

HERALD of the SAINTS

November 2020

Faculty: M. Ryan & J. Reckard

(Board) Game on by: Owen Macrowski

It has taken two months of waiting, but the Board Game Club has finally found purchase and has started having meetings!

The first meeting of the Board Game Club had been anticipated by many since the start of this school year and was finally fulfilled last month. "We are back and--thanks to a robust influx of freshmen students--more ready to play than ever!" exclaimed Mr. Ryan. His room was once again full of eager and avid Board Game Club members looking to make up lost time. They have been lucky enough to be one of the first extracurricular activities to happen this year thanks to Covid-19. This may have also been a reason behind the higher than usual turnout, as people did not have any other activities that interfered with the timeslot of Friday after school.

As usual, there was a wide variety of different activities going on in Mr. Ryan's room, with games ranging from Chess to Magic: The Gathering and even ping pong! Andru Scott, a senior member of the Board Game Club, recounted his experiences playing Onitama. "I loved the Kung Fu chess game; it was a fun and interesting take on chess." As mentioned above, ping pong was also played during the meeting for the first time, a fun new activity for all the members to try out. Mr. Swantek would normally hold his own ping pong matches after school in his room.

As we all know, the Diocese of Peoria has recently decided to have Central Catholic and all the other schools in its jurisdiction go fully remote until mid January. This means that for the foreseeable future, Board Game Club members will once again have to wait for its return. This time, however, some are hopeful that the club can start right back up immediately after said comeback. "I'd certainly like to think so but I am not sure," says Andru Scott, "I am hopeful that we can be back."



Best Burgers in Town

By: Santino Sartoris

Thousands of beef patties, millions of opinions, one winner. Best. Burger. In. Town.

The Bloomington-Normal area is often referred to as the Mecca of burgers. With the world's very first Steak 'n Shake being opened in Normal and many other top tier beef slabs being finely crafted each day, it is not a stretch to say we are living in a hamburger paradise. Recently this utopia-like balance has been disturbed; Five Guys enters the scene, grills blazing, and threatens the prestige of any who dare let their guard down. Who makes the best burger?

Well, let's first take a look at the hometown hero: Steak 'n Shake. Out of 50 Central Catholic students polled, five voted for Steak 'n Shake, placing them in a respectable position of third place. Though the Steak 'n Shake supporters lack in numbers, they manage to make up for it in their vigor. Senior Connor French puts it this way: "If I had to choose between never having a burger from Steak 'n Shake again or spending the rest of my life in prison with a lifetime supply of Steak and Shake burgers...I would probably choose the no Steak 'n Shake option. I love their burgers and all, but that would honestly be ridiculous if I chose to spend my whole life in prison over a hamburger."

Ahead of Steak 'n Shake, two burger joints received nine votes each in a tie for second place--Five Guys and Culver's. In a shocking turn of events, the Culver's butterburger-loving community banded together to defend the honor of their beloved restaurant and in doing so managed to climb much higher on the leaderboards than anyone could have ever expected. Coupled with Culver's, the newcomer Five Guys starts out with a great placement for being so fresh on the scene. Although they are new in town, they are projected to clinch the number two spot this coming offseason, and a strong performance in 2021 could potentially inspire some more burger connoisseurs to fall in love with their craftsmanship.

Above all else, one burger reigns supreme. By a wide margin Meatheads has emerged victorious as the world's greatest hamburger. They received a whopping 17 votes, which crowns them the king of meat; but what sets them apart from the rest? Matt Wagner (Central Catholic school record holder for most Crush Cans received in one day) added, "The Meatheads burger is one that cannot be denied. Their patties are always grilled to perfection, buns always tastefully pillowed, and the flavor is outstanding. They're just built different."

As we can see burgers bring out the absolute best in humanity. We don't just eat hamburgers here in Bloomington-Normal, we live burgers.

Best Fries in Town

By: Lauren Wisdom

There are many places in Bloomington-Normal to buy fries, but only one can be the best. Defining the best is a personal choice, as there are many variations on the creation of fries that make people believe some fries are better than others. For example, some fries are crunchy. Other fries come softer, almost mushy when you eat them. Fries come in all shapes, too. Everyone seems to recognize immediately what a McDonald's fry looks like, while others identify fries as more of a wedge or waffle shape. Seasonings are always a critical part when it comes to picking a favorite fry. Fries typically have a salty flavor; however, there are a variety of common seasonings that add to the flavor of a fry.

After speaking to several people at Central Catholic, Meatheads and Chick-Fil-A were the most commonly named restaurants for best fries. John Keefer described the Meatheads fry as "juicy and oily." It can also be described as slim, seasoned, and juicy. One particular favorite fry at Meathead's was the cajun fry. Those who go to Chick-Fil-A for their fries enjoy the waffle style. Senior Kylie Hundman says, "Chick-Fil-A fries taste heavenly when I can dip the crunchy fry in the Chick-Fil-A sauce."

Speaking of McDonald's, some classmates view its fries as the most classic, basic, and dependable fry. Conall Rhodes, another senior at Central, says, "McDonald's fries are the saltiest fries, and I can eat a large fry in less than 2 minutes. They are that good." The verdict was that everyone knows how these fries taste. They have a slightly crunchy exterior. They look and taste the same regardless where they are purchased.

Other top choices for fries were Five Guys, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Carl's. My personal favorite is Carl's. They are crunchy and are the right amount of salty. You can also get them with cheese or chili, but I think they are best with ketchup.

The Ultimate Matchup: Carl's vs Gene's Which One Is Superior?

By: Grace Hartrich

Will Foley - Carl's

"It's just better; all around better."

Lauren Wisdom - Carl's

"They just have a wider variety.

They have so many different flavors to serve."

Garrett Hartrich - Carl's

"It honestly tastes better and they have better toppings."

Joey Swearingen - Gene's

"I have put a lot of ice cream in my mouth before, but Gene's by far has the best-tasting ice cream out there."

Daniel Morris - Carl's

"I like their burgers and fries and all the different options for ice cream."

Jack Morgan - Gene's

"I like Gene's better because their soft serve ice cream smacks."

Keira Hadley - Carl's

"Carl's obviously. I'm not a monster. It's just superior in every way. Gene's is just trash. Carl's fries and burgers are bomb. Better atmosphere. You can dine in only at Carl's. Way better ice cream. All around, chef's kiss."

David Broadbear - Gene's

"Gene's has better quality of ice cream."

Mr. Head - Carl's

"Carl's is nostalgic for me. They were the og's in using the candy eyes; Gene's just stole it."

Addison Cervantes - Carl's

"I only really go to Carl's so..."

Keefer's Kwerky Questions

by: John Keefer

Question: If you could spend a day with any celebrity, whom would it be with and what would you do?

Cate Uhren (Freshman):

"I would spend the day with Ariana Grande. I love her songs and her personality. We would probably go out to lunch and talk about where she gets her ideas and motivation for her songs."

Medley Schnierle (Sophomore):

"I would spend the day with Zendaya. She is a very inspiring person who always reaches her goals in life. I would want to go out to lunch with her and get to know her more, and be able to ask her questions about her life and career."

Isaac Whitaker (Junior):

"I would spend the day with Adam Sandler. Our day together would be very enjoyable and funny at the same time. We would spend time doing anything I want. We would go do something fun like bowling or eat some food."

JJ Jonkey (Senior):

"I would hang out with Shaun White. The dude is a beast. We would spend the day on the slopes skiing and snowboarding together and then I would take him fishing."

Joe Schell (Senior):

"I would spend the day with Gordon Ramsay. We would begin the day by cooking brunch for our families and follow it up by watching football. We would finish the day at the best steak house and Gordon would obviously pick up the bill."

No-Shave November

by: Sierra Godsey

Whether it's a goatee, lambchops, handlebar mustache, or scruff, the senior Central Catholic boys showcased these styles of facial hair all throughout the month of November.

Every year, the senior boys are permitted a pass to not shave their facial hair in exchange for donating ten dollars to the annual senior charity. The boys think of creative ways to style their facial hair during the precious month given to them. "For November, I went for the Wayne Manness chiseled-beard phenomenon special," commented John Keefer.

The seniors look forward to November because they are not otherwise allowed to have facial hair throughout the entire year. This is the one month where they don't have to worry about faculty getting on them for their scruff. It's widely popular amongst the guys, but not so much the girls. "Some of the guys are heartbroken because they cannot participate in No-Shave November," said Matthew Trosino. "We don't have the genetic predisposition to produce supple amounts of facial hair. We look up to seniors like John Keefer, Santino Sartoris, and Will Foley because of their ample success in the facial hair department."

The senior boys thoroughly enjoyed this blessing given to them in November.



Students Returning from Remote

by: Ella Haynes

In a normal year, students would come back to school in August getting ready to start the year. This year is a little different. Some students had the option to be on online first quarter and come back in the second quarter if needed. Being online had its disadvantages and its perks. Senior Elyse Smith said, "I honestly found the transition pretty easy. It was definitely nice being able to see and interact with my friends in person. I felt a lot less stressed doing online, as the days seemed to move quickly and I felt like my routine was a bit more flexible."

Smith also proposed that being online had its disadvantages, she expressed, "I really didn't like not getting the full experience of being in the classroom and it kind of felt like I was losing my senior year being at home. I'm really happy to be back!" Another student explained more of the disadvantages of being online. Junior Sofia Calvert expressed, "The change from being online to person was pretty good! It felt easy to come back, so there were no difficulties there! Something I liked about being online was that I enjoyed being in the comfort of my own home during home-room/lunch. Something I found a little difficult while online was that the audio would cut out occasionally or if we were watching a video it would be pretty laggy. Overall online was great!"

Lastly, junior Molly Newmister said, "The transition was very smooth, it was much easier to transition from online to in-person than the other way around. I really liked online because it helped me learn some self-discipline. It be-

came increasingly difficult as the quarter progressed because the work was harder, so having that on top of the obstacle of learning online was awful. I liked learning online, though, and I think it was very beneficial for me!"

Overall, the transition from online learning to in-person was easy for many.

Basketball Update

by: Matthew Trosino

In a decree by Bishop Daniel Jenky and Superintendent Dr. Sharon Weiss, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria decided to cancel the 2020-2021 basketball season for both girls and boys. Since then, all high school basketball programs (public and private) in the state of Illinois have been put on hold for the winter. This decision was officially announced on Tuesday, November 3, after many unofficial reports circulated via Twitter the night before. This decision comes after Governor JB Pritzker and the IDPH elevated basketball from a medium-risk sport to a high-risk sport in regards to potential COVID exposure. "The goal is not to cancel winter sports, but to postpone them to the spring where there might be a more effective treatment or a potential vaccine," said Pritzker. Nobody knows what basketball in the spring would look like, especially with football and volleyball pushed into the spring as well.

"We were all super disappointed in the season getting canceled," mourned senior JT Welch. "We really felt we had something special this year, and it was absolutely crushing to see the rug pulled out on our senior season." The girls basketball team was also devastated by the news. The Saints, led by Coach Debbie Coffman, were looking to

have a strong season returning 4 out of 5 previous starters and 8 seniors. "We were all super let down when we heard the news," said senior Ella Larson. "We will all miss spending time bonding on and off the court this winter."

Sports Highlights

by: William Foley

The fall sports season concluded, and our Saints were quite successful! The girls cross country team qualified for Sectionals, placing 5th at Regionals. At Sectionals, sophomore Nora Brady finished 5th place overall, and the girls finished 7th out of 15 respectively.

The boys cross country team finished 7th out of 12 at Regionals, which would qualify for Sectionals under normal circumstances, but unfortunately due to Covid-19, only the top 5 advanced. Freshman Alexander Evans did qualify individually, and at Sectionals placed 44th out of 117 runners, with a personal record of 17:10.

Girls tennis wrapped up their season with a strong showing at Sectionals, finishing 6th place. Junior Maggie Ames, the team's number 1 in singles, won her singles matches, and seniors Katherine Keller and Izzy Kostelnick won their doubles matches as well. Although the season was shortened and restricted, it was still a great year for Saints tennis!

Girls swimming placed 7th at Sectionals, capping off a tremendous inaugural season at Central Catholic. Senior Lauren Wisdom placed 3rd in the 100-yard butterfly, 5th in the 200-yard IM, and 6th in the 100-yard breaststroke, a great showing for the future Illinois State swimmer. The program now has a basis to build upon and looks forward to next season.

Thanksgiving 2020

by: *Kylie Hundman*

Thanksgiving is the holiday of food and football. Families all over the country get together to eat, watch football, and play games. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to get together with our extended family and catch them up on our crazy lives. However this year, things may be different due to the coronavirus.

Lots of people won't be able to travel due to the risks and restrictions of Covid. Some may not get a chance to get together with their extended family because they live far away. This year on Thanksgiving, many will be stuck in the house with only their immediate family members. Things are tough in the world right now; however, Thanksgiving will help us realize that we still have so much to be grateful for, even though the world has been turned upside down.

Let's talk about Thanksgiving food. Spoon University states that about 50 million pumpkin pies are consumed each Thanksgiving. Another fun fact, according to Insider Magazine: Americans consume between 2,500 and 4,500 calories of food during the Thanksgiving feast. Turkey is what we normally think of on Thanksgiving; however, some prefer ham. Freshman Grace Gilpin says she prefers ham because "turkey can be too dry!" There are lots of delicious foods and recipes to make for your family to enjoy. Thanksgiving food is meant to fill you up and make you fall asleep on the couch while watching the football game. What's your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Students at Central were asked the question, "What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?" Senior

Lauren Wisdom reported that her favorite thing is her grandma's stuffing. "My grandma's stuffing is delicious and reminds me of all of the amazing Thanksgiving memories my family and I have shared together." Freshman Gavin Young said his favorite thing is the food. He responded, "The food tastes good!" And finally, senior Casey Diemer shared, "I like to watch football with my family and watch the Steelers win."

Stop, Drop, and Pass the Rolls!

by: *Lilyana Alvarez*

Why did they let the turkey join the band?

Because he had his own drumsticks.

What do you get if you cross a turkey with a ghost?

A poultry-geist.

My grandma made mashed potatoes from a box.

That's it. That's the joke.

What kind of music did the pilgrims listen to?

Plymouth Rock

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

Pilgrims.

If pilgrims traveled on the Mayflower, what do college students travel on?

Scholar ships.

With Coronavirus being a possible concern this year, what's likely to be the most popular side dish?

Masked potatoes.

What is something that describes both political talk and filling up your plate of food?

Choosing sides.

Best Places in Town to View Fall Foliage

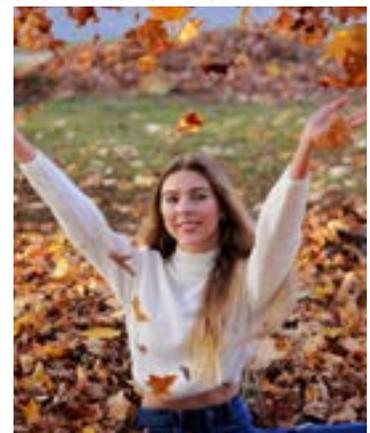
by: *Kylie Klepec*

As the crisp, red leaves fall to the ground, Illinois is overtaken by beautiful scenery. Blankets of red, orange, and yellow leaves cover the ground. While walking on the Constitution Trail, fall is a surreal sight. The path is hugged by tall, colorful trees. Bikers, walkers, and hikers travel this trail. There is a warm, inviting feeling while visiting the trail. With fall's warm colors, the Constitution Trail is a beautiful and comforting site.

Franklin Park is a historic, beautiful scene. This spot is located downtown, and dates back to 1856. The park is painted with gorgeous, tall, vibrant trees. The trees shed a canopy of colorful leaves on the ground. The sun peeks through the trees, giving off a glowing aura. There is no prettier fall sight.

A personal favorite scene of mine is Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary. This attraction offers so much. Their wooded acres are paved with trails, natural wildlife, and a butterfly garden. There are many streams, with charming bridges. It is easy to appreciate nature's beauty here. Since it is fall, the beauty is amplified. If you want to feel like you are not in Illinois, this is the place to be!

Fall is a beautiful time of year! Illinois holds some spectacular attractions. Enjoy the fall scenery before winter strikes!



Prehistoric Life

by: Garret Power

