B
rightly lit streets with colorful holiday lights and the ring-
ing of bells by jolly Santa Clauses on street corners can
only indicate one thing. The holiday season in Chicago.
And while Chicago transforms into a lively Winter won-
terland, U-Highers enjoy traditions celebrated in Chicago such
as strolling up down the bustling Downtown streets, enjoying
the classic decorations and ice skating in the picturesque Mil-
leum Park.
Bundled up against the frigid weather that gave the Windy
City its iconic name, many days are spent wandering the en-
chanting streets and shopping for the perfect holiday presents.

ON A STROLL down State Street, Sabrina Holland and Kassim Husain ad-
mired the classic Macy’s holiday decorations. Bustling with holiday shoppers
and tourists, the store was decked out in its usual glamorous adornments, up-
holding the traditions of grandeur of the legendary Marshall Fields. Photo by
Sarah Husain.

BEFORE HEADING DOWN to rent their skates for an afternoon of
skating and hot chocolate, Jolisha, Sydney, Adam and Jessica pause to
watch the many bundled skaters on the rink. Photo by Remy Lewis.

PONDERING THE MEANING of the iconic Bean statue in Millenium Park,
Adam Gray, Jessica Hubert, Sydney Fishman, Jolisha Johnson and Maria Con-
lon see the brightly lit Chicago Skyline in the reflective surface of the sculpt-
ture behind them. Photo by Remy Lewis.

DRAWN BY THE elaborate decorations and stylish fashions in one of Macy’s window dis-
plays, Maria, Jolisha and Sydney stop on their evening stroll down State Street to marvel at
the intricate details. Photo by Remy Lewis.

SPOTTING A BRIGHT red sweater as the perfect present, Molly took advantage of
the Black Friday sales to get ahead in her holiday shopping. Photo by Sarah Husain.

AMAZED BY THE intricate details on glass blown ornaments for sale at the
Christkindlmarket in Daley Plaza, Jenny Huey debates purchasing as a present for
her mother. Photo by Remy Lewis.
Vacationers will build fires, eat, bask in Florida sun

By Heba Masood
Associate editor

Looking forward to gathering around a fire in Galatans, a farm village in northern Spain, physics teacher Javier Saez de Adana will return to his hometown, like many other teachers and U-High families, for the Winter holiday which begins Saturday.

The fire, called an arrastre, is a Basque tradition in north central Spain and southeast France, Mr. Saez says. Other Basque traditions include special foods for Christmas, including ham, a dessert with fresh and dried fruits with cinnamon sprinkled over the top and some wine to add a liquid texture.

Another dish, turron, consists of soft or hardened almonds covered in honey.

In another tradition, he said, people symbolize the year fresh by throwing bad spirits that lie in useless possessions into the fire.

“It’s really nice,” he added, “because there are so many people. The village only has about 50 or 60 people, but it’s twice the size around that time of the year because villagers’ dialogs have come home. I get to see people I haven’t seen since summer time if I visit. Otherwise, I see them once a year during Christmas.”

Yet another Basque tradition is receiving gifts from a villager dressed as a shepherd named Olenzeto, instead of Santa Claus. Mr. Saez remembers as a child he had always wondered how Olenzeto knew what he wanted.

“IT’S A VERY beautiful memory I have from before I realized that my parents were the one giving the shepherd presents for me,” Mr. Saez. “I would always get the books I wanted. The holidays were a happy day. According to Basque traditions Olenzeto comes to town late at night on December 24 to give gifts to children. In some places he arrives later, as late as December 31.”

CLOSER TO HOME, Sophomore Tiffany Davis uses Christmas decorations by putting up lights with her cousins and putting ornaments on the three Christmas trees in her grandmother’s house, the main one holding 100-200 ornaments. Her extended family, 60 people, lives in Portland Oregon, from where she moved when her father came to the U. of C. seven years ago.

“That’s how often I call ‘Secret Santa’, so each kid ends up getting three or four gifts and before we open presents the entire living room is just filled with bags of presents. It takes forever to open them all but it’s fun to see what everyone gets.

“We try to do something new every year,” she explained. “Two years ago we split the family into teams and made skits and saw who made the best one.”

Tiffany says, reuniting with her two other college brothers and her sister who live in Oregon, along with the rest of her family, never gets boring.

They will be playing a game that could make the fastest gingerbread house. This year we’re seeing who has the ugliest Christmas tree.”

CHANGING UP a tradition, Junior Tanya Skidmore presents the Nagi family, which usually invites children of family friends who are not boarding schools and colleges in the U.S. to their house in Chicago, are invited these students to a Christmas party instead.

In Tehe Beach, Florida, this year for Christmas and New Year’s Day they were the only families to have grown each other for a while. One of the girls’ father taught Thanh Hien’s dad math. Another student’s grandmother grew up with Thanh Hien’s mother.

“INSTEAD OF GOING all the way back to Vietnam where our family’s from, we spend the holidays with other family’s in North Carolina. It’s a tradition that my family and everyone else who has moved here has maintained.”

Last year the all students decided spending the winter in Chicago was too cold. "So I live in the snow now my family is all really excited about going to Florida and enjoy that the beaches there while it’s snowing in Chicago.”

Brievy

TRIBUTE to embrace four themes

Four themes will be spotlighted at this year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Assembly, sponsored annually by the Black Students’ Association. It will begin 10:10 a.m., Thursday, January 12 in Rockefeller Chapel.

Vacationers will build fires, eat, bask in Florida sun

Four themes will be spotlighted at this year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Assembly, sponsored annually by the Black Students’ Association. It will begin 10:10 a.m., Thursday, January 12 in Rockefeller Chapel.

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### Academic teams fine tune strategies

**Debaters shoot for the moon discussing space exploration**

By Duncan Weinstein

Associate editor

With eight new members, 12 returning, and three new coaches this year, debaters will compete at The Blake School this Friday through Sunday in Minneapolis, aiming to gain spots in the Tournament of Champions, sponsored by the University of Kentucky May 4-6 in Lexington.

Arguing this year’s national high school debate topic, increasing American space exploration, debaters also competed at Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines, Iowa last weekend, after Midway pre season.

In preparation, debaters are focusing on argument construction, according to Varsity Debater Charlie Rafkin, senior.

“Last year we focused purely research, but this year, we’re focusing more on deploying that research into usable arguments,” Charlie said. “For example, if I researched a new argument, I’d try it out in a round, whereas this year we practice in meetings first, and it might sound like a trivial distinction, but it makes a huge difference.”

**Math Team aims to rebound**

By Christine Obert-Hong

Midway reporter

After a disappointing start this year, Math Team hopes to rebound at a North Suburban Math League (NSML) competition at Whitney Young High School, February 2. After finishing fourth of five schools at the Illinois Math and Science Academy, in west suburban Aurora, October 26, U-Highers will compete against Whitney Young, Oak Park, and UIC College Prep High Schools, in February. 35 U-Highers also competed at Walter Payton High School last Thursday, after Midway pre season.

“The first NSML meet that we went to, we did pretty poorly mainly because a lot of us were busy with school work and didn’t have enough time to study,” Senior Robert Radway said. “The second time we did decently, but a lot of people didn’t come. We should do well this next competition though.”

The NSML competition is U-High’s fourth, and final, before NSML Finals November 29.

“It’s really important for us to do well at this meet for two reasons,” Robert said. “It helps decide who wins our division, which determines our place for finals. Also, there are individual awards at the end of the season based on cumulative scores.”

### Science Team adds new projects

**By Moira Differding**

Associate editor

Focusing on new projects including a rocket and astronomy club named Skylarc is keeping the Science Team busy until Science Olympiad next month.

Now 65 members strong with 10 freshmen, adding new projects has been necessary to keep everyone in Science involved.

After partnering with the ScienceFest Foundation, a group advocating science education, team members will allow disadvantaged Chicago Public Schools students interested in science to train in and use their power tools and guidance to work on projects of their own.

Following meeting the founder of ScienceFest at a TEDx Conference in October, Science-Team Coach Daniel Jones set up the partnership with ScienceFest.

“The main goal is to eventually let CPS kids work here with us for a while,” Mr. Jones said. “They don’t have all the equipment we do, and by teaching them how to use it here, they can learn how to take their own work farther.”

“For Skylarc, our first project was test-launching rockets on the Midway. They are working on ways to gather meteorological data through them. We need to alter the rockets to consistently launch at the same altitudes to collect the data we want without changing the rocket’s flight paths too much. When we get our new rocket supplies, we’ll hold more tests.”

Along with new projects, Science Team has also put new team policies in effect. “Usually the captains just pick the teams,” Science Olympiad Co-captain Charlie Jiang said. “But this year we picked a pros and cons list and held an in-house test to determine who got placed on the final varsity team and also JV. Anyone could take them, and those scores were taken into consideration when making teams. If Varsity members don’t perform during the competitions, they might be replaced with JV members.”

### Feeling flat? We can fix that!

When the Windy City blows your hair into a mess, 57th Street Hair Salon will tame your tangles! Come out of the cold for styling, color, cut and perm services in addition to many top-quality hair products. Get the sun-kissed look for less with our extensive collection of hair products, Shrija Mitchell shampoo. Photo by Remy Lewis.
The main ideas of this series were about coming to terms with death and accepting it. In Western culture people generally tend to not talk or think largely about death. I like how the Mexican culture embraces the idea of death and even celebrates it, such as on the Day of the Dead. If someone has been in denial of death their entire life it will come as a shock to them. I think one of my most memorable moments for students was when their teacher showed up and Ms. Scheunemann passed away. I was like, "Oh my god! Is this school spirit at the Lab Court? I was like, "Oh my god! Is this school spirit at the Lab School?" I think last year, at the end-of-year awards assembly, when Faith's family showed up and compared them to any other independent school, you would recognize the difference. They are not the same. It's a very diverse school, and I would say we have a lot of students that would be defined as middle class. That's not common for independent schools. Most independent schools have families that are very wealthy and families that are on financial aid. I would say we have a lot of students that I would put squarely in that middle. Were there any elements of your experience at UChicago that you wished were different? I think that the most difficult thing was that you are most proud of? A lot of students that would be defined as middle class. That's not common for independent schools. Most independent schools have families that are very wealthy and families that are on financial aid. I would say we have a lot of students that I would put squarely in that middle. Were there any elements of your experience at UChicago that you wished were different? I think that the most difficult thing was that you are most proud of?
CHARACTER SKETCH BY HEBAH MASOOD

ATHLETE, journalist, team manager...and women’s advocate

Visiting St. Louis at least four times a year to see his family including a grandmother suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease, Senior Martin Garrett-Currie plans to major in Biology hoping to later research the disease. Easily spotted with gray-flecked hair, brightly colored shirts, and an occasional Maroons Letterman jacket, Martin captained varsity boys’ soccer this year and plays club soccer outside of school. Named to the Second Independent School League team, he ranked among the top 22 soccer players last year.

In addition to athletics, last year Martin became editor of excess and team photos on the U-Highlights staff, and joined Women Stand United (WSU), for which he is now the treasurer, while cooking in his free time. Having lived in Chicago his whole life, Martin wishes he could spend more time with his grandmother, who suffers from Alzheimer’s Disease. "I see my grandmother most times I go to St. Louis," Martin said. "My dad says she used to tell these incredible stories. Now she barely remembers who I am. I wish I could visit more and talk to her. Now it’s almost like when I visit she barely even talks."

Wishing to study Alzheimer’s in college, Martin also hopes to continue playing soccer. His parents signed him up for club-soccer at age 4 with the American Youth Soccer Organization, a program which encourages children to play soccer. "It was a pretty9 destructive kid when I was younger," Martin said. "When I was 1 in day care they moved me to the 2-year-olds’ room because I wouldn’t shake people’s crib and they thought I was going to kill someone or something."

"My dad wanted to sign me up for football to get rid of some of my energy but my mom said it was too dangerous so they chose soccer. Now I play soccer outside of school because I really love it, just about everything about it. It’s really hard to imagine not playing for even just a week or two."

"Joining the Raiders Football Club, a high school soccer organization in the southwest suburban Bridgeview this year, Martin now competes year-round. Through the Raiders, Martin said he became closer with Sophomore Caleb Mazzurk, also a varsity soccer player. "I’ve learned a lot about how important it is to be close with people you work with, too," Martin observed. "Our team this year was really tight not just as teammates but as friends, too, and I think that helps our team out a lot.

"Kaleb and I met through soccer, and he’s like a brother to me now. I didn’t know him until he joined soccer and yearbook last year. I told a lot of people to join, including him, because I liked it a lot. It’s a lot of fun, but still a lot of work. I like how it’s the whole staff together working on one book."

During long bus drives to away games, Kaleb says Martin is always funny and unforgettable. "At first, when I met him last year, Martin just picked on me a lot, just jokingly," Caleb said. "We started talking a lot more outside of practice, during the school day. This year we got even closer. I pretty much tell him everything and anything. I’m going to miss him next year, a lot. I mean, he’s one of my best friends. He’s helped me out, and had my back."

"He also motivated me to join yearbook in a bit of a forceful manner. I mean he was joking. He’s always say, ‘You have to join yearbook or I’ll hit your or something.’ I wanted to do it before, of course, but he’s the reason I joined."

"Other than taking an active role in yearbook, Martin became the only male member of WSU after his friend Senior Aasha Holmes started it last year. "It’s not bad being the only male member," Martin said. "People make jokes about it but I don’t mind. We raise money and donate to shelters for homeless and abused women. I wasn’t really into the cause before but when Aasha started the club I thought it was a cause worth supporting."

Martin also enjoys cooking, a hobby he started in 7th grade with a World Cuisine project. "My specialty is Mexican food. Tacos, quesadillas, burritos, you name it. I can cook it." Martin said, referring the Spanish word for ‘cook.’ "I also like cooking breakfast foods a lot like eggs and stuff but mostly I stick to Mexican food. "When my mom and dad aren’t home I cook often. I like that I can create something and make it over and over again to improve it. It’s like a different experience every time.

"The first time I cooked was in 7th grade. I made this French soup and it didn’t really turn out that good. But I made it again later for my family and it was a lot better. I got involved with Mexican food because I made tacos one time when I was hungry and I really liked them. I kept making them but I’d always have left over taco shells, so I started making quesadillas."

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Embracing the holiday spirit, Ruby Koontz gives a grateful Laura Anderson a wonderful book from the large collection at Powell’s Bookstore. Photo by Fiona Potter.

Get a Book!
By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor and cooking columnist

S

even o’clock on a cold, rainy Wednesday morning, November 9, and only the sounds of clanging pans, low-pitched refrigerator hums and soft hip hop music from a plug-in radio permeate the Lab Schools cafeteria kitchen. Walking from the basement lunchroom to the kitchen behind the food service counters and cash register is like day changing into night. Outside belies the blue lunch tables, the walls glow in cheerful bright green, blue, and orange.

These colors contrast with monotone metallic grey tones accentuating the kitchen. Food information adorns the walls—how to properly maintain sanitation, which entrée to cook each day. Three main rooms compose the cramped kitchen. One holds cutting boards, another a large, grey, stovetop and a crusted grill. The last houses a small, dark, windowed oven, raised four feet above the ground.

“It’s usually quiet here in the morning because no one is a morning person,” said Cashier Alicia Cuervo, outfitted in a black shirt and brimmed hat shortly before leaving her job last Friday to prepare for the birth of her first child. “When the lunch rushes start coming in, all eight of us start to open up more, joking with each other.”

A brown grease-stained grill heats the entire kitchen. Mr. Armando Orozco, one of two assistant cooks, dressed in a black double-breasted jacket and chef’s hat, rushes back and forth between the service counters and the kitchen.

Mr. Orozco ladles pizza sauce on pale white crusts while Mr. Jose Espinoza, the other assistant cook, wearing a hair net and glasses, slices roast beef and turkey for today’s lunch.

Standing over 6 feet with a slightly stained apron around His waist, Executive Chef Rodolfo Arellano, a little stylish stubble around his jaw, tends to a chicken tortilla soup and a boiling pot of sweet-smelling sauce for orange chicken, the day’s entrée, once again to appear in three weeks.

Another worker spreads out cookie dough on sheet pans for Café Lab catering service, which makes hundreds of schools including the Business School and the Lab Schools.

“I THINK the students like the food, and more could like it if they try it. I understand that there will always be High School students who want to leave school for 30 minutes to go to the Business School, but they need to give us a chance: The prices are cheaper here and it’s a lot more convenient.”

Most of the cooks walk from the kitchen back to the cafeteria as more teachers and students come in for afternoon snacks such as bagels and muffins. Mr. Arellano leaves the kitchen for his own lunch break, and the fryers turn on again as Middle School lunch approaches. Mrs. Brown and the others start cooking the fries and chicken tenders in their new Turbochef microwave oven.

Exactly 11:30, and loud Middle Schoolers start to file into the cafeteria hall, but the cooks efficiently control the noise. Mr. Arellano takes sandwich orders, calling out to the kids in the congested line and joking with the kids he is serving.

“The kids at Lab have a lot more energy than adults, who I am more experienced with serving through my previous work at Wyndham Hotel in Chicago,” says Exec.

“I have more energy to work. When I have the time, I play around with them a little, and they even sometimes give thank you letters to me. The small things are why I like my job.”

Cooks stick paninis and wraps in the Turbochef and clean pans as the lunch rush fills the kitchen with a excited energy. The lunch rush slows down to a small trickle and the cooks start cutting vegetables and fruit for the High School students.

Twenty minutes later they start coming in, less noisy and chaotic than the previous surge of students, but still packing the narrow hallway. Once again the cooks move back and forth.

Forty minutes go, and cleanup sounds permeate the cafeteria. The smell of coffee fills the kitchen; the tanks have been dumped. Vivid laughter fills the cafeteria and kitchen as the workers relax and dump the leftover chicken into grey trash bins.

“I was once the restaurant manager of Wildfire, a restaurant here in Chicago,” says Executive Food Service Director Rachel Kovitch Brown. She oversees the kitchen staff, orders produce and helps during the lunch rushes. “I learned the basics of ordering, serving, and talking to people there. Now, I’m employed under Aramark Corporation;”

She explains in her friendly yet professional voice. “I have had some experience in restaurants and I learned to work on my budget. The Lab Schools cafeteria is large and is an important part of the school, which serves hundreds of schools including the Business School and the Lab Schools.

“I TOLD the students like the food, and more could like it if they try it. I understand that there will always be High School students who want to leave school for 30 minutes to go to the Business School, but they need to give us a chance.”

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Most of the violations were in fact facility issues, not food violations,” Ms. Brown said. “We have new sanitation tasks and have had Smithereen, a pest control company, come in more often to meet the City of Chicago’s regulations. Since the October inspection there has been no activity.

A FREQUENT CUSTOMER to the sandwich station, Dominic Woodlaw anticipates his customized creation made by Mr. Rodolfo Arellano.

New violation noticing and follow-up enforcement are new sanctions to make cafeteria food healthier. The Chicago Public Schools cafeteria inspection have been addressed.

Conducting an inspection in October, the Department of Public Health found numerous violations in the cafeteria, including excessively dirty floors and mouse droppings.

“Most of the violations were in fact facility issues, not food violations,” Ms. Brown said. “We have new sanitation tasks and have had Smithereen, a pest control company, come in more often to meet the City of Chicago’s regulations. Since the October inspection there has been no activity.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor and cooking columnist

Pressured by increased child obesity levels and recent cafeteria food standards in the past, as reported several times recently in the media, Chicago Public Schools officials and the federal government are enforcing new standards to make cafeteria food healthier.

Sparked by First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move Campaign for obesity reduction began in February, 2010, a health cafeteria food craze has swept the nation. With programs such as Chefs Move to Schools, an initiative to publish a book on her opinion of public school lunches, Wordlaw anticipates his customized creation made by Mr. Rodolfo Arellano.

Writing under the pseudonym Mrs. Q to avoid terminally bad” on her blog, later revealing her identity in time to publish a book on her opinion of public school lunches, Wordlaw anticipates his customized creation made by Mr. Rodolfo Arellano.

Photo by Taylor Crowl.
Wearing a white double-breasted jacket buttoned to the neck and a slightly spotted apron with a pen tucked into the pocket, Chicagoan Chef Paul Kahan moves from frying pans to pots laden with sizzling vegetables.

Sweating it out in a small, bustling exterior kitchen exuding savory scents, Chef Kahan can be seen browning distressed in wooden chairs and gray felt booths surrounded by dimly lit white walls at Blackbird at 619 West Randolph Street.

FEATURED IN NUMEROUS recent New York Times and Chicago Tribune articles, Chef Kahan and two other chefs, Chef Arun Sampanthavivat of Arun’s and Chef Jun Ichikawa of Japonais, come from culinary backgrounds based in their younger years. Using their roots to spark their passions, these three chefs can serve as examples to U-Highers using their roots to spark their passions.

By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor and cooking columnist

“Younger generations can draw inspiration from uncle. I always watched him as a child cooking with my aunt and grandmother. As I grew up, my father encouraged me to do the same. He said, ‘You have to have a passion for cooking.’”

Chef Paul Kahan, owner of Blackbird, a restaurant on Chicago’s West Side, as reported in the April 11 Chicago Tribune, said that his approach to cooking was partly due to the influence of his family and his education. Chef Kahan majored in English Literature and Thai at the University of Chicago and got a Master’s in Game Theory from the University of Illinois, where he majored in international studies.

Focusing on perfection in Arun’s, Chef Sampanthavivat advises prospective chefs to explore cuisine while acknowledging the possibility of failure. “If you know you love cooking, explore it and know that you will fail many times,” Chef Sampanthavivat warned. “But you have to come back up right away and conquer, promising to not fail the next time.”

EYES TRAINED on an appetizer, Chef Paul Kahan garnishes a dish during the Blackbird dining service. Photo courtesy of Blackbird.

CARROT BLOCKS to his side, Arun Sampanthavivat cuts pieces into flames and fish at Arun’s kitchen. Photo by Taylor Cowl.

A TRADITIONAL and modern Japanese food expert, Chef Jun Ichikawa reigns in the kitchen at Japonais. Photo courtesy of Japonais.

“Chef Kahan, this healthy-food trend will continue to prove a major government focus. Rachel Kovich Brown, this healthy-food trend will continue to prove a major government focus. Rachel Kovich Brown, this healthy-food trend will continue to prove a major government focus. Rachel Kovich Brown,”

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“The key to being a successful chef is to be honest with yourself, asking why you want to become one. Remember that honesty, basics and simplicity make a good chef. Many chefs take this for granted. Ultimately, have your own purpose and believe in yourself.”
Six years of achievement

Clad in a button down shirt, tie, and khakis, Principal Matt Horvat looks on as hundreds of U-Highers crowd into the High School lobby with Dean of Students Larry McFarlane after a typical school day.

Mr. Horvat has never hesitated to give a friendly hello to students passing by in the halls. Since his arrival in 2006, Mr. Horvat has striven to maintain personal relationships with many U-Highers.

In a Midway editorial, the staff explained, "He not only knows many U-Highers by first name, but since September has instituted a policy to shake and regenerate his tone in the school." In his first year, he faced challenges regarding the prom date planned for a Friday night and the beginning of the transition from A.P. to A.T. courses.

In 2008, Mr. Horvat handled problems with vandalism in the library and in 2010 he headed the change of A.P. to A.T. courses. In addition and Two years ago, he even began teaching the Algebra 1 class. Later that year, he even cut short his spring break vacation in California to fly back to Chicago and organize the school after Faith Dremmier died and two other seniors were severely injured in a march.

He sent out letters out to all U-High students notifying them about the accident and arranging class meetings to discuss what had happened and how to commemorate Faith.

But perhaps his most significant project since his arrival at U-High has been facilitating the change to a new block schedule, which was implemented this year. From the start, Mr. Horvat made it his mission to facilitate improving the four-decade old schedule and to include an all-school assembly period. He created student and faculty committees to discuss possible changes and when the schedule was finalized, he educated students on how the schedule would work during four double lunch periods last October.

In his six years at U-High, Mr. Horvat has never hidden behind his desk in the High School office. On the contrary, he introduced himself to students and integrated himself into the community. He hosted the boys’ basketball team at home games and played against the same students in the student-faculty game.

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In his six years at U-High, Mr. Horvat has never hidden behind his desk in the High School office. On the contrary, he introduced himself to students and integrated himself into the community. He hosted the boys’ basketball team at home games and played against the same students in the student-faculty game.

Mr. Horvat has surpassed his duties as principal to fly back to Chicago and organize the school after Faith Dremmier died and two other seniors were severely injured in a march.

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COOKING WITH ANEESH

Salty, sweet and totally perfect for the holidays

HOLIDAYS USUALLY entail spending time with family and eating desserts like fruitcake or frosted tree-shaped cookies. Why not try something different this year, surprising mom with Salted Caramel Cupcakes, a delicious salty and sweet dessert.

With a vanilla cake base and fluffy, salty-sweet caramel frosting, this indulgent Gold-tinted frosting will still serve as a delicious midnight treat. They will make a statement on the dessert table for the holidays. For a taste of the sea salt in a medium bowl and set aside. In a large bowl combine the milk and vanilla extract. With the paddle attachment on the electric mixer, cream one stick of butter until light and fluffy on medium speed. Gradually add sugar until the mixture is fluffy. Slowly add the egg and egg whites until just blended. Put the mixer on the lowest speed. Add half the flour mixture until just blended. Add the milk mixture until just blended. Finally add the rest of the dry mixture, yet again until just blended. Over-blending will cause your cupcakes to become dense and tough, exactly the opposite of what any cupcake lover wants.

IN CASE YOU’RE not a vanilla fan, substitute your favorite cupcake recipe and slather on the salted caramel frosting. For extra decoration, try burning a cup of sugar in a saucepan. When the mixture turns liquid, use a spoon to scoop some out and drizzle on a piece of parchment paper in a fan shape. Let cool for 10 minutes and then mount on cupcake.

Salty, sweet and totally perfect for the holidays

1 cup (2 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
3/4 cup sugar
2 large egg whites, room temperature
3-4 cups confectioner’s sugar, sifted
Sea salt for garnish

For the frosting:
Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and combine the all-purpose flour, cake flour, baking powder, and 1 teaspoon of the sea salt in a medium bowl and set aside. In a small bowl combine the milk and vanilla extract.

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Now for the caramel frosting. In a large saucepan, melt butter and add the brown sugar over medium heat. Bring this mixture to a boil, stirring frequently for one minute. Remove it from the heat and add milk, beating with wire whisk until smooth. Add vanilla and beat until thick.

Gradually add powdered sugar, beating the whole time, until the frosting reaches your desired consistency. Add the leftover sea salt to the frosting, and then slather it on the cupcakes.

For garnish, sprinkle a little sea salt on top, and then bite into the little piece of heaven.

Anesh

3/4 cup whole milk, room temperature
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract

3/4 cup sugar
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Anesh
Strong girls’ basketball squad stresses strong defense, determination

by William Chung

F acing Willows Academy 4:30 p.m. today, at home, girl bas ketballers look to continue their undefeated Independent School League streak. With a 4-2 (2-0 ISL) record, the Ma roons have improved on last year’s record at the same point in the sea son. The team also defeated Morgan Park Academy November 31, 46-30, avenging their loss to the Warriors last year.

“WE ARE CERTAINLY further along than we were last year,” Coach Tai Duncan said. “We’ve been playing hard and stepping up defensively. They have definitely been executing my coaching more effectively as well.”

“Morgan Park beat us last year pretty badly and we were determined to prove, in our first ISL game, that we put a lot of hard work into the off season and in November.”

“Our games against Agricultural Science and Prospective were also representative of the work we put in, especially in finishing games,” Coach Duncan explained.

“In BOTH, our lead was either cut down or we were behind, but we worked through and won both with good free throws and crucial shots.”

Junior Sophia Gatton, co captain, and Freshman Kendall Rallins helped the team step up offensively, according to Coach Duncan.

“Sophia and Kendall have been leading the team offensively, with both of them being guards,” Coach Duncan said.

“EVERYONE HAS stepped up and we have a team that has more depth, especially in the guard position. Willows is certainly going to be a tough team. They’ve always had good players and I think they are one of the few teams, along with Latin, which has improved from last year.”

Despite that, we expect to put up some stiff competition.”

Focusing on specific techniques during practice has helped the team, according to Co captain Lillian Eckstein.

“Our COACH always has distinct areas to focus on,” Lillian said. “We worked on forcing the other team’s players to dribble left and boxing them out in order to lessen the number of offensive rebounds in the other team’s favor.

“Our team has shown a lot of improvement from last year, especially by playing tough down low in the paint.”

“One memorable moment during our first game was when we were down, Kendall stole the ball from the other team and raced down the court with Sophia to score a layup. It really energized our team to see complete dedication even though we were losing.”

With a 4-2 (2-0 ISL) record, the Maroons played Chicago Vocational, away, and lost 49-35, but followed with a 56-21 win over Elgin High School.

In their first Conference game December 2, the Maroons defeated Morgan Park Academy 51-21 at home. Junior Kyle Parker, among others.

“Kyle Parker, Mike Dowdy, Sophomore Louis Van Craen, senior, averaged over 10 points and 10 rebounds in these first five games.

In their first Conference game December 2, the Maroons defeated Morgan Park Academy 51-21 at home. Junior Kyle Parker netted 14 points and scored six steals. The following day the Ma roons played Chicago Vocational, away, and lost 49-35, but followed with a 56-21 win in triple overtime over Brooks College Prep.

Impressed with the team’s progress so far, Varsity Coach Troy Caldwell has his eye on making it to the State Championship in Peoria.

“Our TEAM brought everything to the opening Lisle Thanksgiving Tournament,” Coach Caldwell said. “The co captains, Louis and Junior Brandon Green were impressive in the tourna ment, along with Junior Mike Dowdy, who received All-Tournament Team honors, and Kyle Parker, who emerged as a force at the point guard position.

“Sophomore Max Rothschild was also on his way to a fantastic start before he suffered a bad ankle sprain, and we hope to have him back in a couple weeks. Our team this year includes only one senior, Louis, but I don’t think this is an issue. The players have created great chemistry with each other, caus ing age to be of no importance.”

“Our goal is to do what no Lab team has ever done: go to the State Championship in Peoria. We practice each day with this goal in our minds, and it is the reason we never let up. The players are confident that the team has what it takes to do this and with this attitude I know they can. We are tired of just winning ISL championships. This year we want State too.”

THE MAROONS know that opposing teams see this year as an opportunity to beat U-High.

“Parker and Latin have both stated that they are confident they will beat us,” Louis said. “Both schools have two talented returning starters on their teams, Senior Judd Barron and Junior Langdon Neal from Parker and Seniors Ethan Lee and Chaz Stevenson from Latin, but I’ve been around our team long enough to know that we are at no disadvantage because of our age. We know how everyone plays, and we’ve built great chemistry as a team.”

Louis believes the small gap in players’ ages this season has helped new players Kyle Parker, Mike Dowdy, Sophomore Caleb Galecki and Freshman Jordan Moran, among others.

“WITHOUT A GUY like Mike Turner who you can turn to and know you need a quick bucket or dunk, everyone on the team has to step up,” Louis said.

“Our team has become much more team-oriented this season, and I think in the long run that’s a good thing.”

Jordan, the only freshman on the team, believes having only one senior will not cause difficulties.

“The older players are great role models, and they’ve been great leaders,” Jordan said. “Even during seemingly simple drills like shooting lay-ups, the older players demand each player give it their all and they lead by example. By hustling each and every practice, the team has become very close, and I think this will only help us down the road.”

“Our team really stepped up at the Lisle Thanksgiving Tournament, especially Caleb Dowdy, a varsity player as well, who is averaging over 10 points a game for us,” said Freshman Jeffrey Josu, one of six new players.

“Our team really excels at pressing other teams, and we did this particularly well in our 59-20 win over Morgan Park Academy. Our physical defense helps us force many turnovers and score lots of fast-break points, which has helped us both hold leads and catch up in times of need.”

Basketball boys intend to keep winning plays

by Michael Glick

F acing the Holy Trinity Tigers in the Non-Conference play 6 p.m. today in Upper Kovler Gym, the 5-3 varsity basketball boys are seeking their sixth win in nine games (a 10th game, against Elgin last Friday, came after Midway press time).

From the Chicago Prep Conference, the 0-4 Tigers have struggled so far this season, losing to Stevenson 78-31, Christian Liberty 64-58, Christ the King 53-42 and Elgin High School 73-21.

IN THEIR opening competition, the Maroons lost to Timothy Christian 57-45 and Providence-St. Mel 62-56, but defeated Lisle 45-30, Chicago Christian 57-40 and Perspectives-MSA 66-47.

Standout Captain Louis Van Craen, senior, averaged over 10 points and 10 rebounds in these first five games.

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“On days when we’re not feeling up to practice, the coaches are always quick to remind us of our goal of making it to State and how hard we have to work to get there.”

J.V., 3-3, finished 2nd at the Lisle Tourna ment, and will face Holy Trinity’s j.v. team 4:30 p.m. today at home.

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Reading...fun? It is at 57th Street!

by William Chung

“Where the Sidewalk Ends.”

for some great deals!

Books, Homam Ahsan listens excitedly while Rex Go reads Shaf Silverstein’s “Where the Sidewalk Ends.” Photo by Lilli Stipan.

E scape the Chicago chills and come explore 57th Street Books! Offering textbooks, standardized test study books, novels, even childrens’ stories, 57th Street Books is there to solve any book dilemma just two blocks away from U-High. Don’t hesitate to turn the corner for some great deals!

1301 EAST 57TH STREET

OPEN DAILY 10 A.M.-8 P.M.
**Swimmers hopeful even after losing nine seniors**

**By Max Brown**

Maroon swimmers will take on much larger Morton High School 4:30 today at its east campus in Cicero for their first major challenge of the season.

Morton boasts an enrollment of over 3500, dwarfing U-High’s 496, and makes a win for the boys’ swim team seem near impossible. Nevertheless, Head Coach Frank Gunty said that in previous years, the meet has been evenly matched.

> **IF YOU LOOK at the meet for the past couple of years, you’ll see that the wins between the schools are pretty much split half and half,** Mr. Gunty said. **“However, this meet is at the beginning of the year so it will be tough to be fully prepared for them, especially for us.”**

U-High swimmers will look to continue their good start today after placing 3rd in an invitational at Bremen, December 2 and 3rd-to-last at an invitational at St. Viator December 7. Competing with 36 swimmers, the Maroons return five seniors and add one newcomer.

> **We lost a number of strong seniors last year,** Mr. Gunty said. **“The current seniors will really have to step it up this year because they weren’t starters as juniors.”**

**AMONG THE YOUNGER swimmers,** Junior David Tong is returning after breaking a school record in the 100 meter butterfly during last year’s Sectionals. Mr. Gunty also noted Junior William Chung, Sophomore Elliot Levmore and Freshmen Alex Kim and Justin Whitehead, who are making a big impact on the boys’ team this year.

> **I think we have a lot of talent on our team.** Alex said. **“With all the hard work we put in during practice, I don’t see why we can’t do really well this year.”**

**Five other freshmen have also joined the swim team at the JV level.**

**AFTER WINTER BREAK,** the Maroons face two new opponents at home first. Comes-daunting Glenbrook North, a large suburban public school, Friday January 6, then Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center Tuesday January 10. Both meets will take place at the University of Chicago’s Gerald Ratner Athletics Center at 4:30.

Next comes St. Ignatius away at 5 p.m. Thursday January 12. Ignatius has won IHSA Sectionals in the Maroons’ division the past nine years and last year defeated U-High in Hyde Park 111 to 59 at Ratner. Saturday January 14, the Maroons swim at Riverside-Brookfield and three days later, visit Northside, who U-High narrowly defeated the previous year. The Maroons will then swim against Evergreen Park, Saturday January 21, away; Latin 4:30 at home, January 24; Conant, away, January 28 and St. Rita, away January 31 to end the month of January.

The team’s four co-captains have yet to be announced, but will all likely be seniors.

> **I think we have a lot of talent on our team. With that and all the hard work we put in during practice, I don’t see why we can’t do really well this year.**– Alex Kim, freshman

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**Put the holidays in bloom!**

**The most wonderful time of the year, the song says.** Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, whatever holiday your family celebrates, Cornell Florist offers you and yours a bountiful selection of flowers and plants. Drop by and see how we have to offer. With your tender loving care your plant or floral arrangement will keep on giving through the holidays! Oh, yes, we can arrange delivery near or far!

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Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
The face of everyday U-High fashion caught candidly

WARM UNDER a knit sweater, Ary Hansen flashes an H&M frock. “I like that my dress was made of fake leather which could be tacky but the lesbian gave me a princess feel.”

SIMPLE BUT fashionable, Kevin Goldwater sports $35 fabric-dyed leather Top-Sider Sperry shoes he got on sale for $60 at DSW.

CLAD IN hand-me-downs, Julisha Johnson enjoys color. “I don’t want to walk into school wearing something someone is wearing, so I try to look as original as possible.”

SHOPPING ONLINE, Jason Deng finds rarities. “I like to dress differently. I feel like everyone is unique and there’s no point looking like the person next to you.”

BOLE IN a leather skirt, Catherine Yusis’ scarf adds color. “I like clothes with character which is why this is my favorite skirt. I also like a lot of color so I wore the scarf.”

COLLAR POPPED, Adam Picker dresses stylishly but comfortably. “I don’t wear a pair of shoes but you know, it’s not like I’m going to a ballroom dance. My shirt is still untucked. “

“My clothes are nice but you know, leather which could be tacky but like that my dress was made of fake leather which could be tacky but the lesbian gave me a princess feel.”

RUSHED FOR winter, Dom Wordlaw wrapped himself in a $20 thrift store scarf and an Urban Outfitters cardigan, his outfit was topped by a bright green belt.

“IT’S WINTER in 40 years and for the first time gave sports teams and scoreboxes their own section. The editors-in-chief were Seniors Sarah Hussain and Ary Hansen and the photo editor Jackie Robertson. “I really like the chronological order of the book because it brought back a lot of good memories and it was kind of like re-experiencing last year as I went through the pages,” said Junior William Chung, brother of one of the book’s sports editors, David Chung, now a freshman at West Point Military Academy.

Many readers praised the use of facing pages which featured one large photo, “especially the pages of Ellen Ma in the snow,” said Sophomore Rooney Koontz.

Students praise 2011 U-Highlights

By Max Brown and Michael Glick Midway reporters

Handed out last month after several delays because of printer errors which required reprinting a page and then having the yearbook staff paste the new version of the page over the original version in more than 580 copies, the 2011 U-Highlights got rave reviews from students, faculty members and parents.

The 428 pages, the yearbook is the largest in U-High history and the first chronologically organized book since 1991. The book also notorized club group photos for the first time in 40 years and for the first time gave sports

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Surprise encounter with famed Holocaust denier punctuates trip

By Sydney Scartola

Executive Director of Special Projects

Hunched over and frustrated with her reading, Rosie Cuneo-Grant struggled to read about her world history homework. Reading her notes, she turned around and saw a man in a tall, grey haired, 73-year-old David Irving, British author of “Hitler’s War,” to face tall, grey haired, 73-year-old David Irving, British author of “Hitler’s War,”

“His opinions on the Holocaust were disturbing. He basically said that Hitler was victimized, and didn’t know about the final solution until much later in its implementation,” Rosie said. “I’d learned a lot from the experience, mainly ideas, but what struck me the most was how real this event was. I appreciated and recognized the Holocaust denier punctuates trip

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