

Living in the moment

by Abby Burton

College applications are due, I have two huge tests this week, and on top of that, I have a presentation.

Yet, with all of these things on my plate, I still managed to find time (all of Sunday, to be exact) to stalk Homecoming pictures on Facebook and Instagram.

As I looked through these pictures of my peers, I realized the root of my procrastination is my phone and all of the apps on it.

I am not saying that technology is completely to blame, but I know I can't sit down in one place and finish my homework without looking at my phone.

For some reason, everyone seems to think that if they don't check the latest posts on social media, they aren't up to date with everyone else, me included.

I think it's great that people have easier ways to interact, but social media is slowly turning from a virtual world into a real world for some.

As sad as it is, I have heard people choose their activities based on what they think would look cool on Instagram. Everyone has heard the term "do it for the Vine," though it's considered a joke, it has become a reality.

Think about it; how often do you live in the moment without tweeting or snap chatting about it?

In our generation, I am seeing less people enjoying the moment. Rather, I see groups of people taking pictures to make the activity seem more enjoyable to the public than it actually is.

News flash: not everything that you do has to be recorded for everyone else to see.

The problem is that everyone is consumed by what others are doing. I'm not going to lie; I often fall into this category, too. So, I've set a new goal for myself. I want to avoid social media at all costs, especially during this stressful quarter, but this is easier said than done.

Unfortunately, this past Sunday

I went to the library with hopes of being productive. Instead, I sat there for a straight hour without opening my backpack. Yes, I was looking at my phone, scrolling through pictures and commenting on everyone's different themes for homecoming. It seemed necessary at the time, but I now realize how much time I threw away.

The truth is, nothing on social media is that interesting. Sure, it's fun to look at once in a while, but it has to be taken in doses. Too much Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter can consume people.

My advice is to push through this rough semester, and don't worry as much about what others are doing. I feel like our generation is quickly losing their ability to enjoy the simple things in life without connecting them to technology. Life goes fast, so you better make the best of each moment.

Hopefully I can take my own advice on this one.

Baby steps, Abby, baby steps.

Calling all children, \$5 an hour

by Leah Pearlman

If you're anything like me, and hopefully you aren't, Halloween depresses your inner child.

As a high schooler, I am finding it very hard to come to terms with the fact that adults simply won't put candy in my plastic pumpkin anymore.

I was doing a great job of dressing in a kiddie costume and getting away with it up until sophomore year. Who made up these convoluted rules about trick or treating? And in which clause did they add an age limit?

As a junior I gave up on trick or treating before I started. However, this year --like a miracle-- Halloween falls on a treasured Friday. I won't let my beloved trick or treating experience pass me by this time around.

You're wondering at this point: Leah, how are you going to get away with this wicked scheme?

Don't worry reader, I will let you in on my big secret as this newspaper is coming out on Halloween and it would be impossible to copy. My evil plan takes a lot of planning and craftwork.

Phase one weighs on how much time and effort you put into it. You

must be extremely creative and artistically talented, so I am not sure if many of you could pull this one off.

You must compile a list of traits that make you a respectable person and then make a flier out of them. With these handouts you will flag down mothers and fathers anywhere you think they will be.

Grocery stores, train stations, or inside their homes could work. This, though, is where you must get imaginative because almost any place you can think of could work to pursue potential parents, and you don't want to bump into possible competitors. How awkward.

Once you have convinced a parent to speak with you long enough for a conversation to transpire, lay it on them. The point is to convince them to let you rent their son or daughter for Halloween night. They may call it babysitting but you can laugh that one off later.

Upon finding a few kids to rent (from some seriously poor parents, I mean, c'mon they trust you?) you must go out and find some costumes. There is nothing better than brining small children into Halloween stores that sell loud, horrifying, life size, and sometimes pop-out decorations. They really eat that stuff up.

I recommend a group look because it gets a good response from the candy-givers. You want to catch their attention in a way that disguises your age. Maybe a Wizard of Oz theme? Or maybe Scooby Doo?

Realizing the point of this scheme is to receive free candy, you must completely disregard cost when choosing a costume.

Your rented children may become tired, or complain, even cry. Remind them of the mission. I have personally met with my children already and had them go through a series of tests to prove their readiness.

Some of them just didn't make the cut, I felt bad, but knew it was for the best. They would not have been able to handle the harsh hurdles of the operation.

I take my trick or treating very seriously. I have already laminated and color coded my map of neighborhoods, set up a place for candy trading, and even practiced the pitch at which I chant "Trick or treat." I know, I am ingenious and perfect at everything I do. If your Halloween night doesn't turn out as great as mine, I am truly sorry, however I won't be surprised.

Follow my plan next year and have yourself a Happy Halloween.

Staff editorial:

Referendum can only improve the school

Many monumental events have occurred in the past sixty years. Since 1954, African American citizens gained voting rights, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, the U.S fought in fourteen major military operations, and the first black president was elected.

What hasn't happened since 1954? Construction on some of the oldest parts of New Trier's Winnetka Campus.

The district has anxiously anticipated next week's November 4 vote on the New Trier referendum since plans began over a year ago.

Community members, including a portion of the senior class, will vote on the \$89 million dollar bond referendum, which plans to replace the three oldest parts of the building.

More than 25 new classrooms, three new science labs, a new library, more secure entrances, and energy efficient heating and cooling systems are also included in the project. If the referendum passes, construction will commence in spring of 2015 and finish in time for 2017-2018 school year.

Even sophomores, who have only attended the Winnetka campus for two months, are familiar with the distinctive smell of the Winnetka cafeteria. Combined with other typical conditions such as seasonal extreme heat and consistently chaotic food lines, it is no wonder students prefer to sit elsewhere.

While some find eating lunch outside of the cafeteria to be part of the New Trier experience, the resulting piles of half eaten apples and empty food wrappers dispersed across the hallways after sixth period are a tradition not worth maintaining.

Inside a quiet classroom, lunch conversations are easily overheard. This is especially distracting to students testing during these periods.

Those who frequent the music and art wings are all too familiar with the unbearable heat present during early fall and late spring. Unreliable heating and air-conditioning systems make 80-90 degree outdoor temperatures feel brisk. On these

days, students may sweat more in their art or music class than in gym.

As critics have pointed out, the referendum will undoubtedly cause disruptions to students who attend the school during the construction phases.

Art classes may temporarily move to modular classrooms located on the North playing fields; however, the district assures that these rooms will include heating, air conditioning, and likely more space than existing classrooms.

Many worry major holiday breaks will be sacrificed due to construction schedules. According to the district, this will not be the case.

The schedule may receive minor changes, such as possible student attendance on some holidays and the lengthening of the 2016 and 2017 summer vacations, but the winter and spring breaks will not be eliminated.

Although these days off of school are sacred to students, a few can be spared here and there for the sake of the project.

If the referendum passes, an extra \$16.67 per every \$1,000 of taxes would be added to every homeowner's annual property tax bill for the next 20 years. This may seem unnecessarily expensive to those who do not attend the school. But for those who have attended the school in the last sixty years, this seems like a small price to pay for additions like a proportionally sized cafeteria and handicap accessibility, features to expect of any high school with 4,000 students.

Most homeowners in the area wouldn't live in a house that hasn't been updated since before the invention of the internet, yet students are expected to spend eight and often more hours a day in a building of this quality. Voting "yes" to the referendum is the next logical step to furthering the advancement of New Trier.

If we can increase the quality of New Trier's learning environment, then we can enhance the education students receive as well.

Letter to the editor

Dear Staff:

I am writing to express my concern over the erroneous reporting by Nick Merrill, in the Diversions article entitled, "Sub shop abruptly closes despite community support", referring to Wilmette Subs, located at 1135 Greenleaf Ave., and my dance and music studio, located at 1131, 1133, and 1141 Greenleaf Ave., that appeared in the school newspaper on October 24, 2014. Unfortunately, due diligence, a necessity of good journalism, was neglected in this story. I feel strongly about addressing this issue, because I recognize that this is student journalism, and believe a good lesson in ethics can be quickly learned from this situation.

The article claims, "The closure (of Wilmette Subs, located at 1135 Greenleaf) wasn't due to a lack of profits or operating hardship, but rather a political decision made by a new landlord to give the space to a dance studio next door (without allowing Wilmette Subs an opportunity to re-lease the space)." This is a statement created by hearsay, not by factual information. If due diligence had been served, the author would have discovered that there is no new landlord, there were legal issues dating back at least 6 months that had absolutely nothing to do with my dance and music studio, and that the dance studio has, on public record, applied for and secured a year-long lease (August 2014 to August 2015) for the formerly vacant Link's Sweet Bean space, two doors from the former Wilmette Sub, not at 1135 Greenleaf, as stated in the paper. Wilmette Subs went out of business AFTER we opened at 1141 Greenleaf.

Perhaps Mr. Merrill is unaware of the lengthy process that one must endure to open a business in Wilmette. I started the investigation process of expanding my business to the former Link's Sweet Bean space (1141 Greenleaf) in March of 2014, which came to fruition only in mid-September. This included a mass mailing to residents within a certain distance, 2 hearings in front of the village board and televised on the public station, and the negotiation of a lease. Therefore, there were many opportunities to research, contact the dance studio, or check the village records for facts, but none were taken before writing this article.

As an educator, I do feel that it is our responsibility to stress the importance of investigating your sources before making any damaging claims. I work day and night to present my business as a valuable fixture in the Wilmette and surrounding communities, and I am disappointed that this article was released without the proper research.

Respectfully, Pamela Sue Fox, Owner, Studio North Academy of the Performing Arts, LLC

New Trier NEWS

Founded in 1919

Published Fridays during the school year by the students of New Trier Township High School, 385 Winnetka Avenue, Illinois 60093.

Correspondence may be directed to the New Trier News office, room 011, or by calling (847) 784-2278.

All letters to the editors are welcome, though we will not print anonymous letters. Direct these and other inquiries to our email at ntnews@newtrier.k12.il.us.

The Staff Editorial is written by the editors-in-chief, not adult faculty.

- Editors-in-Chief**.....Lynley Evans, Ben Portnoy, Joey Schuman
- News Editors**.....Julia Patton, Katherine Rhea
- Opinion Editors**..... Abby Burton, Leah Pearlman, Lydia Wuorinen
- Features Editors**.....Max Borushek, Maddy McVey
- Sports Editors**.....Nick Krauskopf, Danni LeServe, Martin Oppegard
- Examiner Editors**.....Jeremy Lee, McKenna Patterson
- Online Editors**.....Sam Braganca, Sarah Wong
- Photo Editor**.....Emmy Minturn
- Diversions**.....Nick Merrill
- Editorial Adviser**.....Carlo Trovato
- Assistant Editorial Adviser**.....Sarah Gompers