Candyland Hallway. • Sophomores Kieran Fensterwald, Cora Goeckeritz, Isabella Sangiuliano, Natalia Sangiuliano, and Maddison Robb dress up in the sophomore Monopoly Hallway. • Donovan Claybrooks plays saxophone in the Freshman Clue Hallway. • Abbie Knox, Ashley Lawlor, and Caris German enjoy fresh cotton candy from the senior hallway.





# PEP RALLY



# ATION



The ten girls on homecoming court were Hannah Penberthy, Sirra Faal, Brinley Bell, Ella Adam, Lily Adam, Brooke Kirstein, Devon Balac, Melina Rodriguez, Sydney Schnell, Josephine Boyle, Kristin Gettier, and Lauren Pidcock. The boys on homecoming court were Oliver Olsen, Harrison Rands, Luke McAllister, Clay Curtis, Harrison Bradford, Robert Dominguez, Joseph Lewis, William Daughtrey, Kyle Torrence Johnson, Bryce Bare, Daniel Gribbin, and Lucas Svenningsen. They each came up with their own skit to introduce themselves to the student body at the pep rally. Pep rally: Luke McAllister and Devon Balac dress up as Scooby Doo and Shaggy for their entrance for homecoming court. • Hannah Penberthy and Oliver Olsen doing their homecoming court entrance as SuperMan and Wonder Woman. • Joseph Lewis and Brooke Kirstein switch roles as soccer and lacrosse players for their homecoming entrance. • Matthew Anderson and William "Tommy" Daughtry enter as Washington Capitals players for their homecoming court entrance.



# NEWS

## GIANNOS PLACES TOP CADET OVERALL AT NJROTC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**Carolina Scalia**

*ROTC correspondent*

Over the summer, 16 year old cadet **McKenna Giannos** was nominated and selected to participate at the Naval Leadership Academy in Virginia Beach's Camp Pendleton. This leadership academy lasted for one week and during that time, McKenna was put through rigorous activities.

Throughout the week the instructors of the academy scored her on her PT, academic, drill and leadership capabilities. They also awarded points during inspection. "It was all a blur," Giannos said. "We would wake up at 5:30, and then start our day with either PT or drill and then go right into our four hour classes."

Giannos was selected by three Naval Science Instructors to participate in this academy. They chose someone who displayed strong leadership qualities in the unit and excelled in uniform inspections.

While participating at the leadership academy there

were many difficult inspections. Inspections consisted of making sure the barracks are clean, the bed is properly made, and the uniforms are put on and fitted properly. "It was pretty awful when we had combined barrack and uniform inspections," she said. "It was very intense."

At the end of the week when all the points were tallied, Giannos had no idea that she was going to be the top cadet overall. "It was a total surprise, I had no clue," she said of how excited and honored she was to receive the award.

"Leadership Academy taught me the necessary character that a leader needs to be successful," Giannos stated. Cadet Giannos learned a lot of valuable lessons while attending the academy, lessons that she will use throughout her lifetime.

*Cadet **McKenna Giannos** receives her award from Captain **James Daniels**. Giannos earned top cadet at the Naval Leadership Academy this summer. Photo courtesy of LC NJROTC*



## ANIMAL SUPPORT CLUB SHEDS LIGHT ON SERIOUS COUNTY ANIMAL ISSUE

**Michaela Scott and Maggie Sheridan**

*Raider Staff*

Although Loudoun County is the richest county in America, it neglects to give more attention to animals in need. Instead, a majority is used for schools. A club at our school is trying to change that.

According to English teacher and club sponsor **Katherine Ives**, the purpose of the animal support club is to raise funds to support needy animals in Loudoun County. Students will go and volunteer at events and participate in food drives for pets.

Senior president of the club, **Sam Hartman**, approached Ives during the beginning of his junior year and asked her to be the sponsor. "We need more students like Hartman," Ives said. "We need students who open their hearts to animals in need. It's not the teacher's club, it's the student's club."

Hartman created the club because animals in need is a major issue that he feels strongly about. "I've always been in love with helping animals and when there wasn't a club I was interested in joining, I decided to create one," he said.

According to the Loudoun County Animal Services website, there was a total of 450 animals reported to animal control within

the month of September.

"The club is very different than others at Loudoun County," Hartman said. "It's something that hasn't been done before. We help spread awareness because there's a lot more in need than you would think and we want to promote adoption."

Hartman said his club meetings vary from month to month. This depends on the scheduling of fundraisers and events occurring within the club. During the most recent meeting, Hartman states that he's kicking off the school year with a new fundraiser. The Humane Society is also taking part in this.

"I don't think students know about my club that much," Hartman admitted. "We've had posters and morning announcements about food drives, however it isn't being advertised as much as it should be."

The animal support club has already been thriving more than last year with so far 30 members. Hartman stated that if a student likes helping animals, helping society and having fun, this club is the place for you.

"If you care about animals in Loudoun County, and you want to do things to make a difference supporting the animals, join our club," Ives said.

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# CHOIR SWEEPS JLSMS IN LIP SYNC BATTLE

**Mackenzie Munn,**  
Managing Editor

On Tuesday October 15, members of the choir department battled students from the eighth grade choir at J. Lupton Simpson Middle School. The event was put together by choir director **William Rosenfeld** and the choir director at JLSMS, **Chelsea Curtis**.

"The purpose behind the event is for the students to practice performing, but more importantly for the two choirs to begin to form relationships with each other," Rosenfeld said.

The competition was divided into two categories: which group performed the best, and which school overall performed the best. There were four student judges that would be making the final decisions. Two from JLSMS and two from LCHS.

The event started off strong with **Josh O'Connor**, an eighth grader from JLSMS, performing "Firework" by Katy Perry. Dressed in a full Uncle Sam costume, O'Connor went all out in full confidence taking control of the stage. The audience cheered loudly the whole performance and gave a strong applause

when the performance concluded.

Following O'Connor, **Rachel Ramos**, a junior, performed the only other solo of the night. Performing "Home" from the musical "Beetlejuice," Ramos performed a beautifully choreographed performance that had the audience cheering the entire time.

The following five acts were separate groups under the names "VSCO Girls," "Wi... Uh Ella?," "Babies," "M & J," and "Powerpuffs." All took the stage with great performances. The mix of students from both the middle and high schools had the audience laughing and cheering for the different creativities each group had to bring to their acts.

The eighth act of the night under the name "The Greatest ShowMen" consisted of **Tyler Rhodes** and **Francisco "Paco" Gamez**, performed the song "The Other Side" from their group's namesake. They brought out props such as a table and chairs as well as shot glasses. They were both dressed in top hats and suits as they performed their song.

"Tyler is so shy, so seeing him perform like that was a total change in character for him," **Josh**



**Phyllis Schaefer and Madi Walley** perform "Say My Name" from *Beetlejuice*. Their performance, under the group name "Nertherlings," won best individual group. Photo: Mackenzie Munn

**Finger**, class of 2019, said. "He asked me to come back tonight to see him perform and now I know why."

The last group from JLSMS took the stage under the group name "Tik Tok." They performed a series of songs popularly used on the social media app "Tik Tok." It was a group of five eighth grade boys and girls that ended with a front flip performed by **Brandon Lee** at the end of the song.

"He practiced that front flip every time they practiced and he never landed it." **Sydney Barker**, senior said. "But somehow he managed to land it for the performance."

The final performance of the night was performed by "Nertherlings," which consisted of sophomores **Phyllis Schaefer**, **Gracie Hawkins**, **Madi Walley**,

and **Elaine Arrington** performing the song "Say My Name" from *Beetlejuice*. In full costume and makeup Schaefer entered the stage as Beetlejuice and got into full character while performing the song.

As the judges were tallying their final votes, everyone in the audience and all of the contestants were invited on stage to dance to the "Cha Cha Slide" while awaiting for the final decision.

The votes were tallied and the overall best group was "Netherlings" and the overall best school was LCHS.

"I'm so ecstatic and it was such a fun experience," Schaefer said. "It just makes me so happy to be on stage and it was so fun watching everyone else."

## ARTIST OF THE ISSUE: GUITARIST HOLDEN SHEA

**Olivia Zavadil**  
Business Manager

"Music allows a performer to communicate with the audience without saying a word, which is very appealing to me as a shy person," said senior **Holden Shea**. Now, concertmaster for the artist guitar ensemble, Shea began playing guitar his freshman year.

"Initially, the reason I started playing guitar was because I had a free elective and it sounded interesting," explained Shea. Although he hasn't been playing long, Shea has always excelled in guitar and quickly set himself apart from his peers.

"Since he was in beginning guitar, Holden has always excelled in my classes," said **Kareem Mccullough**, guitar teacher. "But what has really made him stand out recently is his developing leadership skills. He goes out of his way to help others in class and seeks any opportunity to perform for others,"

Shea quickly made himself a valuable asset to the guitar program, and was appointed as concertmaster for the artist guitar ensemble. "Holden earned this spot by being the most reliable player in the group and by

showing exemplary leadership," said Mccullough.

Along with playing guitar, Shea also composes original pieces of music. "I can't remember what the first piece I wrote was, but after my guitar class visited some caverns on a trip, I was inspired to write a piece that captured the essence of a cavern: the low, ominous claustrophobia can sound really good with low bass notes on guitar," said Shea.

Shea has made many notable accomplishments both within the guitar program and individually. "Holden has been selected for the all Virginia guitar ensemble two years in a row and the regional governor's school guitar ensemble three years in a row," said Mccullough. He will also lead the beginning ensemble in the Spring.

In addition to these accomplishments, one of Shea's original pieces, "From Ashes," was chosen to be performed at the 2019 VMEA conference. The Virginia Music Educators Association conference is held every year to promote music in highschools and highlight talented players. "I felt proud and excited that other people recognized the merits that I saw in the piece," said Shea.




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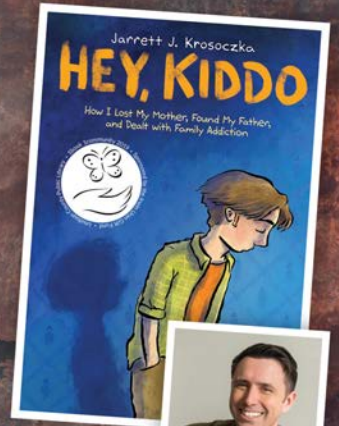

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# SPORTS

## SWIFTEST RUNNERS REVEAL THE VALUE OF CROSS COUNTRY

**Cara Hodge,**  
*Editor in Chief*

What makes running for miles in the sweltering heat on uneven terrain worth doing? It's a question many have pondered as they've watched struggling runners crawl past the finish line. For two of Loudoun County's fastest cross country runners, senior **Suzie Dilorenzo** and junior **Sean Rombach**, the answer is simple.

"Going into freshman year one of my friends was saying that her parents were making her do it," said Dilorenzo. She had no previous running experience and joined solely because she thought it would be fun to be a part of a team.

"It's rewarding, because you work really hard and get the results you want. It's all about being stronger than you think you are." Dilorenzo has done just that, participating in cross country all four years of high school and is now one of the fastest runners on the team.

For Dilorenzo, her most memorable race "would have to be Third Battle last year because I broke 20 minutes, and the rest of my team got lifetime and season PRs." She ran this fast pace into this year as she got an impressive 5k time of 19:39.50 and took 14th place at the Loudoun County Championships.

"I started running in fourth grade and carried it through high school and I've kind of reignited my passion," said Rombach, who has participated in cross country all three years of high school. "I really like the team effort. You're all working to move up," Rombach stated. He gives a lot of credit to the team aspect of cross country for influencing him to run every year.



Senior **Suzie Dilorenzo** runs at the meet at Great Meadows in September. Dilorenzo took 14th place overall at the Loudoun County Championships with a time of 19:39.50. Photo: Raider Sports

Rombach's most memorable race was also at the Third Battle Invitational where his strategy was "to stay in a fast pack and let them carry me through 1.5 miles faster than I had ever gone." He said it was also his most difficult race and that he pushed his "body to absolute exhaustion." In the end he collapsed across the finish line with a time of 17:00.6, a significant personal record for his sophomore cross country season.

"Earning a lifetime best and All-County" this year he placed 15th at the LCPS Championships with a time of 16:56.9. "We have high hopes and **Coach Campbell** knows

he needs to push us," Rombach said. He is confident in himself and his team's ability to reach their goal of making it to states this year.

"We're all working for each other," Rombach said. "Each position matters for team scoring and this season we've lit a fire." Most people think of cross country as an individual sport but each person's time has an affect on their team's overall time. "I've met a lot of great people through it, a lot of lifetime friends, it's a good atmosphere," said Dilorenzo. For both of these star runners it's the people and the coaches that

motivate them to work as hard as they do.

"I honestly think it was better for me. I met more people so I was more comfortable in high school," said Dilorenzo. Cross country has given both these runners the ability to form strong bonds and a real connection to the sport. "I'm considering running in college now because I want to work with a team for longer," said Rombach. There is no reluctance to run among these two, both are possibly looking to run in college, always wanting to have, as Dilorenzo said, "a family thing" to be apart of.

## ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE: ALAYNA JOHNSON

**Byron VanEpps**  
*Raider Staff*

For our first athlete of the issue, the newspaper staff nominated **Alayna Johnson**, freshman varsity volleyball player. Johnson, who has been playing volleyball for three years, is a libero and has played in all games (19 so far, at the time of publication) this season.

Johnson's Coach, **John Senchak**, cites her speed, quickness, and natural ability to read the game at high speeds as reasons for her being on the varsity team. "Once I and Coach **Christina North** saw all of these elements in Alayna, we then had to see how she would interact with the returning varsity players. Once they accepted her as a teammate, the decision to keep her on the varsity roster was easy," Senchak said, noting that her defensive instincts are better than any he has seen in his eight-year coaching career, with her (at the time



**Alayna Johnson** digs the ball during the September 5 home game against Stone Bridge High School. Photo: **Debbie Senchak**

of writing) 43 defensive digs.

Johnson and the rest of the team practice two and a half hours every day and three hours every Saturday morning until the season ends in November, but the schedule does not seem to be a burden. "The team is very caring and loving and they have a lot of support towards every player on the team," Johnson said.

Johnson boasts a 91.7 percent serve rating along with other impressive stats, like a tremendous 18 sets played within her first three months of playing, as well as 4 aces.

"Alayna is a great defender, she's always ready to jump in and defend," said sophomore setter and outside hitter **Sarah Jordan**. "I love playing with her."

### Varsity Volleyball

- 9/05/19 vs Stone Bridge 3-1 W
- 9/07/19 vs Loudoun Valley 3-1 W
- 9/10/19 vs Briar Woods 0-3 L
- 9/12/19 vs Riverside 3-0 W
- 9/16/19 vs Heritage 3-0 W
- 9/17/19 vs Tuscarora 3-0 W
- 9/19/19 vs Broad Run 3-0 W
- 9/24/19 vs Loudoun Valley 3-0 W
- 9/26/19 vs Independence 3-0 W
- 10/01/19 vs Park View 3-0 W
- 10/03/19 vs Dominion 3-0 W
- 10/07/19 vs Musselman 3-0 W
- 10/10/19 vs Tuscarora 3-0 W
- 10/15/19 vs Broad Run 3-0 W
- 10/17/19 vs Loudoun Valley 3-0 W
- 10/21/19 vs Hedgesville 3-0 W
- 10/22/19 vs Independence 3-1 W
- 10/24/19 vs Park View 3-0 W
- 10/28/19 vs Dominion 3-0 W
- 10/30/19 vs Heritage 3-0 W

# NOTABLE ATHLETES FROM THE PAST INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

**Cara Hodge**  
*Editor in Chief*

The athletic department recently inducted nine former County students into the Hall of Fame, ranging from past football quarterbacks and basketball stars to current New York lawyers and business owners. "It brought back fond and proud memories with my teammates and classmates who were avid Raiders' fans," said **Jack Barrett**, one of the inductees who was named "Most Athletic" by the Class of 1961 and went on to be a history teacher for 33 years.

"My athletic success enhanced my desire to experience similar satisfaction in other life adventures," said Barrett, who was not only a teacher but the president of Quality Pool Company and Loudoun Golf and Country Club, as well as the author of five books on the history of Loudoun County. "Success in athletics leads to success in other elements," Barrett said. It is clear that his drive for success is rooted in earlier accomplishments.

"It feels great to be on the wall with all the other accomplished athletes to come through LCHS," said inductee **Brian Fixx**, Class of 1989, who was captain of the football, basketball, and baseball teams during high school. Fixx went on to play basketball at California University of Pennsylvania where his team advanced to the Final Four in the 1991-1992 season. "I tend to

lean on my athletic experiences to help with my business approach as well as in helping others that I coach," Fixx stated, giving merit to how he was able to apply athletics to his professional life as well as to influence the future generation of athletes.

"The Hall of Fame is a great testament to the rich history of our school and our athletic accomplishments," said Athletic Director Kate Cassidy. The Hall of Fame was started six years ago. Every year from February to May a committee of eight staff members meet to look through nominations and choose who is most notable.

Applications are submitted by family or friends of past Loudoun County athletes who have gone on to accomplish many things in their athletic careers. The family or friends are required to provide documentation of past and present accomplishments and records of success.

"Having our athletes walk by the Hall of Fame pictures everyday is a great motivator for them to perform their best and strive to one day be on the wall," said Cassidy. In addition to Brian Fixx and Jack Barrett, the Class of 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees include:

**Bill Oblas, Administrator:** Oblas was involved in Loudoun County Public Schools for over 40 years. He served as principal of Loudoun County from 2004-2014, where he helped form the infamous "Raider Riot." He was actively involved in VHSL and served on the District

Council for nine years.

**Katie Baldwin, '02:** Baldwin was a four-year letter winner for Raider basketball and broke multiple records during her high school career. She went on to play Division 1 basketball at St. Francis College and the University of North Carolina, where she would later coach as well as at Tusculum College. She now owns her own in-home personal training company.

**Dennis Duff, '74:** Duff earned seven varsity letters during his career at LCHS for his participation in football, basketball, and baseball. He was best known for his accomplishments in baseball where he led the team with a .491 batting average senior year. He went on to play baseball at VA Tech, where he would break the record for home runs. He is now a career firefighter in Fairfax County.

**Joe Hembrook, '98:** Hembrook ran four years of varsity cross country and track and field for the Raiders. He broke multiple school records in track and field as well as a state title and earned All-State honors in both sports as a senior. He went on to run at Christopher Newport University where he is still in the top ten all time in the 800.

**Nancy McBride, '76:** McBride was an eight-time letter winner for the Raiders. She helped the

basketball team win District Championships three years in a row and pitched for the softball team all four years. She won All-District honors three years for basketball and was named the Northwestern District Player of the Year as a senior. She played on the Loudoun Women's Fastpitch Softball League before heading off to Radford University.

**Morgan Petkovich, '08:** Petkovich was a member of the first LCHS volleyball team to capture a state title in 2007. As a senior she was named First Team All-District, All-Region, and All-State, then earned a full-ride to play volleyball at Villanova University, where she gained Big East All-Conference honors and joined the 1,000-killclub. She graduated from Columbia Law School and now works as a sports and antitrust lawyer in New York.

**James Wynn, '98:** While in high school Wynn was captain for football, wrestling, and baseball. He received many honors in all three sports and placed 5th in the state for wrestling. He was elected Most Athletic by his senior class and was awarded the Donald F. Larson Scholarship for Citizenship, Honesty, Integrity, Loyalty, Sportsmanship, and Human Decency. He went on to attend law school at the University of Virginia.

# SCOREBOARD

## Varsity Football

- 8/29/19 vs Fauquier 31-0 W
- 9/06/19 vs Millbrook 28-17 W
- 9/13/19 vs Riverside 23-26 L
- 9/20/19 vs Loudoun Valley 17-7 W
- 9/27/19 vs Warren County 49-21 W
- 10/11/19 vs Independence 48-20 W
- 10/25/19 vs Tuscarora 7-42 L
- 11/01/19 vs Dominion 9-13 L
- 11/08/19 vs Heritage 28-6 W

## Varsity Golf

- 8/7/19 vs Spotswood 340-299
- 8/9/19 vs Freedom 317-290
- 8/15/19 vs Tuscarora 3-3
- 9/04/19 vs Independence 143-173
- 9/10/19 vs Skyline 308-0
- 9/17/19 vs Dominion 164-168
- 9/18/19 vs Loudoun Valley 152-147

## Varsity Field Hockey

- 8/26/19 vs Stone Bridge 4-2 W
- 8/28/19 vs Potomac Falls 1-0 W
- 9/04/19 vs Woodgrove 5-2 W
- 9/09/19 vs Riverside 0-8 L
- 9/11/19 vs Rock Ridge 6-0 W
- 9/16/19 vs Stone Bridge 1-2 L
- 9/18/19 vs Freedom 1-2 L
- 9/23/19 vs Riverside 1-9 L
- 9/24/19 vs Heritage 0-1 L
- 9/25/19 vs Dominion 1-4 L
- 10/02/19 vs Tuscarora 1-0 W
- 10/03/19 vs Loudoun Valley 1-0 W
- 10/14/19 vs Potomac Falls 3-2 W
- 10/15/19 vs Independence 0-7 L
- 10/16/19 vs Park View 7-0 W
- 10/22/19 vs Broad Run 0-2 L



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# END ZONE

## LATIN CLASSES MAP ANCIENT ROMAN WORLD ON CLASSROOM FLOOR

**Byron VanEpps**  
*Raider Staff*

Earlier this year, Latin Teacher **Lynn Krepich** unveiled a plan to her students to create a map of the ancient roman world on the classroom's floor. "I got the idea from watching **Peter Jennings** on ABC," Krepich said. Jennings would walk over a map in the studio whenever he was reporting on something overseas. "It really puts you there and gets you more interested in the news and what he was reporting on," Krepich said.

Krepich asked for the map to be made in order to help her students understand more about what they're reading and learning about in class. "I think it makes a lot more sense if students know, well, where is Tuscany?" Krepich said when giving an example about a Latin 4 Class. Krepich also feels it would be good for students to know where certain words or phrases derive from when translating authentic latin.

To create the map, she assigned junior **Jackson Chinn** as map designer and leader of the project. Chinn has lots of experience in cartography, so him leading the project worked out well. "I used to make maps when I was little, which is a little unorthodox for somebody to do in their spare time when they're in elementary school," Chinn said.

The boundaries, territories, and geography has been outlined using masking tape, with the map covering the entire floor of the classroom. Soon, the masking tape will be painted with different colors representing different land masses. Chinn has already placed the grid



**Alec Steel, Coleman Hamilton, and Maddeline Potts** color the borders of the map on the floor of the Latin classroom. Over the year, Latin students will interact with the map in order to enhance learning about the history of the Ancient Roman Empire. Photo: **Karen Cortes**

of masking tape on the floor of the classroom, made up of 70 by 70 centimeter boxes each representing a 500 by 500 kilometer area. Krepich expects the map to be completed by the first quarter, so that it is able to be used year round.

The map will start off with basic labels, but Krepich and Chinn are leaving it up to the students to help create labels and icons for specific areas on the map. "It's all going to

be based on what they study from the Latin perspective," Krepich said. Krepich plans to tie this into the curriculum as well, having the icons students create relate to the unit they're studying. "Latin 2 is currently studying the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, so they could create icons for those areas and place them on the map," Krepich said.

Krepich hopes students are able to make more connections to

Latin through this project. "It is essential that every Latin student understands not only the syntax of the text but also the geography that frames the ancient writing and the roman authors," Krepich said.

"I love how now that we're translating, that we're able to go in more depth and actually see where Caesar travelled during the Gallic Wars," Latin 6 Student **Christina Kendrat** said.

## HEAVY LIFTING ENGLISH TEACHER PLACES THIRD IN WEIGHTLIFTING COMPETITION



**Olivia Zavadil**

*Business Manager*

**Paige Illig** might

seem like your average English teacher with her petite frame and mild personality, but she has a surprising talent; Olympic weightlifting. This past year, Illig placed third in her class at the Black and Red open in Reston.

Illig first became interested in weightlifting a year ago when her boyfriend convinced her to give it a try. "I was always really lazy, and I hated working out," said Illig. "When I started lifting weights, it was fun, and I started to get the

English teacher **Paige Illig** lifts 48 kilograms in the clean and jerk. Illig has been competing in weightlifting competitions such as the Black and Red open in her free time. Photo courtesy of Paige Illig.

results that I wanted."

Illig also enjoys the challenging and competitive environment that comes along with the lifts. "The lifts are a challenge to do, and it's a way to add competition to something that wouldn't normally be competitive," she said.

Illig competes in various weightlifting competitions throughout the year, most frequently in the Black and Red open competition. The competitions are organized in the same way as a swim meet; you cheer on your teammates, but you are still competing as an individual against them.

While placing third in her class is a huge accomplishment, Illig does not view this as her most notable accomplishment. "Being able to clean and jerk a hundred pounds was a personal victory for me," Illig said. "Placing

didn't really make that much of a difference to me, but having that personal victory of getting the weight that I really wanted."

In regards to anyone interested in picking up Olympic weightlifting, Illig suggests doing research and being wary of injury.

"Make sure you know how to properly lift before you start so you don't get hurt, because it's super easy to pull something or hurt yourself," she said. "It's a very easy thing to fall into, and once you start with that community it's very easy to reach out to other people that can help you."

Comparing weightlifting to teaching, Illig noted the reversal of roles from teacher to student. "I definitely see the relation in the way of learning from someone who is more experienced than you, and being more of a student," she said.