

# Instagram as a search for meaning

by Adam Sheffield

Sifting through Instagram during lunch, a free period, or class, is something of which almost all students are guilty. It offers an escape from the long day and makes us laugh, informs us, or gives us insight into another person’s life.

Who a person chooses to follow on social media can tell their followers a lot about some of their preferences and passions. Throughout the New Trier community, certain accounts stand out based on the plethora of students who follow these people/ pages.

Sports accounts are popular among Chicago sports fans; the accounts for both the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Bulls both garner a strong following. Twitter can provide live news, meaning it’s available faster than other social networks.

“I like the Blackhawks account because they post a lot of cool pictures and I play hockey and I like to stay up to date on the team,” said sophomore Griffin Gardiner.

Singer Taylor Swift has 27.1 million followers on Instagram, while Justin Bieber has 25.3 million followers. Kim Kardashian-West has 28.4 million followers, the most of any person on Instagram.

All the Kardashians, Kim, Kourtney, and Khloe, and Kendall and Kylie Jenner, are heavily followed by New Trier students.

On Instagram, many legitimate photography accounts are also respected by New Trier students. GoPro, an account based on posting videos and pictures from their camera, has become popular due to the amazing picture quality and unique angles that a GoPro camera can provide.

“It’s my favorite because they post really sick pictures and videos, and they are all really good quality,” said junior Samuel Gagerman.

“It’s just fun to look through all of the GoPro videos and see what people are doing,” said junior Griffin Cleary.

Now that online shopping has become as trendy as actually going into the store, Instagram is the place



Kendall Jenner has an extremely popular Instagram account | Instagram

to go to see pictures of the clothing. Links in the bios of the accounts will take you directly to the clothing brand’s website so you can purchase the clothes. Brandy Melville and Urban Outfitters have become popular due to their intricate designs and fun clothes.

“Brandy Melville is good

because it’s a great store that shows really good pictures of their clothes and it makes you want to buy them,” said Morris.

Athletes on Twitter are very popular for a number of reasons. Often times students follow athletes in order to catch a glimpse of a bad or funny tweet that could get the

player suspended. Athletes like Chad Johnson, Metta World Peace, and Floyd Mayweather are followed because they post whatever they want, regardless of the public’s opinion.

Meme accounts have also skyrocketed recently. Everyone loves a funny picture, and some accounts, including thefatjewish, textsfromyourex, and theellenshow on Instagram have consistently been a hit among Trevians

Animal accounts on Instagram remain popular as well. Both cats\_of\_instagram and dogs\_of\_instagram deliver consistently cute animals on a daily basis. Cashcats, an account portraying cats with lots of cash around them, has now gained over 100,000 followers.

“Cashcats always makes my day and always puts a smile on my face. It’s really funny and cute” said Gagerman.

With 300 million monthly active Instagram users, it’s safe to say that new, creative, and fun accounts are sure to pop up soon.

# Find southern comfort with The Lucky Platter

by Melanie Mandell

Tucked away in a pocket of South Evanston, surrounded by small resale shops, is a cozy little restaurant called The Lucky Platter.

As you walk into this cute eatery you’re transported into a collection of vintage knick-knacks. Hanging from the patterned ceiling are hand-crafted metal animals and colander light fixtures.

The walls are covered with old posters and quirky paintings, with “The Lobster Boy” being a fan favorite.

Each table has a different design, ranging from smiley faces to old drawings. All of the decor gives off a very eclectic feel. Despite the restaurants small size, it has big flavor.

Instead of the traditional basket of bland bread rolls, The Lucky Platter serves warm baskets of corn bread with butter and honey. Needless to say, this fresh twist on the traditional starter was delicious and kept my friends and me reaching for the basket again and again (we ended up eating two whole baskets).

When we received the menus we had no idea what to order. Warm, delicious sounding comfort food filled the menu. It would be hard to make a wrong choice. Sandwiches, many varieties of chicken (including fried and pot pie), and the house specialties all looked appetizing.

After only a short wait, all of our food came out looking tasty. An obvious pick for dinner was the fried chicken, partially because it was advertised in the biggest font on the menu. This chicken was especially delicious. It was placed on top of the mashed potatoes to ensure that neither the chicken nor the potatoes lost heat.

It was also served with a side of coleslaw. For someone who doesn’t usually like coleslaw, this one was good. The chicken was tender, easy to eat, and well seasoned.

Another dinner selection was



The Lucky Platter is located at 514 Main Street in Evanston | Facebook

the pulled pork sandwich. When it came out, it had small strands of fried onions on top that looked like tiny crunchy French fries.

When paired with the barbecue sauce, this sandwich was exquisite. The pork was cooked to perfection. It wasn’t too tough and it also wasn’t too soft.

However, the side of macaroni and cheese was subpar. Before visiting The Lucky Platter we had heard rave reviews about the mac and cheese, but it definitely didn’t meet the hype. Although the noodles were cooked well enough, the cheese was too watery and lacked cheesiness.

We couldn’t go to a comfort food restaurant without ordering a hamburger, so we chose the Texas burger topped with bacon and fried onion strands. The burger was cooked just enough so it wasn’t still red, but still had the perfect amount of pink.

This giant meat mound was no easy feat to conquer, so I don’t recommend ordering it if you’re looking for a smaller meal. The

barbecue sauce complimented the burger very well.

For our last entree we decided to go out on a limb and try one of the more obscure house specialties. We ordered the Mexican Polenta. Polenta is a corn dough that tastes like a less sweet and less firm cornbread. It was topped with black beans, melted mozzarella cheese, and avocado.

We had no idea what to expect out of this dish, but it was fantastic. There was just enough cheese to cover the polenta without being obnoxiously cheesy, and the other toppings gave it some extra flavor. It certainly was a new experience, but one that I highly recommend. We also ordered a side of acorn squash that was soft and tasty.

The service was quick throughout the meal and was always met enthusiastically. The food was also reasonably priced.

Overall, The Lucky Platter is a great place to dine with friends for a fun, casual evening. And if dinner doesn’t work for you, they’re open for breakfast and lunch.

# With Prom planning, drama never stops

by Grace Murphy

Between the end of third quarter, Spring Break drama, and the brief tease of warm weather soon to come, what else do juniors and seniors have to look forward to in the next few weeks?

Prom, the only dance at New Trier that is specifically planned for juniors and seniors is quickly approaching. However, some think that students are preparing for the dance a little too early.

Junior Justin Romic explained that by asking early, the stress of planning for the dance is greatly reduced. Meghan Riordan, a junior (and Romic’s date), claimed that the benefit of being asked early is that there’s more time to plan everything. “You hopefully get a group figured out and no one is rushing at the end to find a house to take pictures at or have the after party. Everything is more organized.”

Senior Justin Truong explained that it is best to ask a date early so there is enough time to prepare for the night.

“Getting the plans and things you need for Prom might take a while and you never know what dilemmas might set you back,” said Truong. “Time is valuable so take as much as you can get.”

Both Riordan and Romic were excited about the venue of the dance. For the fourth consecutive year, the dance will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Jess Urkov, a junior, was also excited about the hotel. She said that, while the other dances are held in the school gyms, which are fun, the change in scenery will be a very cool experience.

Romic said, “Prom is more formal. You go to the city and dinner is served there, [and] also because only juniors and seniors can ask dates to Prom, it makes it different than other New Trier dances where most

or all of the school is able to attend.”

At Homecoming and Turnabout, juniors and seniors pick a theme and dress up according to the theme. Although this can be a fun experience and is definitely unique to New Trier, Riordan said that she is most excited about getting dressed up formally rather than wearing a costume

Meghan Mulhern, a senior, said that she is most looking forward to spending time with her friends and celebrating their time together.

Mulhern did not want to have to worry about the dance so early, but she realized that it was necessary so that all Prom plans could be made thoroughly. She said that she is excited to have a great time at her last New Trier dance.

Because Prom is supposedly more special than any other dance, Truong did his “creative ask” for his date, senior Debbie Kang, during advisery this past week.

“I learned how to bake red velvet cupcakes and draw a Pikachu before I asked her because I wanted to make it special,” said Truong. He decorated the cupcakes to look like Pokéballs and complemented them with a card. “I used the line, ‘I choose you!’ on my card with Pikachu drawings,” said Truong.

Kang was also looking forward to dressing up formally for the dance. Truong added, “I’m excited to spend time with my Prom date and friends. We don’t have much time left in high school anymore and who knows when we will all have the time to spend together next year?”

Truong wants to make the night as special as possible. “Imagine all the other school dances you’ve been to before as a New Trier student and now realize this is the last one. I realize that I want my senior year to end on a good note and make my high school experience memorable.”