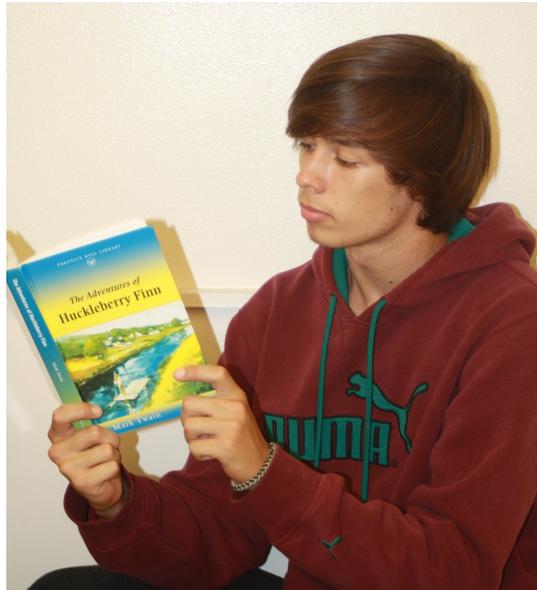




Some Good Luck with Huck

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn has been a part of the country's high school required reading for nearly a hundred years. It has been heralded as the single greatest piece of literature of all time and disregarded as utter trash. It has perhaps one of the most controversial histories of any American literature. And it is being read by Illini Bluffs High School's History in Literature class for the first time.

Often we hear of famous authors giving their opinions on the classic piece of Americana. Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, claimed if Twain couldn't "think of something better to tell our pure-minded lads and lasses he had best stop writing for them." While only a few years later Hemingway claimed, "All modern



Senior Austin Godar defends the book but recognizes many people's fears, "I believe that Huck Finn should be taught in schools, but only in senior-level classes. It is an enormously important book and is worth discussing, but its content should only be handled by those mature enough to do so with delicacy."

American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*." Part of the book's great allure is its controversy.

Laenie Swarden-ski, Illini Bluffs senior, defended the book saying, "My initial thought of Huck is that he is a student of the world, he allows the harsh factors of his life to guide him where he needs to go. I do believe it should be taught in high school

because it allows readers to see the reality in the way society treated African Americans. Hopefully reading the novel will open readers' eyes with today's struggles of racial tension." Clearly our IB students would disagree with the *Little Women* author.

Most view its controversy as less important than its historic implications. Mark Twain's great work offers a glimpse to the past in the

very hearts of Americans. We see the battle young Huck goes through as his beliefs change and how his old way of life is challenged. It is a story not of a boy but of America, constantly growing and changing. It is a story of how resilience, hope, strength in convictions and friendship can come from anywhere. It is a timeless message and a timeless piece of literature.

IB Baseball: In It to Win It

Middle School Baseball has had a great season so far, with a 7-4 record, their eyes now are fixed on regionals. Coach Stephen Schafer expresses his hopes that "the bats have come alive and I believe it should continue."

There's truth behind his words as they handily beat Chillicothe 5-0 with a no-hitter by 8th grader Lucas Creek. He was backed by the great defense of Colton Teel,

1st Grade Monarchs

Insects are generally looked at with disgust or annoyance. Mrs. McCoy's First Grade Class is learning of a different way to view insects (beautiful) by focusing primarily on the butterfly.

This week they learned of the Monarch butterfly's life cycle, from egg all the way to butterfly. They have been keeping the caterpillars and are now waiting for them to chrysalis. Eventually they will be able to release a swarm of beautiful butterflies.

They've also been doing several accompa-

nying activities to learn about the butterfly. To see their symmetry, they painted half of a butterfly and folded it in half.

The children have also been learning about the bee and it's vital role in creating food. They were taught the fundamentals of pollination and how bees can help to accomplish this. In Oc-

tober they have a field trip planned to Tanner's Orchard because there's nothing better than a real life example!

First graders will have a lot of fun this year for sure. We wish them all a great school year and good luck with their butterflies!



Pictured left is a 1st grade class posing in front of their painted butterflies (IB school colors of course!). They all worked very hard and had a great time learning about the life cycle of the butterfly. They are excited that they will be able to bring something home to remember the unit by. Next time they see a butterfly, they won't just see something pretty, but something cool and fun!

IB Baseball Continued

who single handedly fielded 7 plays cleanly. In the same game Ethan Patterson batted 4 for 4 and Heath Nolan batted 3 for 4 with two doubles.

"Pitching my no-hitter felt great. Being able to help out my team was so much fun," Lucas Creek says about his recent game. He further goes on to say, "The hardest part was staying hydrated because it was so hot!" He says that even though they lost some of their good players he still thinks they

can pull through again this year. If he can keep it up we have no doubt they will!

Third baseman, Griffin O'Connor also likes their chances for this year. "We have a solid team," he states, "and I am very confident that we can reach state." This would be the second year they go to state in a row. Last year they only narrowly lost to the eventual state champions, Teutopolis.

All in all this year seems to be a very great one to be a Tiger! We wish our boys good luck for all their upcoming games!

Teams	Scores
Delvan	17-2
Mossville Jr High	0-10
Georgetowne	8-5
Monroe	11-1
Peoria Heights	7-5
Elmwood	5-3
Broadmore	3-0
Williamsfield	17-1
Edison	13-2
Farmington	3-2
Chillicothe	5-0
Limestone Walters	5-6
Brimfield	7-2
Midwest Central	6-9

*Wins are bold