

# the NEW TRIER NEWS



## New tampon legislation changes bathrooms | Girgenti

Female sanitary products will now be available for free

by Claudia Levens

Starting next year, all Illinois school districts and charter schools grades 6-12 will be required to provide feminine hygiene products in bathrooms to female students, for free.

The new legislation, which goes into effect Jan. 1, was sponsored by state Rep. Litesa Wallace, who compared this requirement to supplying hand soap and paper towels.

"There are issues that we have no control over. It's a public health issue. It's one that, I believe if applied to everybody, everyone would get on board," she said.

At least half the population experiences the difficulties of periods, and this hopefully will assuage the unpredictability of period cycles that are often heightened during high school and teen years and will be beneficial to



Women's bathrooms in all Illinois public schools will provide free tampons, starting January 1, 2018 | Guthrie

students when a period arrives early and a student doesn't have a pad or tampon with her.

It escapes the complications that arise when buying them from the dispensers. Or, in the likely case that a student does not bring a quarter to the bathroom, she does not have to go back to her classroom to get one from her backpack or go to the nurse to get a free one--all under the pressure

of possibly missing important class time.

School nurse Colleen Sheridan acknowledged, however, that it might not change much here, as tampon distribution at New Trier has functioned satisfactorily.

Tampon dispensers array the walls of most bathrooms providing tampons for 25 cents, and the health office distributes them for free.

Sophomores Nina Seals and Ellie Hanlon both said they think it will be beneficial for female students overall. But, they themselves don't think it will affect them much.

Wallace, in sponsoring the bill, noted that this measure would be especially helpful to low-income students, who sometimes resort to using unsanitary paper substitutes or skipping school altogether.

She also points out that school districts that already make products available have noticed slight improvements in school attendance.

The taboo nature surrounding periods and feminine hygiene has caused female students to adapt and handle emergencies independently.

Tampons are not normally a topic of conversation, public or legislative.

"It's interesting," said junior William Bechtel. "I can see why they would make it free and why people would want that, but I do find it surprising given how this topic can be controversial."

Junior Katie Busch, however, felt this is absolutely necessary.

Citing a recent experience she had just last week, when she did not have a tampon with her and neither did any of her friends, "It puts you in a really vulnerable position" she said. "What do you want me to do? Walk around with blood on my pants?"

Regardless, Sheridan upholds that this is the type of thing that students shouldn't have to adapt to.

"This is finally being treated as a necessity rather than a luxury by the state."

## Students' films honored at film festival

Seniors and 2017 graduate had their films screened in Times Square

by Jasmine Gonzalez

Two New Trier seniors and a class of 2017 alumni recently attended an event that many high school film makers can only dream of.

Kelly Zabors, a 2017 graduate, along with seniors Sofia Mena and Lucy Spahr, had the opportunity to attend the Annual All American High School Film Festival held in New York City over the weekend of Oct. 6.

In addition to seeing their own films screened at the AMC theatre in Times Square, participants also had the option to attend various panels, networking events, a technology showcase, a college fair, and an Awards Show.

The festival draws amateur high school film makers not only from around the country, but also countries from around the world.

With a variety of categories that students submit their work to, the festival showcases a diversity of talent.

The festival's mission, according to its website, is "to provide immersive education with a profound impact, connecting the filmmakers of the future with the rewards, respect and recognition they deserve."

Zabors currently attends the University of California, Berkeley where she is planning to major in Business Administration and minor in Film Studies. With the guidance of Video Production teacher Iwona Awlasiewicz, Zabors submitted two films, which were



Senior Lucy Spahr (right) attends film screening in New York City | Spahr

both chosen as official selections.

Her film "Virus", which was one of the finalists in the Public Service Category, warns against the dangers of not being cautious on the internet.

Her second film, titled "The Sound and The Fury," was based on William Faulkner's unconventional writing style that is used in his own novel of the same title.

Senior Sofia Mena saw her film screened on Oct 6. She submitted a three-minute film titled "Oh, It's Nobody" in the comedy category. The short film documents a wordless conversation between a boy and a girl in their English class.

Another student of Awlasiewicz, Mena credited her for her guidance throughout the process and for encouraging more students to get involved.

"I just hope that more people will take notice of and take an interest in filmmaking in the future," she said.

Fellow senior Lucy Spahr submitted a music video focusing on

teenage romance titled "If We Were Rain." The video was filmed at Santa Monica Pier as part of an independent project while staying at the University of California, Los Angeles. Last summer, Spahr collaborated with other students, including singer and fellow film-maker Sophie Fieldman from Seattle, Washington.

Unlike the other two participants, Spahr has been making films independently outside of New Trier.

Like Mena, Spahr became interested in filmmaking at a young age and continued to develop her passion during high school.

"I've always made videos with friends and for my family since I was little, and over time it just became more professional," said Mena.

Having their films selected in a variety of different categories and participating in the festival was something that all three of the participants found to be rewarding.

## Habitat for Humanity kicks off with new fundraiser

Senior leaders bring food trucks and cash raffle to New Trier

by May Paddor

On Thursday Oct. 26, students had the opportunity to attend Habitat for Humanity's first fundraiser Lunch on the Lawn during their lunch periods and buy from food trucks, participate in a cash raffle and listen to live music from fellow classmates.

Senior and Habitat for Humanity leader James Wasielewski said Lunch on the Lawn is meant to bring the senior class together to not only have a fun time, but to learn about Habitat and how we are involved.

"We have the opportunity as a senior class to make a lasting difference in our community," said Wasielewski.

Lunch on the Lawn had something for everyone. "We really hoped that everyone had a great time at the event, whether it was enjoying food, listening to music or playing games," said Wasielewski.

The senior class has been planning this event since the beginning of the school year.

Senior and Habitat for Humanity leader Sonia Hoelstein said, "We have worked for the past month on the event, calling local businesses and organizing the Habitat Leadership Team. We have 18 seniors working on the project, ranging in different skills."

Not every senior class raises funds the same way. Senior boys' adviser chair Chris Pearson said, "It's exciting to see how engaged the

students are and how they can work together to pull off a big project. The project is a good opportunity for the senior class to work together in funding and building a house and put their own stamp on the events."

This is not the first time New Trier has partnered with Habitat for Humanity.

"This has been the 18th class to take on the project and each class brings their own unique spin. Some of the biggest annual fundraisers are the Tom De Luca Show, the Winter Carnival and the online auction," said senior girls' adviser chair Susie Paunan.

Every year, the senior class raises funds and helps build a house. "Most of the profits will go to our project to help a family in need with their mortgage on a new house," Hoelstein said.

Lunch on the Lawn is new to the repertoire of Habitat for Humanity fundraisers. Paunan said it was the first time the senior class has done a fundraiser like Lunch on the Lawn and the earliest we have ever started fundraising.

"It will be a good way to come together as a school in our new space," she said.

With the first event coming to a close, the senior class leaders are ready to lead the class to make a change.

"My fellow project leaders and I have worked hard to make this first event big, new and fresh," said Hoelstein.

"We will aim for the Senior Class Service Project to always have events with the same vibe. We can't wait to bring the entire school together for more fun times in the coming year."