

HERALD of the SAINTS

March 2021

Faculty: M. Ryan & J. Reckard

Layout: Lilyana Alvarez & Will Foley



Catholic Schools Week

By: Owen Macrowski

From afterthought to limelight: Olympics successfully returned during this year's Catholic Schools Week against all the odds! Victorious team Poland was dutifully crowned, celebrating its unique achievement of two first-place wins in the past three years!

The sight of the Olympics during Catholic Schools Week is something that everyone here at Central Catholic can come to expect as 'the norm.' This year, however, 'the norm' was thrown for a loop, yet the school managed to put something together in the end.

This year's Olympics once again had eight teams fighting it out for the top spot, but unlike previous years, this time there were four events. The most recognizable event was the ever popular Three Pin, in which teams faced off throwing Palos balls to try and knock down the other sides' pins. The other events were either brand new or trivia-based. As with every Olympics, the end of the day's announcements brought the confirmation of the final scores and how well each team did, as well as marking the end of Catholic Schools Week. For the second time in three years, it was once again Poland on top, despite a solid effort from runners up Spain and Italy.

This year, instead of everyone from each of the schools attending St. Patrick of Merna, only a select few from each were able to attend. The remainder of the students in Bloomington-Normal Catholic schools were able to watch the Mass remotely and receive communion via Eucharistic ministers.



Boys Basketball Update

By: Will Foley

The ball has been tipped, and the Saints basketball season is well underway. The Saints began with a 5-6 record through their first 11 games. While not ideal, Coach Jason Welch sees some positives in this. "From a win-loss standpoint we aren't where we want to be, but having an opportunity to play is awesome."

Coach mentioned his pride in the Senior Class: "The older guys have embraced a very difficult schedule and I'm excited to see how we finish the year." Saints star JT Welch is one of those seniors, and he has enjoyed the challenging season thus far. "It's been super fun stepping up as a senior. I've had a lot of fun playing with my brothers and being able to compete. It's a blessing to be able to play for my coaches and with my best friends even with Covid ongoing."

The positive in the start of the season is a 4-0 conference record, along with gaining experience which will be useful later on. The team is very optimistic looking forward to the end of the season, including Senior Drew Hinderer: "We're excited for the final opportunities that we have as a senior-led team, and we're really confident we can finish the season strong."

The Saints have a total of 21 games scheduled, meaning the season is around the halfway point.



1000 Points! JT Welch

By: Lily Alvarez

Jason Thomas Welch scored his 1,000th point on Friday, February 26, surrounded by his team, his family, and fans at Central Catholic.

JT has been part of Central's basketball team for all four years and is continuing his basketball and academic career at Millikin College. JT says, "It felt great to get 1,000 points. It puts me down in the history books along with the great Central Catholic basketball players ever. It's a huge honor."

JT has been playing since he was very young and has been playing with most of his teammates since his first game at Central. He thinks of them as his brothers. JT says that "having my dad coach me for one last season means the world to me, and I am cherishing every single moment."

When talking with Coach Welch, he says, "The reality of him being able to get 1,000 points is an amazing accomplishment for anyone to make in a career. It shows who he is as a player, and being able to coach him is a very blessed and amazing opportunity and I am very lucky to coach a family member as great as JT."

The Saints are very excited to see what is in store for the boys of the basketball team as they approach the end of their season, and everyone is excited to see JT continue his basketball career.



St. Patrick's Day Jokes

By: Sofia Calvert

Why did the leprechaun walk out of the house?

He wanted to sit on the Paddy O'!

Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover?

You don't want to press your luck.

What is St. Patrick's favorite kind of music?

Sham-rock and roll.

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

Regular rocks are too heavy.

How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?

He's Dublin over with laughter!

What kind of bow can't be tied?

A rainbow!

Knock-knock! Who's there? Irish. Irish Who?

Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!

What instrument does a showoff play on St. Patrick's Day?

Bragpipes!

What do you call a clumsy Irish dance?

A jig mistake!

What would you get if you crossed a leprechaun with a frog?

A little green man with a croak of gold!



Coffee Bracket

By: Sierra Godsey

For this issue, the seniors of Central Catholic all voted for their favorite coffee shop.

The coffee shops chosen to vote for were Dunkin, Starbucks, Coffee Hound, Coffee House, Gloria Jeans, Crafted Coffee, McDonalds, and Blooms. The final two were Dunkin and Starbucks, with Starbucks coming out on top for the win! McDonalds came in third place, and Coffee Hound came in fourth place, with Crafted Coffee as a close runner up.

Many students at Central Catholic are coffee addicts and are very specific about the coffee they drink. "I love Crafted Coffee because I find comfort in knowing how it is made (because I work there), and how clean the conditions are!" explains senior Grace Hartrich.

The seniors will bring in coffee every morning to get them through the day, and the most popular coffee brought in is Starbucks--the winner of the coffee bracket!

Keefe's Kwerky Questions



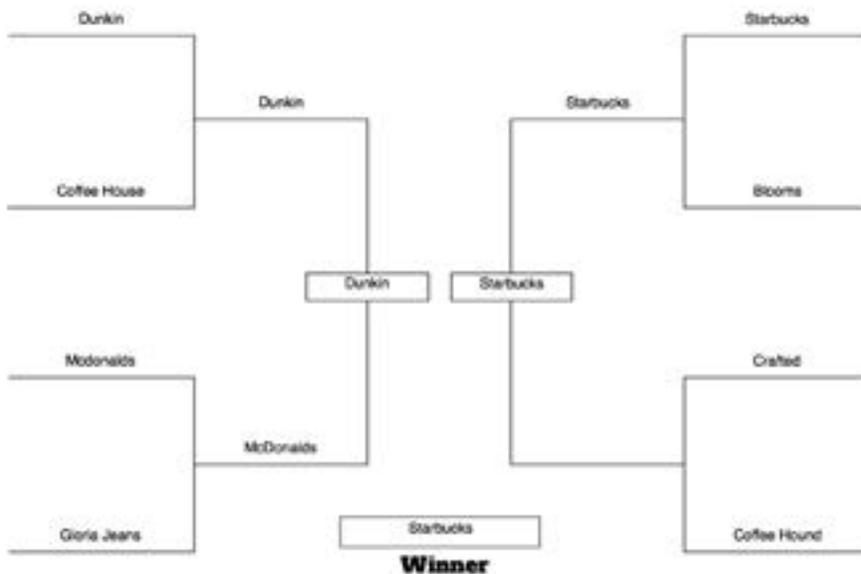
By: John Keefer

March Madness...with cookies! This month, students from the Senior Class were sent a survey and voted on which cookie they loved most. We got to see the results play out in a bracket, consisting of eight cookies total: Double Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Chocolate Chip, Carnival, Milk Chocolate Chunk, Snickerdoodle, Sugar, and Macaroon. By the end of the day, Milk Chocolate Chunk reigned as the supreme champion!

The superiority of cookies has long been a debate among Central Catholic students, and finally it has been settled. Central Catholic basketball legend Casey Crowley was extremely confident that the Double Chocolate Chip cookie would take the crown. However, he was more than surprised to see it as a runner up to Milk Chocolate Chunk. "The Vegas odds had Double Chocolate Chip at -1000, so I almost took a loan out on my house," Crowley shared. "Those cookies are vital to my basketball endurance and performance, so I am disgusted to see them anywhere but first place to say the least!" Cuisine specialist and art teacher Mr. Reckard remarked that the Oatmeal Raisin cookie "has no place being on the bracket, let alone existing."

Cookie controversy was the theme of this month's bracket, and the results will have fans buzzing for years to come.

8 Team Single Elimination

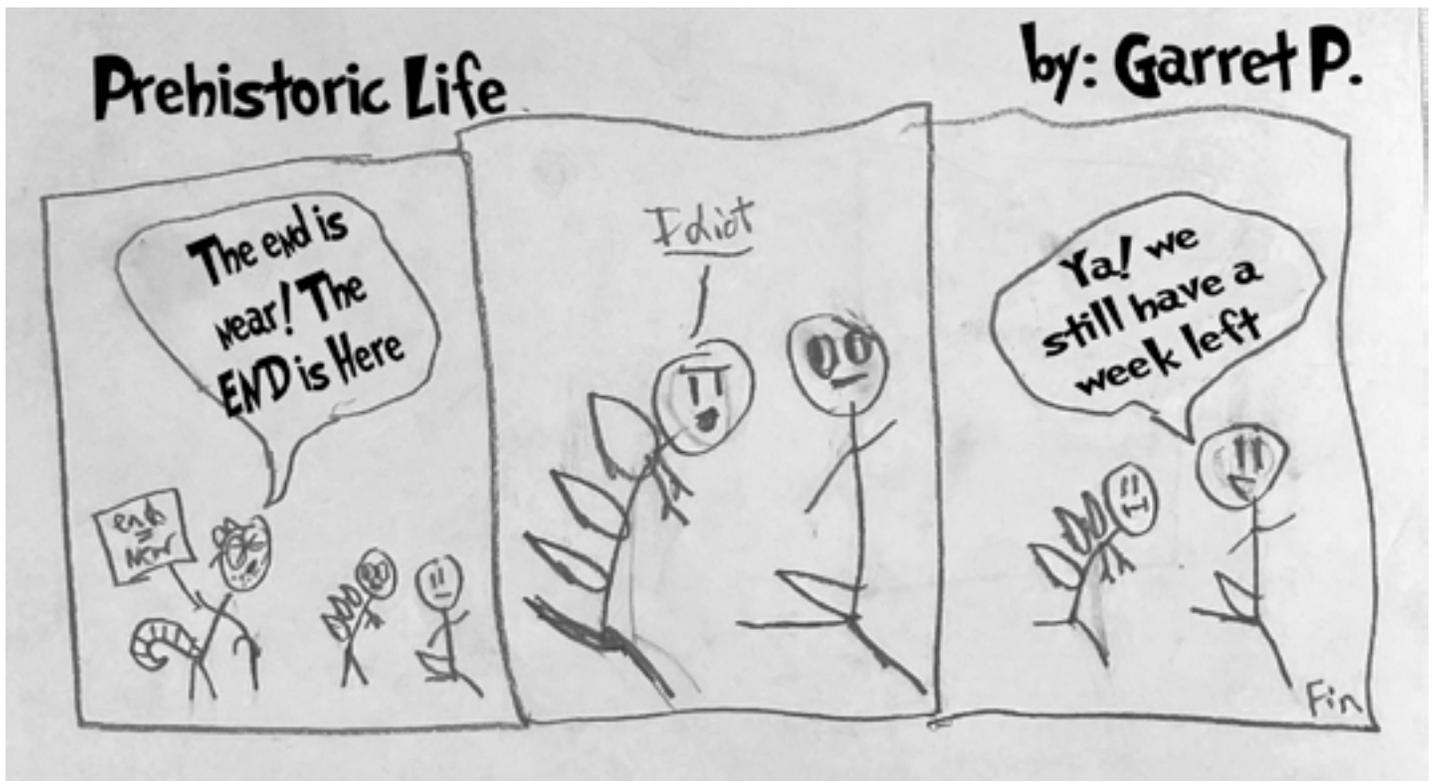


8 Team Single Elimination



Prehistoric Life

by: Garret P.



Volleyball Preview

By: JB Bickett

Returning with a full court of seniors, the Saints volleyball team is looking forward to a dominating season. In spite of the safety restrictions and complex response of the IHSA, volleyball is set to play this spring!

For athletes in Illinois this has been an unconventional year to say the least. In the midst of the global pandemic, athletics were the last thing on many people's minds; however, everything changed on January 27, when the Illinois High School Association released its decision to play sports again. The IHSA permitted a limited number of contact days that each sport could practice with new safety restrictions, entailing masks, social distancing, and a limit on contact time teams could have. The Saints volleyball team commenced these contact days with the mindset of staying positive and hopeful to get the opportunity to keep playing. Senior Ella Larson explains, "I am

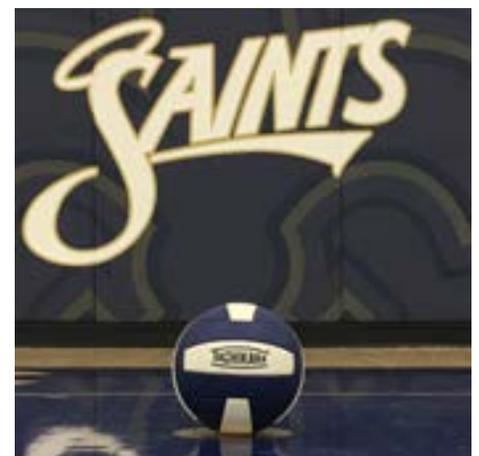
just grateful to have a sports season during this unconventional year, so I would say as a team we are going into the season with a positive mindset."

Playing a season this year isn't without its challenges. The team has faced conflicts with its athletes playing in other sports in their condensed seasons. Ella was one of these multisport athletes who also is a talented basketball player. "Thankfully the main conflicts between sports only disable the girls playing basketball from attending volleyball open gyms."

Many athletes consider themselves lucky to not have to decide between the different sports they play or to be able to keep the conflicts limited. The new health restrictions have proved to be a new aspect of the game to which the team has adapted. During the preseason the team took the time to get to know each other through Zoom calls as well as limited contact open gyms. Through in through, the girls are looking for-

ward to having the opportunity to play any form of season this year.

The Saints Volleyball team is looking forward to a dominant season amidst all the uncertainty of this year. Through this adversity the team has been led by eight seniors that will prove to be valuable assets to the team. Sierra Godsey remarks, "The team is led by the large Senior Class and is fueled by an energetic underclass that are eager to play!" The volleyball program is looking to bounce back from a challenging season the previous year and is looking forward to getting the opportunity to play!



Kylie's Corner: Where to GO Outside Your House

By: *Kylie Klepec*

With spring just around the corner, people want to get out of their houses. I know with Covid around, it's harder for things to do. But, there are a few Covid-free activities you could try this Spring!

With the lakes unthawing, the grass growing greener, and the trees sprouting buds, parks are a lovely place to go during the spring. It is easy to maintain social distance, and you are getting fresh air. There are many parks you could go to in Bloomington-Normal. With playgrounds and trails, there is much to do! For example, Gaelic Park. There, you can play on the playground, go fishing, jog on the trail, and play basketball. So instead of being imprisoned in your house after a long winter and quarantine, go to a park!

Along with spring comes rain showers. What are you going to do on those rainy days? Luckily, Marcus Theaters are open! Yes, you still have to wear your mask, but you get to enjoy great films on the big screen. You can also get some of that movie popcorn you have been missing. It's a simple, fun activity to do when you have to be inside, but you don't want to be at your home.

Another great spring activity is hopping on that old bike. The easy, cool breezes will feel amazing after being trapped inside for so long. You can bike in your neighborhood or jump on a trail. Constitution Trail would be a great place to bike. There is a lot of room for biking and many different places to go off of that trail.

Open yourself up to some adventure this spring. As time goes by, many places are starting to open back up. I'm sure you will be able to get out of the house.



A Day In the Life of... Ms. Blue

By: Grace Hartrich

If you were to walk in the shoes of Ms. Blue for a day, whether it be in her classic Keds or classy ballet flats, you'd come to know that she doesn't just grade tests and annotate literature.

Ms. Blue rolls out of bed every weekday morning at 6:40 a.m. to do her morning routine. This consists of washing her face, straightening her hair with the same straightener she's had for 11 years, and getting dressed to head to school. After her routine is done, Ms. Blue heads down her stairs to open the blinds of her sliding door, then feeds her two hefty cats, Pockets and Wendy, and she is out the door in the span of about thirty-five minutes by 7:15.

Ms. Blue pulls into the Central Catholic parking lot at about 7:25 a.m, giving her some time to prepare for the day ahead of her, whether it be making copies, updating her Google Classroom, or grading some extra papers to get a little ahead of the game.

As the clock's minute hand inches towards eight o'clock, students start to waltz in, and they would be happy to be in her first-hour class. She teaches three standard classes and two advanced placement classes, making a total of five classes. "I work all day for the moments when students make a connection between what we are reading in class and history or our world today. That is what fascinates me and it is why I love literature so much." Of course, we cannot forget Ms. Blue is a proud and active participant in the school play! "I have internal conflict because that is what I go to for joy and it is what really fuels me. The play got lost and that was a big hurt for me." For the Fall

Drama, she is the director and Spring Musical she is the choreographer, playing huge roles in both seasonal plays.

Being someone who prefers to grade papers while snug and in her habitat at home, Ms. Blue will usually go home between 3:30 and 4:00 in the afternoon. Once Ms. Blue steps foot in her cozy condo, she turns on whatever she's currently watching on Netflix or cable, and has it playing in the background while grading papers or lesson planning, if not stationarily watching it. If there is no school work that needs to be done, Ms. Blue might settle down and dig into a jigsaw puzzle, which she always enjoys. A fun fact about Ms. Blue is that she owns over seventy jigsaw puzzles. Sounds like she is the jigsaw queen!

Dinner-wise, Ms. Blue says, "Chiptole is one of my number one favorites; I love a carnitas bowl! I get takeout from pub type restaurants too, like Crawford's, McGuire's, and Schooner's."

The clock signals it is getting closer to bedtime for Ms. Blue, and she decides she needs to start her nightly routine. To kickstart her routine, at about 8:30 she starts off with a Sharna Burgess workout, a celebrity she loves. After her workout, she showers for the night and is in bed usually by eleven o'clock, disregarding the fact that she's probably reading a book under her covers by that time rather than sleeping. Middle-level fiction (books written for 5th-9th graders) is Ms. Blue's all time favorite genre to read. "I like them because I always like reading how books shape young children and I always find something valuable in middle level literature."

While she fills her day and night with several time-consuming activ-

ities, Ms. Blue still amazingly finds the time in her day to tend to our needs--the students--as well. The time and effort Ms. Blue puts into every daily lesson she assembles is insane, but the lack of recognition and thanks she receives is as well. We all love and appreciate her, but maybe you should let her know just that. Bringing a smile to Ms. Blue's mask-covered face will probably end up making your day as well, so don't be shy to say something that would bring both of you joy.



A Day In the Life of... Ms. Cannon

By: Henry Cowsert

Explain your daily routine for an average Monday.

My coffeemaker goes off at 4:45 a.m. and I drink a cup before I leave Peoria at 6:00 a.m. I drive to Central (with a travel mug full of coffee) for Jazz band at 7:15 a.m., during which I usually down my last and final cup. After Jazz Band, I head to Corpus Christi for 5th grade band from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Then I drive to Epiphany for Junior High Band from 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Right after, I go back to Central for Concert Band from 11:45 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. In the afternoons, I go back to Corpus Christi for Junior High Band from

2:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Then I'll head back to Central for musical practice until about 5:00 p.m. before I finally head back home to Peoria.

Does it change on other days of the week?

Yes. I travel between Epiphany, Central Catholic, and Corpus Christi every day - but no day in a single week is the same as the next. Even weekly, the schedule is different!

What (else) do you do in your free time?

I love spending time with my friends and being outside when it's above 75°. On my daily commute, I spend a lot of time on the phone with my family and friends who live in other time zones!

What does your average weekend look like?

Sleeping. Usually trying to hang out with friends and eat good food or drink coffee from our usual places.

Where do you typically get your coffee from?

Dunkin, Starbucks, my coffee maker, Zion in Peoria, and the school teacher's lounge.

If you were to go out for lunch, where would you go and whom would you go with?

Anything with a buffet. I love an all-you-can-eat deal across multiple meal times. Probably my family since I don't get to see them that often!



Football Preview

By: Matthew Trosino

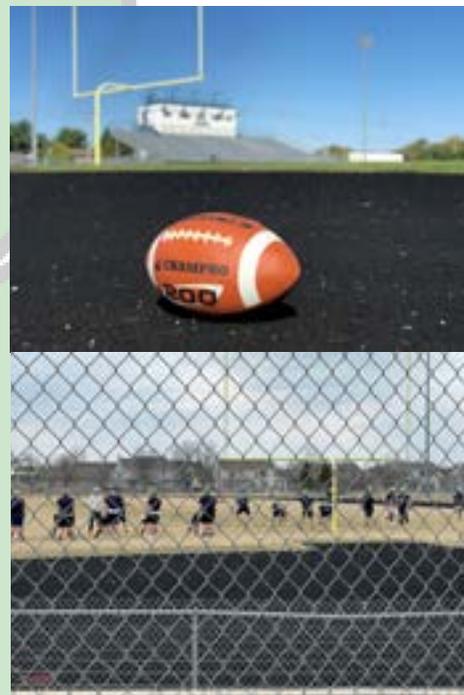
After months of anticipation, the Central Catholic Saints football team is ready to take the field for its first game in 511 days.

On July 29, 2020, the IHSA postponed the Fall of 2020 football season indefinitely. Athletes and coaches across the state were heartbroken, and questioned whether or not there would be an opportunity to play. After five months of waiting and anticipating, on January 27, 2021, the IHSA announced its plan for an abbreviated spring football season. The season consists of six games, with the season opener on March 19 at Monticello and a season closer on April 24 at Prairie Central for the Saints. "I am so happy and more than enthusiastic for the opportunity to play the game I have loved since I was a wee toddler," said Senior Captain Matt Wagner. "We have all been dying for the opportunity to get out there and play, and we are beyond blessed we are finally getting the chance."

The Saints are looking to build off of improvement from previous years, following a jump from an overall 2018 record of 0-9 to a solid 3-6 record under a new coaching staff. The Saints are looking to take another leap in record improvement to hopefully an undefeated season with a dedicated senior-laden roster complimented by young talent. Coach Braucht says the expectations for the season are high: to win the conference and go from there. "We have the tools to do it and we're motivated; it's just a matter of going out there and doing it."

As of right now, the IHSA has released no information on the football spectator guidelines. However, coaches and athletes across

the state are optimistic about the opportunity to have some form of in-person attendance for the games. "We really hope there is the chance for some in-person attendance for our games. I know our fellow students really want to take the stands at least one more time, and the guys on the field love having support from the fans," said Senior Captain Jacob Bickett.



Soccer Preview

By: Lily Alvarez

With the soccer season just around the corner, Coach Reza Ghasemi has been coaching both the boys and girls at the same time and has been preparing them for their season. The boys' first game took place on March 9 the score was 9-0 and the girls' first game will be on April 20. Coach Reza gave us some insights into the soccer teams, their upcoming season, and how practices are going.

How many people are on each team? And how many seniors are on each team?

I think we'll have around 22 players on the boys team and around 17 players on the girls team! Please keep in mind that these numbers are estimated numbers at this point; and, as of now, I'll have three seniors on the boys team and one on the girls team.

How is it taking on two teams at the same time and how are practices working while balancing two teams?

It's both challenging and rewarding at the same time! We're in the midst of the contact days right now so I train both teams together at the same time. It's great working with both teams at the same time in our gym. They all work on the same set of skills, drills, and hear the same messages from me. I don't think there'll be any issues with coaching two teams in spring/summer since it's going to be a short season for both teams, plus the boys' and girls' schedules are not going to overlap each other.

How do you see the season going for each team and what are some things you hope they grow from during the season?

I believe we're going to have an awesome season for both boys and girls teams, although we know there won't be any State tournaments. Both teams are very young and very talented; I'll view this season as an opportunity to measure the two teams, identify their strengths and the areas of improvement so I can get them ready for next season!

Is there anything you would like to add to encourage your players?

I am very proud of all my players on both boys and girls teams. They are very supportive of each other, work hard, are eager to learn, passionate about competing, and ready to have fun! It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to coach such an awesome group of young men and young ladies at CCHS.



Spring Break Life

By: Santino Sartoris

Every year, when winter fades and spring blooms I get millions of questions. Where do I go for Spring Break? What should I do there? Can you go with me? Fret no longer, your Spring Break sherpa, Santino Sartoris is here to guide you towards your best Spring Break ever.

Among the Central Catholic student body there are many different schools of thought on the Spring Break travel phenomenon. For example, the future valedictorian of the 2021 class, Connor "The Issue" French, believes that his annual expedition to the Viñales Valley of Cuba is the best way to clear his mind. "There is nothing in this world that I love more than my Spring Break in Cuba. The sights are stupendous and the hiking is without flaw." When pressed about this proclaimed flawless hiking, he noted: "Well, there are hard parts about hiking the Cuban landscape, but I think that these trying experiences take us, as humans, down into the deepest facets of our soul. There, in those trials, we find what makes us human, what makes us fight. When I hike Cuba, I hike my soul." While Cuba sounds like quite the adventure, other students enjoy themselves locally. "I don't really go anywhere," says senior Jake Manness. "I do enjoy waking up to the changing

seasons, though. It is so beautiful to experience the movement of nature and feel that changing nature reflected in everyone's smiles." John Keefer also loves to spend his spring break at home. "During Spring Break I develop my golf game religiously. This year I'm focusing on the short game. I would have won the state championship by at least 10 strokes this year if I hadn't four putted every hole, so I'm gonna clean that up and prepare for my future college competitions."

Will Foley, Central Catholic cross country legend, will be spending his Spring Break at home enjoying his week off. "This Spring Break will be absolutely baller because I will get to relax and watch some March Madness. I felt my heart break when they cancelled the tournament last year so this is a great way to make up for that."

Spring Break is a great time to go have a blast like Jake and Connor, but it is also a great time to connect with your family. Senior Ella Larson supports this idea with her own Spring Break experiences: "The highlight of my year is when I get to go see my family in Cherkasy, Ukraine, along the Dnieper River. I get to brush up on my Ukrainian each time I go there, and there is always fun to be had. Just as they say in Cherkasy: *Демократію потрібно перемогти вогнем відплати*' (Anytime is summertime if it shines in your heart')."*

Whether it's at home or a home away from home, you just know that Spring Break with your family and friends is always a great time. Just as Mark Zuckerberg once said, "The only thing more important than family is where you go on Spring Break with them."

***Editor's Note:** Upon further investigation, Ella Larson does not have any family in Ukraine.

