



Eagles soar to victory

GABII PAUL
Staff writer



Hungry for victory, the football team runs through the band as the fight song is played and the crowd cheers.

Photo used with permission from FPS Community Relations Office.

As junior quarterback Eric Ellis steps out onto the field for the homecoming game, dozens of thoughts and emotions course through his veins.

There is only one thing he needs to worry about, however: "Take care of the ball, and value every play," he said.

The team was facing a mental wall: They had "lost three starting defenders, [Shaquan McGriff, Ron Hunt and Eric Burnham] all who played in the middle of the defense," football coach Ryan Dunlap said, "but we were able to hang on."

Ellis has transformed into a leader in the eyes of the seniors as well as underclassmen.

"He's really evolved since he joined the team, he's actually able to lead now," senior long snapper Darius Alvis said. (He was the starting

quarterback when he hurt his knee and sat out for five weeks).

The game was a memorable triumph in the eyes of Dunlap. "It is always harder to prep the team with all the distractions of homecoming week," he said.

The toughest struggle the team overcame was injuries: Linebacker Shaquan McGriff went out with a shoulder injury and had to be taken to the hospital. Linebacker Ron Hunt and defensive tackle Eric Burnham also suffered shoulder injuries. Ellis helped guide his team through this fight by maintaining his focus.

"...I had next week's game in mind," he said.

As a leader, Ellis celebrated the victory with his team, careful not to let the achievement cloud his judgment, and reminding himself that there's always another team to beat, always another game to win.



Photo courtesy of Micaela Ellis

Ellis maintains his focus throughout the game.

Grab your partner, share a dance; welcome home Ferndale



Homecoming King Eric Burnham and Queen Tirzah Ashmore share the spotlight.

Photos by India Solomon

INDIA SOLOMON
Junior editor-in-chief

An exuberant night to remember was created as hugs were exchanged, moments were captured and Principal Herb Ivory brought back the old school as he sang along to "My Girl" by The Temptations.

The homecoming dance was held at DeCarlo's Banquet facility which provided drinks, pizza, chicken wings and nachos, tables and a photo booth. Though the tickets this year were \$5 more expensive than last year's, these additions made up for the cost. "Homecoming was splendid!" junior Lilie Myers exclaimed. "The food was delicious, the music was decent, and everyone looked oh-so-dashing."

The venue this year proved to be a lot more exciting for many students in comparison to last year's. "This year's venue was much larger than the one last year," sophomore Amber Williams said. "The dance floor was larger, food was provided—which I didn't get to try,

but I heard was amazing—and the overall experience was just a lot more fun this year."

For first-timers, such as freshman Jack Traynor, all of the rumors about how homecoming would be came to life. "I thought that it was really fun and the music was good," Traynor said. "The place was great, and it gave people enough room to actually dance. It was a great way to start off my freshman year."

As usual, Homecoming King Eric Burnham made the best out of his senior homecoming, living it up to the fullest. "It was a fist-pumping good time," Burnham said.

As the lights dimmed and Burnham shared a dance with Homecoming Queen Tirzah Ashmore, everyone took hold of their partners and joined in to make a celebratory end to a spectacular night.



Burnham mingles through the crowd and parties with his peers, making the best out of his last homecoming dance.



With its dim lights and formal décor, most students said DeCarlos provided the perfect setting for an elegant night.

Students rally around Ivory, sports teams

RACHEL DERY
Editor-in-chief

Students came together on homecoming weekend's Friday afternoon for a rousing pep rally including a performance by the marching band and cheerleading team. Students enjoyed competing against teachers in the musical chairs game and frozen t-shirt competition. The fall sport captains were recognized, and the entire school showed their support for the football team as they cheered them on.

Ivory dances with students, cheerleaders pump up crowd



Photos courtesy of FPS Community Relations Office

Homecoming Court Crowning



This year's court included: Lexi Brisson-Fast & Ryan Koprince, Brielle Edwards & Patrick Ceglarek, Tirzah Ashmore & Aaron Davis, Kelsey Wilson & Brandon Davis, Kilen Craig & Eric Burnham.

Freshmen struggle in tug-of-war, seniors take victory



New traditions, higher standards

ZACK MARSACK & SEAN McQUEENEY
Staff writer Staff writer

The traditional homecoming court voting process is a thing of the past at FHS.

In order for students to even be considered for court, they have to meet the following requirements: have a 2.0 G.P.A., good behavior and attendance records, and they must submit a one-paragraph essay explaining why they think they deserve to be on the homecoming court. Then administration chooses the top 20 students (10 boys, 10 girls) which form the court. After that, it is the students' decision to choose a king and queen.

Executive Vice Principal Lisa Williams said the decision to change the voting came from "[wanting] to get rid of the popularity in the contest" and "[finding] a good representative for Ferndale High School."

Moreover, some people had been nominated in the past who didn't want to be, according to Principal Herb Ivory, and this process eliminates that issue.

Some students, like USA rep Trizah Ashmore, think the new way of voting is effective and is the best possible way to find the best possible candidates.

Ivory, Williams and USA adviser Shannon Pietras feel that getting the popularity out of the contest and focusing on a student's merit is the best way to hold this competition. English teacher Rachel Morrison thinks students have more of a chance since it "allows those to be more representative of what Ferndale has to offer with its academics, personality and behavior."

Though Ivory says other schools have used this voting process for years, many students disagree with it.

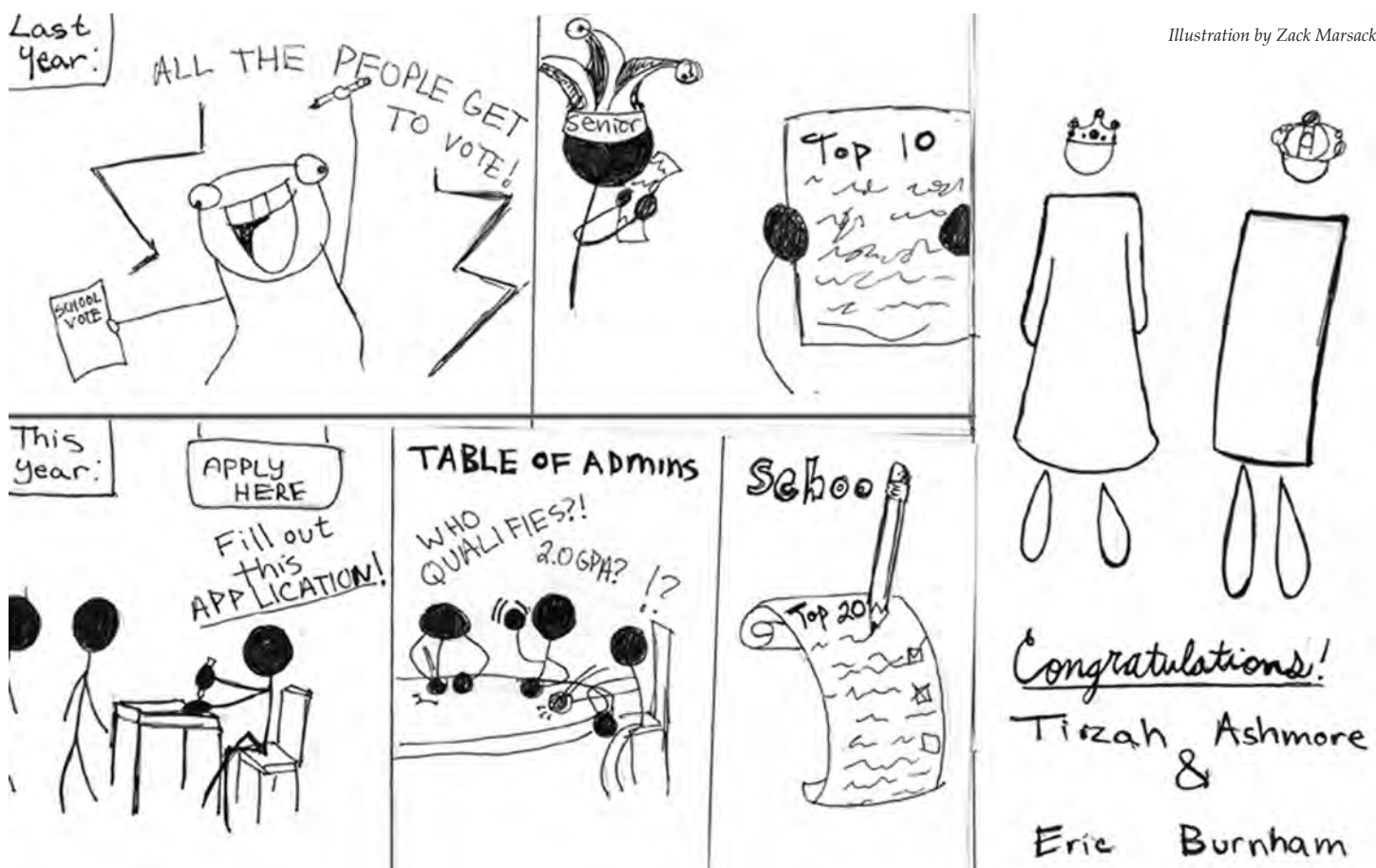
Senior Sam Schurg thinks the contest was not a fair chance to find the best representative because not everyone had a fair chance at winning, even those involved in extra-curricular school activities.

Junior Heather Proimos has the same mindset, adding that she's "heard rumors about the homecoming being rigged for the varsity volleyball team."

Volleyball coach Pietras laughed when she heard the rumor. "It wasn't even my decision," she said. "It went to administration like Ms. Williams to decide."

Others think there's just no way this process can even be fair. "I don't think there is a fair way, [and] even if there was, I wouldn't know," history teacher Marcus Huyck said.

Williams acknowledges that many students don't like change in the school, but they will eventually



Last year, the entire student body nominated 20 student to be on homecoming court. From there the senior class decided the top 10 for homecoming court. This year, seniors applied to be on the court. Administrators chose 20 students who they felt best represented the school and were most involved. From those, the whole school voted for the 10 students who would become the homecoming court.

get used to it. She says that most people who were upset about the change were those who didn't win a spot on court.

"I think [this year's court] was successful because the winners were well-deserving," Pietras said.

STUDENT SPEAK



"I liked previous years, because previous years it was a lot more laid back. This year they had to turn in essays and have a certain GPA. I think that homecoming should be more relaxed, and anyone should be able to become homecoming king or queen."

-Haley Jackson
Class of 2014



"I like the original way of voting because I feel that if something isn't broke, don't fix it. It also gives everyone an equal chance like everyone else."

-Darrell Strong-Staples
Class of 2013



"I like previous years of voting, but I understand some of why they changed it. They want someone that represents FHS, not someone who merely attends. It could have been a little smoother. Previous years, you could pick whoever you wanted and seniors got the last vote; that's what I missed - the senior class deciding who their king and queen were."

-Sarah McElroy
Class of 2012



"I did like the old way because it gave a lot of power to the students to pick who they wanted, but I prefer the new way because people who normally wouldn't get picked for homecoming king or queen get picked and it's nice to see people who deserve it."

-James Forsyth
Class of 2012

All photos by Sean McQueeney

Flower parties, class floats, school spirit, oh my!

RACHEL DERY
Editor-in-chief

80s

SHANNON HERON - Class of '87
Counseling Center Secretary

"The homecoming dance was held right after the football game in the commons and it was FREE! Break dancing was a tradition at all FHS dances. Everyone would get in a big circle and watch the amazing dancers twist and turn and stand on their heads."

ALISON MAES - Class of '83
Science Teacher

"One of the big traditions back then was flower making parties and float building parties. It is unfortunate that those traditions couldn't continue."

"...it was the time when I felt the most school spirit. Everyone was energized and hungry for a football victory."

Photos courtesy of the 1994 & 1995 Talon yearbooks



"The seniors' class of 1994 float of Humpty Dumpty sits waiting to be judged for the float contest."

-the 1994 Talon Yearbook

90s

JULIA LoPICCOLO - Class of '94
Spanish Teacher

"My fondest memory of homecoming was creating our senior float. We built the float at my house. Our senior float was Humpty Dumpty, and he was almost the height of my house."

"We used to have flower parties where people from your graduating class would go to someone's house to make paper flowers out of napkins."

SCOTT JEFFREY - Class of '95
FMS Social Studies Teacher

"I think [homecoming] mattered to us because it was a community-wide celebration of our community. Though everything centered around the football game, you could expect everybody in town to be at the game."

00s

HERB GOLIDAY - Class of '01
College Success Advisor

"[I remember] getting in trouble. Each year, my friends and I would all decide not to come home until the next day after the dance."

"There was, however, a lot more school spirit. The majority of the students at FHS would attend the football game, actually watch the game, and then go to the dance the next day."



"Knock Them Dead And We'll Be Grateful! That's exactly what the seniors did."

-the 1995 Talon Yearbook

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST: *High school edition*

SOPHIA DAVIDSON
Staff writer

Groups of kids are everywhere. The buzz of voices swims through the large commons. Bundles of nerves sit like a brick at the bottom of your stomach.

It's the first day of high school.

By now, we've all been there. The first day of school is a terrifying experience for most. It's an entirely new setting; for some, it might even get to be too much.

Wouldn't high school be so much simpler with a guide or an instruction manual?

If only it were that simple.

It can become a challenge trying to balance school work with sports and your social life and not feel like dropping like a fly at the end of the day. Luckily, though, you can learn from upper classmen's experiences and make the best of your freshman year.

Interacting with Fellow Minors

The No. 1 thing freshmen have to remember when balancing high school life is that socialization should never be first on your priority list. "School work first, then your job on the field, then, if you have [time], socialization," sophomore Ross Langley advises.

Your friends will always be there, so stay focused on taking care of home and class work. Pay attention to the teacher as much as you can, even if your friends are trying to engage in conversation. Even when you're at home, you can start to do some homework, and then take a break to talk with friends, as long as you get back to the books.

So you already have a solid group of friends? Well, it's always great to meet new ones. New friends can be great motivators and supporters. "If you see someone in class that would be a good friend, go up to him/her and start a conversation about anything," junior Matt Lapinski said.

Mallory Fuller, junior, says that because students are no longer limited by age groups or by who is in Arts or Open classes, high school opens students up to many different people, so don't be afraid to talk to new people. You have a school full of different,

exciting kids waiting to be your friend; all you have to do is be willing to get to know them.

A lot more friends and a lot more people also means a lot more drama. Dean of Students Alan Kantor says that even though this can get distracting, it's not an excuse to fail. Steer clear of those who focus more on spreading rumors and getting in fights rather than school.

So what happens if you get caught in all the drama? Separate yourself from the situation. Trust that you'll be better off without them, he says.

Take a Snooze

Believe it or not, going through your first year of high school can cause a bit more stress than you think.

"Transitioning to high school was a bit of a physical shock because I was used to functioning on at least a few hours more of sleep than I was getting my freshman year," senior Emily Dempsey said.

Your previous sleeping schedule probably will not work as well this year as it did last year. Even though school may start at a similar time, your work load will be larger than it was in middle school. Try to break your homework up or figure out a schedule that won't keep you up the entire night.

If you have free time in school before class, crack open some reading you may have for a class. Or, pull out something you know you'll need help with - that way you have the resources to help around you. And remember, it's better to stay up a bit later finishing up homework rather than watching TV or talking with friends.

Studying will further your education; unfortunately, talking will not.

Kantor advises not to over commit. Don't take on a bunch of activities all at once at the beginning of the year. Start out with one or two, and see if you can handle that; but remember, the main focus is going to be school work, so if you can't handle it, there's always next year.

You Should Probably Write This Down

Don't think of teachers as being put in your life to ruin it and make you miserable - they just want to help you.

Listen to what your teachers have to say. They're not just giving out work to give it out, they actually want you to learn something - that's their job. "High school teachers care as much [as middle school teachers], but they express it by forcing students to figure things out for themselves," senior Alexis L'Esperance said.

Assistant Principal Roger Smith advises not to be embarrassed to ask teachers questions. "It's more embarrassing to fail," he said. Even if you think it's stupid, chances are, they've heard your questions plenty of times before. They welcome questions - it shows you are engaged and that you care. If you're shy about saying things in class, teachers are always willing to work out a time to meet. Use your resources: Teachers are the best resource of all.

Get Yourself Organized

One of the most important elements of having a good high school experience is preparation. "I wish that I had been warned that things were going to get a lot more complicated in high school; I feel that on many levels I was not prepared for that change," L'Esperance said.

Brian Kelly, math teacher and Ninth Grade Team member, explains that a common mistake of freshmen is taking too long to adjust to high school standards. The amount of work and responsibility required in middle school is not the same as high school. Now, classes require a lot more from you, as do sports and other activities.

How do you deal?

Maturity: Understand that late work and no work have a consequence.



Those FHS things you wish you knew...

- Kathy Wiley now works as the college transition specialist in the college and career planning center located next to the counseling office. Seniors may come into the college and career planning center for help with college applications and planning. Check the senior bulletin for application deadlines
- Talon Yearbooks are now on sale for \$50 in room 331. Prices will increase to \$55 after Nov. 1.
- Yearbook ads will be on sale until Nov. 1. Personalize your yearbook by purchasing an ad from Ms. Daniels in room 331.
- Mr. Kantor is still looking for qualified students to join the mentoring program. It's never too late to join! The mentors meet every Tuesday after school in the media center.
- The Class of 2015 meets in Señora LoPiccolo's room every Wednesday at lunch and sometimes after school.
- The Class of 2014 meets in Mr. Hand's room every Thursday at lunch.
- The Class of 2013 meets in Ms. Gordon's room every Wednesday at lunch.
- The Class of 2012 meets in Frau Brady's room every Thursday at lunch.
- The Art Club, advised by Ms. Miller, meets in room 219 every Thursday during lunch and after school a few times a month.
- The fall play, a murder mystery called *The Mouse Trap*, will open Nov. 11. Show times to be announced.
- Marching band state finals will be held Nov. 6 at Ford Field.
- The National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held Oct. 18. Their first meeting will be Nov. 4.
- *The Hijinx and Hilarity* concert will be held Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The concert will include performances from the orchestra, the choir, and the dance team. Young children will also be able to participate in the costume parade.
- ATTENTION STUDENT DRIVERS: You must have a parking permit in order to be granted permission to park in the student parking lot. Permits can be filled out in the assistant principal's office. You must know the name, color, model, license plate number and year of the car.

We appreciate our PATRONS!

Bronze

Cathy Brady
Patrice Fueri
Goedert Family
Alexandria Shurg
Trish McKenzie
Brian Kelly

Silver

Karen Gordon
Linda Murley

Gold

Marc Reosti

Platinum

Walter Rakowsky

Free time? Join a Club!

Many students may be unaware of the various clubs and activities available. Never fear! We've got you covered with our clubs and activities guide! Read on to learn about the groups that make things happen. Ranging from science to business to art, there is a club for everyone. And remember, they'll all look good on college résumés. Whether you're looking for something productive, educational or just plain fun to do with your time, FHS has got a club for you! Find your passion, learn a new hobby, or explore a possible career path with the clubs and activities of FHS!

Art Club

ADVISER: Ms. Miller
PLACE: Ms. Miller's room (219)
DAY: Thursday
TIME: Lunch and sometimes after school

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: This club is for anyone, artistically inclined or not, who doesn't have the opportunity to take an art class. The Art Club is supported by the Fine Arts Boosters, which means multiple fundraisers will be held for the group.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "I am in art club because I like to draw, and it's fun to interact with people who have the same interests," sophomore Shayla Crawford said.

SADD

ADVISER: Ms. Miller
PLACE: Ms. Miller's room (219)
DAY: Thursday
TIME: Lunch and sometimes after school

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: SADD - Students Against Destructive Decisions - is an anti-drug, drinking and bullying organization. This year, SADD plans to volunteer at the middle school safe night and teach a mini-class at Coolidge in order to become positive role models. This group is very productive in mentoring other kids. It provides a safety network by spreading awareness.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "I really like the idea of students gathering for the purpose of giving back to the community that gives so much to us. Groups like SADD focus on helping rather than just gaining, which is a great practice to apply after high school," junior Mallory Fuller said.

Robotics Club

ADVISER: Ms. Matthews
PLACE: Robotics room
DAY: Thursday, Nov. 3
TIME: 3:30 p.m.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: Robotics gives students experience in engineering, designing, programming, entrepreneurship and business.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "We learn to use power tools safely, and we get a lot of down-time where we just get to eat and chill with the rest of the team. It's also great to see your efforts turn into a functioning robot with all the little pieces of metal and plastic we've cut and drilled throughout the six-week building season," sophomore Derrick Harris said.

USA

ADVISERS: Ms. Oliver and Ms. Pietras
PLACE: Ms. Oliver's room (223)
DAY: Tuesday
TIME: 7a.m. - 8 a.m.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: USA allows students to get involved and become leaders within the school. The club organizes many fundraisers within the school and community and is considered a very rewarding experience.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "The club plays a very large part within the school. We plan almost every school-wide event and sometimes even events outside of school," senior Lexi Brisson-Fast said.

Class of 2012

ADVISERS: Frau Brady and Ms. Ellis
PLACE: Frau Brady's room (101)
DAY: Wednesday
TIME: Lunch

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: Seniors can get involved with their class by helping raise money and make executive decisions.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "If you get a chance to help out and be a part of *your class* decisions, why wouldn't you take it?" senior Imari Peterson said

Class of 2014

ADVISERS: Mr. Hand and Ms. Roulo
PLACE: Mr. Hand's room (203)
DAY: Wednesday
TIME: Lunch

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: Sophomores can get involved with their class by helping raise money and make executive decisions.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "Sophomores should join this club because it gives us a sense of belonging and a chance to make new friends," sophomore Felicia Brown said.

DECA

ADVISER: Mr. Hunter
PLACE: Mr. Hunter's room (211)
DAY: Thursday
TIME: Lunch

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: DECA is a business marketing program for 10-12 graders that competes at conferences all over the state. It offers programs to learn marketing and entrepreneurship.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "People should join DECA because it's fun, you learn a lot, it offers many scholarships and it looks very good on your résumé. Also, it's really exciting to compete," president and senior Brittany Gregory said.

NEW! Green Club

ADVISER: Ms. Veresh
PLACE: Main Conference room
DAY: Refer to Facebook page
TIME: Lunch

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: The Green Club is a primarily student-run organization that is working to turn FHS into an official green school. The group is new to FHS, so there is still a lot of planning to do, but the more environmentally driven people, the better! The Green Club will be participating in many community service activities such as raking leaves, weeding community gardens and organizing bottle drives. The primary purpose of the group is simply to spread environmental conservation awareness and make people more cautious about the way they lead their lives.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "[This] is a great organization in which students can benefit the community through environmental consciousness," senior and co-chairman Matthew Lapeer said.

Mentoring

ADVISER: Mr. Kantor
PLACE: Media Center
DAY: Tuesday
TIME: After school

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: The mentoring program is for 10th - 12th graders who are interested in setting an example and giving advice to freshmen who need it the most. The mentors go into 9th grade English classrooms every other Friday and participate in communication activities with either their designated group of freshmen or the entire class. It's never too late to join!

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "I joined because I had fun with my mentors last year, and I wanted to make sure that incoming freshmen have the same experiences," sophomore Christina Feiner said.

W.I.N.G.S.

ADVISER: Ms. Williams
PLACE: Main Conference room
DAY: Thursdays
TIME: After school

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: Working to Inspire, Nurture & Guide Self-efficacy: Girls from 9th-12th grades meet to build self-esteem, focus on female empowerment and prepare for a successful future.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "Wings is a great organization that teaches girls how to act like young ladies and to have respect for ourselves and others. We experienced various activities that gave us a better perspective on how we view the world. We participated in the Susan Komen breast cancer walk and went to see 'The Color Purple' at the Fox Theatre. Overall, I was able to learn how to express myself in a more positive way," junior Brittany Edwards said.

Class of 2013

ADVISERS: Ms. Gordon and Ms. Murphy
PLACE: Ms. Gordon's room (212)
DAY: Wednesday
TIME: Lunch and sometimes after school

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: Juniors can get involved with their class by helping raise money and make executive decisions.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "My favorite thing about the class meetings is that everyone is really cool. We've only got one more year of high school left, so it's important to get involved," junior Taylor White said.

Class of 2015

ADVISERS: Señora LoPiccolo and Ms. Veresh
PLACE: Señora LoPiccolo's room (102)
DAY: Wednesday
TIME: Lunch

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: Freshmen can get involved with their class by helping raise money and make executive decisions.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK: "The class of 2015 is the best. We are the last class to have Mr. Ivory. We're great," freshman Karley Wilson said.

Student's magic mesmerizes FHS



Ryan shows intense concentration as he moves the bottle with his mind.

CELESTE GOEDERT
Staff writer
The student crowd waits with baited breath. Gasps, then mesmerized smiles are exchanged. Junior Ryan Stoll is transforming what would have been an otherwise trivial lunch hour into a brilliant spectacle of magic.

6'2" and angular with spiky black hair, Ryan wears a black leather jacket and an unmistakably intense stare.

He enjoys captivating others with his ability to "make people question themselves."

"He did a trick where he moved a bottle without touching it and it was one of the coolest things I've ever seen. It made me think about things that I didn't think could be real," junior Owen Carroll said.

Ryan appreciates the mystery of magic and the looks of wonder rendered by his audience.

"Magic is not really a popular thing to do, but I want to be a professional illusionist when I am older," he said.

He has already booked a couple of shows at the Hilton Hotel. Beyond all of this, Ryan cares about how magic makes people feel. He is impassioned by the way people are emboldened and assuaged by magic far more than any gained attention.

"I don't care how the trick works; I care about how it affects people. I want magic to motivate them," he explains.

At 12, Ryan was inspired to become an illusionist after watching his grandfather execute a mirage that seemed beyond the bounds of possibility. "He dropped a salt shaker over a piece of paper and it fell right through, as though there was no paper at all," he said.

Ever since, Ryan has been teaching himself magic. He observes other magicians like David Blaine and Criss Angel, then builds upon their ideas for something original. When Ryan has forged his vision into a finished trick, he always strives for one thing:

"I try to blur the line between reality and illusion in a way that washes people's stress away."

-Ryan Stoll

Ryan believes magic can enliven people through its potential to open the mind to totally unique sensations. Having such compassion for other's emotions is a part of Ryan's personality, consultant Paula Cardelli says.

Sometimes a tumult of students gathers in the commons, anticipating Ryan's next mystical phenomenon.

Perhaps Ryan will push something off of a table using nothing but his fervent stare, his jaw set in concentration.

Maybe he will force shreds of paper to reconstruct into a whole page, hands shaking.

But it doesn't matter which illusion Ryan decides on, for his magic will always promise to rest the souls of his audience.