



Reading and Relaxation

The Illini Bluffs High School/Middle School Library loans forty to sixty-five books a month, of course depending on the individual student preferences and the needs of the teachers and classrooms. The library now has up to twelve stand alone computers and houses thirty-six laptops in the school's mobile lab.

Beth Nau, a Library Aide explains the goals of the IBHS/IBMS library, "I wish to establish it as a place where students can come to collaborate effectively for school use. In my opinion, the library should be a place to read, study, have quiet conversations without distractions, relax, and enjoy the feeling of accomplishment whether it be personal, scholastic, or social."

—Laenie Swardenski

Middle School PARCC

PARCC has stirred up a lot of controversy since the announcement that Illinois would adopt it instead of the ISATs. Many high schools are fighting the new standardized test because of its necessity.

Despite peaceful protests and verbal disagreements throughout Illinois, many middle and elementary school students have accepted the new form of testing. To the Sixth grade of Illini Bluffs, it seems to be going fairly well.

While they take the new standardized tests, classes take breaks to give their brains a breather.

PARCC took place all last week and will be administered to the high school this week.

Let's wish them luck!

—Jeston Rademaker

Sportsmanship Awards Presented



Every year the Glasford Optimist Club presents a Sportsmanship Award to a male and female senior athlete. These players are selected by an opposing team's fan who chooses the player who they think displayed sportsmanship for that specific game. The athletes with the most votes and the winners of the 2015 award are Alanni Young and Chet Merritt. —Abbi Schafer

Spanish Club Cultural Night



On Friday, March 13th, the Illini Bluffs Spanish Club held their own version of a global fest. Global Fest is an annual production where students from different schools join together at one location to learn about different cultures of the world. Unfortunately, this year's Global Fest has been cancelled and moved to next fall. Due to this, Mrs. Brewuer decided to host one for students at IB.

On the night of the Illini Bluffs Global Fest, there were a

multitude of activities held. There were piñatas, maracas, cha-cha dancing, food, contests, and more. Each of these activities rewarded students with a ticket which they would put in a cup for a drawing for a prize. There were sombrero prizes which held different small items and gift cards, and there was also a chance to win a tablet or a Fit Bit, a bracelet that helps you get fit.

At the end of the night, we concluded the party with the



movie "The Book of Life," which is a movie based on a Spanish day called the Day of the Dead. After the movie was completed, we drew for prizes. At the end, everyone was a winner because we all left with a ten dollar gift card for a Mexican restaurant.

Overall, it was a very fun time, and it would be a great event to consider doing next year as well.

—Maddie Gruber

Statistics

Ms. Martin’s 7th graders are beginning their unit on statistics, which is the basis for many careers. They will organize and interpret data in order to make assumptions for larger groups or information.

The most important part of the foundation of this unit will be understanding random sampling methods. Students will need to be able to recognize if there is any bias in the data, and create sampling methods to overcome the bias.

Ms. Martin encourages students to participate in reviewing basic concepts of central tendency, which tends to be resisted by more passive students. It is very useful to review them before moving on to interpreting and creating data.

—Lucas Sondgeroth

Making Comparisons

Below are two examples of analogies created by Mrs. Halverson’s 7th Grade class last week.

**Colorful is to bright
as dull is to dark**

**Water is to refresh
as food is to fill**

—Laenie Swardenski

Unsolved Mysteries

In Mr. Brown’s AP History class, students uncovered the mystery of the Beale Treasure. There are many theories about the contents, location, and the validity of the treasure. This caused students to dig deep in order to piece together the puzzle pieces of the mystery.

World History II students learned that drastic times call for drastic measures. Europe, still recovering from war, is thrust into a great depression. Soon after, that same depression will plague the United States.

Those countries’ hardships led to two very different outcomes. Europeans fell prey to the dictatorships of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and Franco. The United States endured the Depression Era with our democracy intact.

Mr. Brown states, “Most

students struggle with economics and recognizing the impact economies have on society. Economics is not always the most exciting aspect of history, but is essential to understanding history. In example, most people wonder how men like Adolf Hitler came to power. Hitler did not take power by force, but preyed on peoples’ economic hardships and their longing for Germany to return to power.”

It is important for students to make connections between how we deal with economic hardships and how it plays a key role politically, socially, and culturally.

—Jaimie Randle

Bragging Rights Results

This year Illini Bluffs High School hosted the 14th annual Bragging Rights game, a beloved tradition at the school. Bragging Rights is a basketball game between the Seniors and the seniors. *Oops, I mean the staff.*

Each side formed a team of their choice players. Clay Vass, Calli Conrad, and Andy Huey were a few of the fan-favorite teachers that represented the Faculty team, while the Senior team was comprised of Lani Young, Bailey Kallister, Clara Cortiguera, Chet Merritt, Joe Gresham, Matt Smith, Jake Cox, George Foust, and special guest, Jake Worms.

The game was off to a good start for the Faculty team, seeing as they held their own on the court for the first quarter. But the Seniors fought continuously, slowly building up their points through the second and third quarters. The Faculty stayed close behind throughout the game, but only one came out victorious.

The Faculty put up a good fight, but the Seniors took the cake winning 71-67.

Good spirits were kept as both teams congratulated each other at the end of the evening.

—Veronica Lee



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