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New security measures implemented after accidental lockdown

Safety procedures may change culture, norms for students and staff

by Alex Rubinstein

After the Nov. 8 lockdown, the administration made changes to keep the school and its students safer.

NT has been looking for a solution so that students will never be in a classroom during a lockdown without the ability to lock the door.

Assistant Principal for Student Programs and Operations, Athena Arvanitis, said, "The way our school is set up right now you need an adult in the classroom to lock the door for you guys. What we did was we strongly encouraged our staff members when they're leaving a classroom to lock the door behind them."

Adults in the building have been essential in implementing changes regarding unlocked classrooms.

"Teachers and staff in general have played a really integral role in making sure students are safe, and making sure that we know our responses to a number of different types of emergencies. This one falls in line with everything else we've asked our staff to do which is to know the response plan in your classroom," said Arvanitis.

The administration asked that this become a regular behavior rather than solely being a precaution that is followed during drills.

Arvanitis said, "We've also asked teachers to either wait for



The system allows teachers to quickly activate a lockdown | Rubinstein

the next staff member to come into the room and then leave, or to ask students to sit in the hallway or stand in the hallway until their teacher arrives."

Some felt that waiting in the hallway is a bit much.

"I think it's not a bad thing that they are taking precautions, but it does feel over the top. I understand where they're coming from, but those extra safety precautions like not going into classrooms without a teacher feels a little forced. However, I think it's good that the administration is trying to make students feel safer at school," said senior Alina Popatia.

Arvanitis argued that being in a hallway is actually safer in a lockdown situation. If there was an active shooter in the school, students in the hallway would have the option to run either to a safer classroom, a hiding spot, or out of the building.

"If an adult's not in [a classroom] to lock it, you put yourself at a disadvantage if the situation were real. It's more beneficial for students to be in the hallway so we can choose either run, hide, or fight, rather than being a classroom thinking they're safe, starting to lock down, and realizing they can't lock the door."

Students agreed that being

behind a locked door would make students safer, which is why some were concerned with the new policy.

Senior Arden Pedraja said, "I think that the locking students out of classrooms is problematic because the only people who have died in school shootings were people in open areas. People in classrooms are less likely to die because you are protected. If you're in the hallway, you are an easier target so it feels like the opposite of a safety measure."

Another facet of this issue has been how to best prepare substitute teachers for a lockdown situation.

The administration has added additional mandatory training for subs, as well as given them classroom keys so that they're able to lock the doors and unlock them in the same way that teachers do.

"Substitute teachers go through training every school year that includes emergency response plans for both campuses. We've recently created another training module for Subs, and requested that they all take or go through the training. We're getting a good response from that," said Arvanitis.

The school has also been working on improving communication with parents and students.

Arvanitis said that although the communication has been successful, the system can still improve. What we could do differently or better would be like trying to get a communication out to all parents sooner."

On Nov. 8, there were students in the building who couldn't hear the PA announcing the lockdown. Now

the administration is implementing an emergency text system to help inform students of emergencies in the future.

An email from Denise Dubravec that was sent to all students and parents explained that in emergencies, texting is often the fastest way to provide information.

While changes are being made, some still expressed concerns about the fact that the lockdown was triggered accidentally.

Senior Sarah Hughes said, "I still feel weird about the lockdown button accidentally being pressed. Also adults are the only ones who can press the lockdown button which could be dangerous if a student was the only one who knew about or saw an active shooter because they would have no way of alerting the school."

After the lockdown, there was a security audit and the school hired two different security consultants to examine the physical safety of the school as well as the technology that NT uses.

The physical security consultants looked at the school's buildings, locks, windows, and doors.

"One of the outcomes of the security audit was we needed to create authorized entrances and so that's why you see the three security vestibules," said Arvanitis.

"We are limiting how people enter and exit our building during the school day because the more doors we have open..."

see "New security measures" on page 2

Students go gold for pediatric cancer at GBS game

Senior Olivia Sergot brings Cal's Angels to NT for kids with cancer

by Mary Parks

On Oct. 18, senior Olivia Sergot looked up from the grass of the football field and into a sea of gold. The student section was full of kids cheering proudly for their football team, wearing the gold t-shirts that Sergot had been selling prior to the game.

The game was part of a fundraiser for a non-profit organization for pediatric cancer called Cal's Angels. The organization partners with 7 hospitals around the Chicago land area as well as with other companies and businesses to carry out their mission of, "Granting wishes, raising awareness and funding research to help kids fighting cancer," according to their website.

Sergot has been battling cancer for over a year now. While on a trip to Poland with her family during the summer of 2018, she began experiencing unbearable pain.

The doctors in Poland were able to identify a tumor in her right kidney, but it wasn't until she arrived back home that she was diagnosed with Wilms Tumor, a cancerous tumor most often found in the kidneys.

"It's a kidney cancer that's really common in young kids actually, so it's pretty rare that I have it as a 16,17 -year-old-girl. It's stage four, meaning it started growing in my right kidney and then it progressed to my lungs and my vena cava and some other surrounding lymph nodes," said Sergot.

Wilms Tumor is known to have very high cure rates, so when Sergot was diagnosed, her outlook was rather positive.

The day Sergot was diagnosed, Cal's Angels was there to comfort her.

"As soon as a kid is diagnosed at [Lurie's Children's Hospital in Chicago] they come in, because they are a Chicago organization, and they bring you this bag of comfort items. My favorite part is the blanket that they brought me," Sergot said.

"But they bring you all of this stuff and they reassure you that there is someone else that is there to help you. Then they tell you that there is a wish, so they give you, I think it's \$1,000 to do whatever you want with."

Sergot used her wish to see Billie Eilish in concert with some friends and her sister.

After seeing how much Cal's Angels had helped her, that's when Sergot decided to get involved with the organization herself.

The president of the organization, Stacey Sutter, started Cal's Angels after her son, Cal Sutter, passed away



A t-shirt sale before the game raised money for Cal's Angles | C. Sergot

from Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in 2006 at the age of 13.

"He was always more concerned about the well-being of the other children fighting cancer than he was about himself," according to the Cal's Angels website.

During the months of September and early October, Cal's Angels goes to different schools and "turns them gold" for a week. They sell shirts and give various gold sports gear and items to different sports and activities, including football, throughout the school in order to raise awareness and funds for pediatric cancer.

"We only did the one game, but hopefully next year we will have the

whole week," said Sergot.

After beating Glenbrook South 31 to 13, New Trier had raised over \$7,000 for Cal's Angels.

Sergot can always be seen with a smile on her face radiating optimism. Her diagnosis has not changed her outlook.

"I think, as much as a negative thing it is in itself, the only effects it's had on my life and myself have been positive. I think I've just grown and blossomed into the most authentic version of myself," Sergot said.

"And I always say I choose to live my life unapologetically and just kind of do things that make me happy, surround myself with people that

make me happy and just kind of live in the moment and take everything for what it is," said Sergot.

Sergot's ability to look at the bright side of everything is one of her most conspicuous traits.

Senior Claudia Shevitz is one of Sergot's closest friends. Shevitz helped sell the gold T-shirts during lunch periods, make posters to promote the sale, and set up for the gold game.

Shevitz admires her friend's resilience and vivacity.

"She loves just living," Shevitz explained.

Senior Minnie Hauser is another close friend of Sergot. Hauser believes Sergot is the strongest person she knows.

"After visiting her in the hospital I was inspired by how strong she was and how she just smiled through everything," said Hauser.

Sergot's friends and family all know her to be strong, positive, and inspiring to all.

She has turned her diagnosis into an opportunity to make an impact on the world and the people around her.

"The more people that tell me I inspire them, the more I want to get my message out there, and tell people about my story, and educate people about what they can do to help kids like me," said Sergot.

"It makes me feel really good. It makes me feel like I've achieved something."

New building paves the way with sustainability efforts

Natural light reduces energy consumption in the new building

by Michael Howie

The West Wing at the Winnetka Campus has created new spaces for students to thrive, and its carbon footprint has managed to remain remarkably low despite such an expensive project.

The building, finished in 2017, is equipped with many energy-saving technologies designed to reduce the environmental impact of maintaining such a large space nearly year round.

One of the most visually obvious components to this energy efficient space is the abundance of natural light, which floods into most classrooms and spaces in the building.

"In the beginning stages of our facility planning we surveyed staff/teachers, students and community members," said David Conway, Director of Physical Plant Services. "In those survey results there was interest in more natural light



Art classrooms on the fourth floor have abundant natural light | Towers

throughout the campus."

Conway said that the department was aware of how important natural lighting was to academic success, and many students agree.

"It feels nice. It's a nice vibe," said Junior Will Lim, whose 9th period Latin class located in the new building operates with no artificial lighting at all. "The room is nice and dark. I kind of associate it with sleep."

Senior Zoe Siegel, who has two classes in the new building with the lights off, agreed.

"I like the lights off. It's a more peaceful environment. There's a lot of windows, so it's [still] very bright."

Some students think the new building has far more artificial lighting than needed, but according to Conway, code requires a certain amount.

"There are minimum light levels required and we need some artificial light to meet those requirements. We have a daylight harvesting system to help reduce the amount of artificial light when natural

light is adequate to do so," he said.

Daylight harvesting is a technology that alters the strength and type of electricity used depending on the amount of natural light available. On a bright, sunny day, far less energy will be consumed than on a dark, rainy day.

For teachers who choose to keep the lights on in the new building, they can be assured that the carbon footprint is still quite low.

"We have installed energy efficient systems throughout the new building including LED lighting and daylight harvesting [of electrical energy] to help reduce the amount of artificial light when natural light is adequate to do so," said Conway.

When it comes to energy saving practices, lighting isn't the only thing PPS took into account.

"We have also been working on improvements to our recycling and composting programs which help the environment," Conway said.

"These improvements include having a Sustainability Coordinator at each campus, additional recycling and composting containers throughout the campus, having composting and recycling requests added to activity requests. We have become a leader

in those areas and an example to other schools who visit our site to see how they can improve."

While the old building has been renovated, most of its technology is nowhere near the systems in the west wing. PPS is working to make the differences more cohesive.

"They [the two buildings] are both managed by the same Building Management System, but the systems are different," Conway noted. "The east and tower buildings use a Variable Air Volume system for the HVAC [heating, ventilating, and air conditioning] system. We have continued to upgrade the systems in the old building including hot water boilers vs steam [and installing] LED lighting."

With so much in the news about our warming climate, Conway says that New Trier is doing everything in its power to limit its emissions.

"We strive to reduce our energy and water usage to not only control costs, but to reduce our carbon footprint and to show the students and community that we are being good stewards of their resources and the environment."

New security measures

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"...the more vulnerability you bring into work at a school day," said Arvanitis.

The security vestibules were placed at entrances that most students use anyways such as the south entrance (the front door), the east entrance (the gym door), and the new building entrance to try to minimize inconvenience for students.

The second consulting group that was brought in has helped NT develop their lockdown technological emergency response system.

Arvanitis added, "Now, we have an automated siren with a pre-recorded message for lockdowns. We're also automating things like our phone call to the emergency responders, things that need to happen immediately and efficiently."

Another part of moving from a manual to an automated response is that the doors close automatically, which helps with timing.

According to the administration, there were also benefits from the lockdown.

"The system that we put in place is effective. Communication to the police department and emergency responders was very quick and so there are a lot of really good things that came from this too," said Arvanitis.

The school works closely with local police to ensure that NT can get students to safety as soon as possible if there was ever an active shooter.

NT has tried to preserve student centered learning while still implementing changes to make school safer.

Arvanitis said, "We still have free periods. You can be in the hallways. We've had a minimal impact on how [students'] days feel or run when [they're] in the building. Most of our impact has been on things that students don't really see."

Worm on a string club: The dream that could have been

Club falls through due to lack of underclassmen

by Carsten Sheehan

New Trier has many clubs for many different kinds of people. If someone wants to make a club about their culture or their original board game, they have the opportunity to do that.

One club however, with 45 people promising to join, was shot down before it could make NT history. Worm on a String club did not make it to full club status, but it raises the question: Why are so many people interested in a children's toy from the 90's?

Squirmles, more commonly known as Worm on a String, have experienced a recent surge in popularity. It is currently being typed into internet search bars more than ever according to Google Trends.

Students have not missed out on this frenzy, culminating in someone buying hundreds of the toys to give out, and a club planned to meet weekly, solely to play with Worms on Strings.

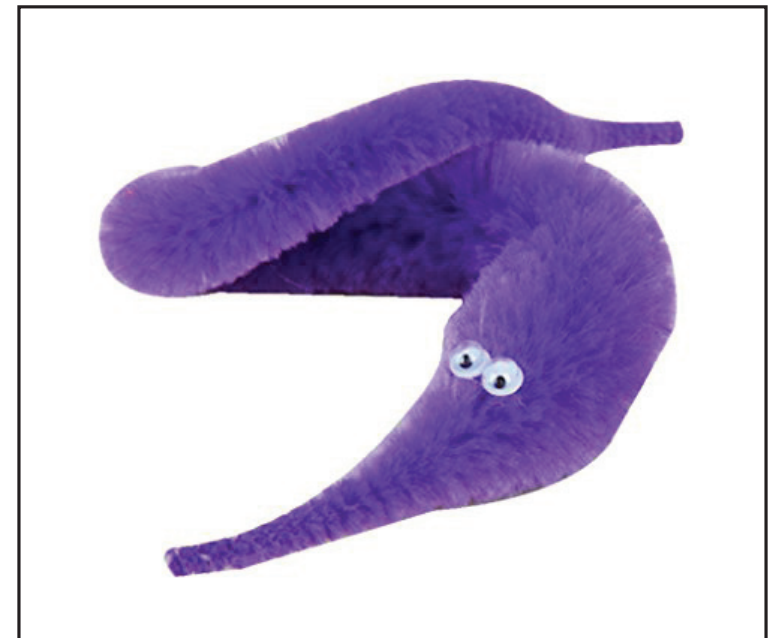
Though the club ultimately never materialized due to a New Trier's club rules, one of the would-be founders believed the trend had the potential and longevity to serve as a legitimate community for students.

"I bought them because I was bored, and I wanted to give things to people, just to make them happy," said junior Bella Lestrude, who bought over a hundred Worms on Strings to give out to whoever wanted one.

Lestrude's act of generosity got people talking about the fad, and talking about the mysterious "Worm Dealer."

Once a large group became fascinated with Worm on a String, it was only a matter of time until they took action about their newfound interest.

"We all had this fascination with them, and it was a huge stress-relief thing," said senior Margaret Lasonde, who had a hand in planning the club. She found interest in



Squirmles were created in the 90s but have become popular | desertcart.com

the worms after a friend of hers, possibly inspired by Lestrude's act, bought a large amount of Worms on Strings to give out to the rowing team, which Lasonde was a part of.

"We were all just goofing around 8th period and we thought, 'why don't we make this a club?'" The idea was that we just wanted a place where people could relax, hang out, and de-stress," said Lasonde.

The club soon ballooned in popularity thanks to the recruitment tactics of the founding members.

Recruitment involved walking around the commons, asking anyone who wasn't busy if they were interested in joining the club.

After this however, the club ran into some issues. Seniors at New Trier can't propose new clubs without support from juniors or sophomores. The rule is in place to make sure that clubs at New Trier have longevity, explained head of Student Activities, Stacy Kolack.

"We need younger folks to start it up. We want them to survive, and a senior is going to leave us," said Kolack.

Lasonde agreed with the rule, reasoning that any "generational" club would eventually end up

failing, so the role is good for the New Trier club ecosystem.

Kolack did elaborate, though, that aspiring club-founders could have any junior or sophomore who had signed up to be in the club do the audition, and among the many people signed up for Worm on a String, there were several juniors.

"We had a couple of our junior friends who would do it, but the Worm on a String idea was something that me and my friends were passionate about. It wouldn't have really meant anything to us if it wasn't us starting it," explained Lasonde.

The idea started as a way for her friend group to share an interest, and she figured the club wasn't the same without the same friend group being at the heart.

Though the club never materialized, these worms had already left their mark at the school. The 90s toy inspired people to get together, play with Worms on Strings, and forget their stress.

"This solid friendship that we had is something that has been with me for most of high school, so we really just wanted to make a place where people could do that," said Lasonde.

Student Council Corner



As part of our commitment to transparency with the student body, Student Council is excited to be working with the New Trier News to bring you the Student Council column. This will update you on our progress this year, and how we have been working diligently on behalf of you.

Our Accomplishments:

- Reducing the cafeteria lines
- Grilled cheese now available at the Pizza Station
- Two lines at the Sandwich Station (for custom and pre-made orders)
- Helping to set up Homecoming, Spirit Week, the Pep Rally, and Spooky Scrounge
- Adding food items to the cafeteria (Arnold Palmer)
- Creating a flower mural display with Spanish Club
- Collaborating with Environmental Club to make New Trier more green
- Decorating for the holiday season around the school
- Selling Candy Grams to advisories
- Holding monthly meetings with our sophomore and junior constituents

In The Works:

- Adding more to-go options in the cafeteria
- Filming a video which will encourage students to clean up after themselves
- Increasing awareness about mental health resources at school

Want to Make Your Voice Heard?

- Submit a suggestion slip at one of our suggestion boxes!
- Join our monthly focus group called the Advisory Constituent Board, where you can talk directly with us during advisery! (See Student Activities Office for Details)

Goodbye 2010s, we'll miss you



by Emma Mansour

I've always been a relatively sentimental and nostalgic person, especially when it comes to the year ending. I think we all have a sense of not having done enough, or having wasted a whole year. And with the ending of the decade coming up, I'm feeling that more than ever.

The thought of entering a whole new set of ten years that starts with the number two is kind of freaking me out.

But also the idea of going into a new decade feels somehow really important and ground breaking, even though I know it isn't. It's just a new year, no different than this year, the year before, or the eight before that. But it just feels different. I've noticed that I'm not alone in this feeling.

Nostalgia has been trending recently on social media; old childhood TV show compilations have been circulating social media along with other decade ending related content. Clips of "Good Luck Charlie," "Hannah Montana," and "Victorious," all spliced together over sad music, have been popping up more and more. People are craving a feeling of nostalgia, and the feeling is seemingly universal among people my age.

People are grappling for a taste of the 2010s before they're over, and that makes a lot of sense. We all grew up for the most part in the past decade; prior to that, we were too young to really understand much or do anything. Life was easy, but not



2000's Childhood Nostalgia & Decade Recap

1.4M views

A popular compilation video of childhood memories | Youtube

too memorable.

In contrast, the past 10 years have been some of the most formative for many of us. Leaving behind middle school, starting high school, kind of becoming an adult. Lots of big stuff. The idea of leaving that all behind is hard.

But what I think is fueling this distaste for the 20s so much is that with the end of the decade comes the end of certainty. It's only now that we have to seriously consider the future; we're being forced to make really big decisions about the next steps in our life rather than relying on our parents to do it for us.

We no longer have someone making doctors' appointments for us, or handling all the finances, or knowing the different settings on the washing machine. We're kind of on our own, and I don't know about you, but I have no idea how to make a doctor's appointment. And then there's the uncertainty of getting a job, and where you'll live, and everything else that life throws at you. It's a lot.

Obviously, it's not the ending of the decade that triggers this feeling,

but these major changes, coupled with the nostalgia and attachment we have to time, seems to magnify the situation. The comfort of everything being set up for us is falling away, and what we're left with is a lot of uncertainty.

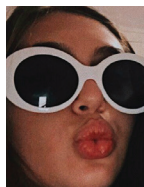
All things considered, it's only natural that we seem to want to reject the new decade and everything that comes with it. Reminiscing about our favorite childhood memories and watching "Victorious" on a loop is so much more comfortable than accepting the future. It's easier. It's certain.

But I think that's part of growing up. You have to be uncomfortable to find comfort, and you have to be uncertain to find certainty.

Being sad about the end of the decade is fine, normal, and I'm definitely feeling it big time. But it's just the end of a year. The 20s will be (hopefully) a great decade, same with every decade after that. This just seems to be hitting a little different because we're growing up.

So, goodbye 2010s.

The difference between rumors and gossip



by Sofia Papakos

We've all gossiped at one point or another. Most of us do it daily without even considering it to be gossiping. It's a form of mass communication that we use to connect with one another. I don't believe gossiping to be inherently bad. However, sometimes it's more toxic than beneficial.

But that could be said about a lot of things too, including social media. Honestly though, I stopped paying attention to cyber bullying because it's so common. Whether it's on our phones or at our lunch tables, the same issues of gossiping and rumors are clearly prevalent.

Still, there are ways to make gossiping less toxic. I think clarifying the difference between rumors and gossip, is a good start.

Rumors are unverified pieces of information that the person telling the story doesn't necessarily know whether it's true or not. The details of the story often change as it's being retold. While gossip is typically a 'juicy' story or secret that's really personal and most times, surprising.

I don't believe gossiping to be inherently bad. However, sometimes it's more toxic than beneficial

I get it, we live in the suburbs and there's really not much to do around here, except to go out and eat. And what do we do when we go out with our friends? Obviously talk. In those conversations people often swap the latest gossip. The majority of the time, it's rumors.

I think it's safe to assume everyone at one point has been the center of unwanted attention or rumors in general. It sucks to be in

a position where you can't control what's being said about you. It only stops when it becomes irrelevant.

Aside from me encouraging others to stop spreading lies in the first place, I just find it weird to talk about other people's business. A lot of the girls in my friend group, even the guys, would constantly invest in the rumors they heard.

It got to the point where I was questioning whether they were talking behind my back. So I don't mean to sound condescending when I say it just seems like you have nothing else better to do.

I know in most cases gossip starts as innocent and harmless where people are just curious. But it's important to acknowledge that it quickly turns into a thread of people commenting and giving harsh opinions on personal information.

It makes sense why it's an endless cycle. People are genuinely interested in who's doing what, dating who, and things that happened in the past. So I'm not saying to stop gossiping but be more mindful of what you're saying and to whom.

Staff Editorial

100 years of NT News: The good, the bad, and the future

Heading into a new year or a new decade naturally prompts reflection. After a century of student journalism, the New Trier News has a substantial amount of work we can look back on. Thousands of high-quality news, feature, opinion, and sports pieces have been published in this time. However, as with any student paper, there have been thousands of mistakes as well.

Thus far into the school year, the NT News has printed many exciting and well-reported stories that have sparked conversation within the school community. We've also made some slip-ups that deserve reflection and conversation.

On Dec. 6, a news piece about student reactions to the advisory N-word presentation was published on our front page. Unfortunately the headline did not quite match the content of the piece.

The news article had been titled "For students, N-word presentation falls short." However, a more accurate description would have been "Students reflect on N-word presentation" or even "Students think presentation was a good first step."

People that did not read the article in full would have been left with the impression that the presentation received widespread criticism, as was not the case (nor was it portrayed to be that way in the article).

As a paper, it is our goal to accurately report what is going on in our community. We made a mistake in sticking a mismatched headline onto a sensitive article. However, as students, it was an opportunity for us to learn to look at those small details more critically to be conscious of any bias or distortion of the truth.

The New Trier News has been a student run paper for the last 100 years. In the past century, a lot of small and harmless mistakes have been made, whether it be printing columns upside down; spelling sophomores as "spohomores."

But some, like the recent pasting of an ill-advised headline above an article, can be more impactful.

The reality is that students are going to make mistakes and will for the next hundred years. It's all part of the process of getting better and growing.

We recognize that some of our mistakes can have an impact on the community, especially when they're more than simply an awkward typo.

In the era of fake news and the 24 hour news cycle, it is even more important to be dedicated to factual reporting, even for a source as small as a weekly high school paper. Spin and misleading phrasing can manipulate people into defending lies and deriding facts.

Going into a new year, a new decade, and a new century of the New Trier News, we are committed to creating the highest quality papers that we can. The paper will never be flawless, but we are dedicated to making each newspaper we put out better than the last.

The next century for the NT News is relatively unclear. It could become an exclusively online publication, a bimonthly paper, or something else entirely. However, while we may continue to make mistakes, we are also going to continue to strive to be better.



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Putting the news in New Trier since 1919. Follow us for news, sports, and happenings at the school.

The New Trier News

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

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Student Views

What are your winter break plans?



Maria Kyriakopoulos, Senior

"I am going to Hawaii and sleeping in the hotel all day."



AJ Steinback, Sophomore

"Hanging out at my house with my dog."



Caroline Pruchnicki, Sophomore

"I'm going to Denver to go ski with my family."



Bobby Becker, Senior

"I am trying a Jiu-jitsu class and inter-dimensionally traveling."



Eyllah Babbitt, Junior

"I'm pet sitting."

Stop being obnoxious during passing periods



by Eva Roytburg

I didn't want to write this. But I, and others I know have gotten so irritated with the situation in the hallways that I feel that I must.

A few years ago, the Winnetka campus underwent a \$104.9 million construction project and as a result, we students have the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful, airy new building. The windows allow streams of sunlight to pour in and the whole wing has a modern, apple-store-esque vibe to it.

But with great privilege comes great responsibility.

Prominent in this new building are two large, glass staircases with exponential width, marking each end of the new wing. Due to its size, hundreds of individuals - faculty and students alike - stream down each of the staircases each passing period. They are, without question, the most utilized staircases in the school.

But some of y'all do not know how to act on these staircases-- or even in the hallways for that matter.

Let's review basic hallway and staircase etiquette. If you have been in a car before, you will know that there is one side of the street, called the right side, that the individuals traveling forward in agree is their side.

The individuals traveling in the other direction stick to the other side of the street, also known as the left side, since there is only so much room for the thousands of cars which are trying to pass.

Do not walk onto the other side if that is not the side you are



Students congregate in the hallways during passing periods | NT News

traveling on. Would you slyly swerve onto the other side of the road if you were driving a car? No? Then don't do that in the hallways or staircases.

And please do not fecklessly zig-zag across the staircase or hallway like you're in a pinball machine. I don't know if you're just bored or what, but there are people trying to move around you. Zig-zag to your pleasure in an empty hallway or staircase.

Now, most individuals are okay at hallway and staircase etiquette when they are walking alone.

The true terrors of the hallways and staircases are caused by congregating with peers, the inclination to stop and say "hi" to a friend when you see them, the passion with which you cling together as you walk.

If you are talking to a friend, do not slow down to a crawl to chat in the staircase or hallway. There are people trying to get somewhere all around you, and you are probably disrupting every single person in your vicinity.

If you are a slow walker naturally, that's okay. You can't help that your legs are short, or you're tired, or the boundless other reasons why you may walk slowly. You're trying your best and that's okay. If you're just being slow because you're distracted, speed up.

And for God's sake, do not stop all movement in the middle

of traffic if you see your friend so you can chat with them. You are in a staircase, not an escalator. There are people around you who do not want to be late to their class or their meetings. Chat while matching everyone else's pace; it's easier than it sounds.

If you are walking with a group of friends, it is not acceptable to spread out in a line so you can all talk side-by-side.

Would you slyly swerve onto the other side of the road if you were driving a car? No? Then don't do that in the hallways or staircases.

If, by chance, anyone wants to get past y'all, they are unable to do so without knocking all of you out like bowling pins. While you merrily line-dance your way to class, everyone behind you is forced to match your pace.

Please stay on the right and be polite. Be aware of your surroundings. We only have five minutes in a passing period; make it as stress-free as possible.

From the archives: The article below was originally printed on Jan. 14, 2000. As the next millenium began, the students of New Trier speculated about what the future would look like. What are your predictions for the 2020s?

What do you think the next century will bring to New Trier?

by Liz Sherman

When New Trier opened in 1901, there were a total of 76 students, seven faculty members, and nine classes offered. Now, nearly a century later, the school is filled to capacity with close to 4,000 students, 18 academic departments and over 200 different courses.

The New Trier of one hundred years ago bears very little resemblance to the school we attend today. How do students see the future unfold for New Trier in the next century and beyond?

Many students believe that technology will play an even larger role in education than it does currently, transforming the entire high school experience.

"In a hundred years from now, school as we know it will no longer exist," predicted junior Mackenzie Firer-Sherwood. "Classes will be held on the Internet and students will log on from their homes."

Other students agreed, predicting that technology will prove to be a major force in educational change.

"Society as a whole will place a greater emphasis on technology and become much more computer based," said junior Gabe Turow.

"In the future, I think portable computers will be the students' main academic tool, replacing written documents, like textbooks. In general, I think we will see a stronger connection between education and technology," Turow added.

"I also think that as a result of the integration of technology into the

classroom, social dynamics will change a lot. People will be less inclined to socialize because the general classroom atmosphere will be based around the individual, rather than the entire class," said Turow.

"I think in the very near future, there will be a laptop on every desk-- one for each student," predicted Stephanie Cecil.

Outside of technology, students agreed that New Trier will be a radically different place at the end of the next century.

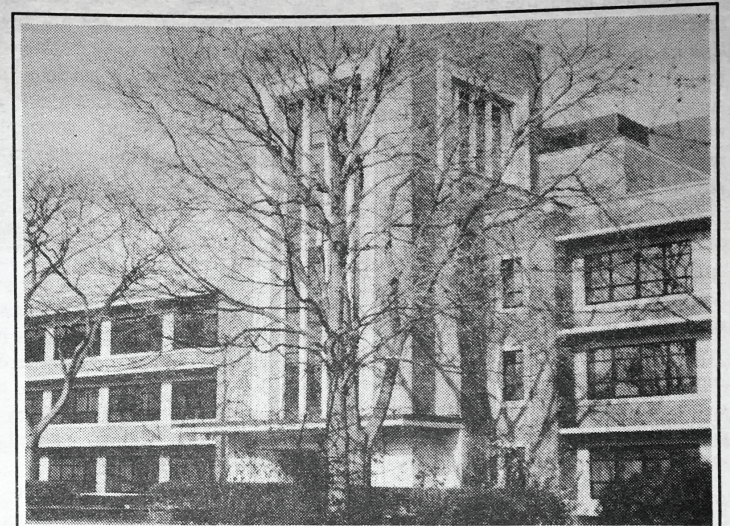
"At some point, if people at New Trier finally come to their senses," explained a sophomore. "Finals, leveling, and advisories will all be thrown out, and students will finally be able to enjoy learning."

Other students are also hopeful that New Trier will make positive changes to academic life.

"Based on the conclusion that teenagers perform better later in the day, the school schedule will be altered to better accommodate the biological schedule of students," said junior Emily Ente.

Junior Emily Sheffield also offered a unique prediction: "I think New Trier will become increasingly similar to college. In the future, seniors will act as graduate students, teaching some freshman courses."

The current students at New Trier offered a wide variety of predictions on how the new century of academic life will unfold. As we enter the next hundred years, it seems the only consistency we see is change.



As we reflect upon the past one hundred years at New Trier, we notice the advances taken and make predictions for the future. (photo by Scalpone)

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NT's favorite substitute teacher: Mr. Nebojsa Acimovic

by Simren Dadwani

Before substitute teacher, Nebojsa Acimovic also known as Mr. Neb came to New Trier, he had spent 18 years in forgeign services.

"I used to be a diplomat and even though my job didn't change, I moved to three different countries," said Neb.

His first job in forgein services was as a diplomat to the federal republic of Yugoslavia. Then he moved on as a diplomat to Serbia, and then The Republic of Serbia.

Neb started his career as a trainee and eventually ended up in Chicago

"I finished my career here as acting consul general for Serbia here in Chicago," explained Neb.

He decided to stay in Chicago after he stopped working in foreign services.

While in Serbia, he was an adviser to the president of Serbia. When he moved to Chicago, his position was as a diplomat.

"I served three years as an assistant to the foreign policy adviser to president of Serbia. I was a diplomat here in Chicago for two terms as well," he explained.

In Chicago, Neb served two terms. Each term he served was for five years.

"My first term was from 2003-2008 and my second term was from 2009-2014," explained Neb.

Neb eventually made the

decision to leave his job for his family in Chicago. His son was born here and his wife's family was here as well.

"I loved that job, it was a great job but family was first. So I decided to leave that and stay here," said Neb.

Aleksander Kuzmanovic has been friends with Neb for over 10 years and met him when he was a consul in Chicago.

"When I met him he was a vice-consul in the Serbian Consulate in Chicago. Given that we live nearby, and our children are of similar age, we continued our friendship," said Kuzmanovic.

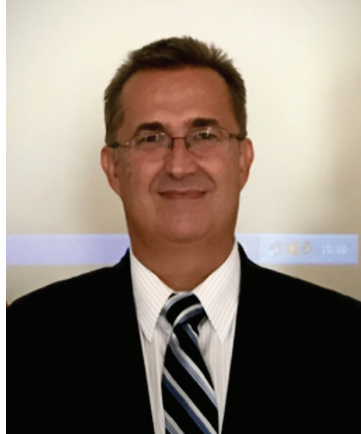
Another colleague, Milomir Ognjanovic, worked with Neb as a Serbian Consulate General.

"Nebojsa and I had the opportunity to work together during the post at the Serbian Consulate General in Chicago in the period of January 2010-May 2014," said Ognjanovic.

From the very start, Ognjanovic was impressed with Neb's work ethic as well as his professionalism.

"Nebojsa impressed me with professionalism, drive, and excellent customer service skills towards the Consulate General employees and Chicago partners. I also observed his work, professionalism and leadership skills," said Ognjanovic.

Neb lives in Wilmette so he is local to New Trier. He was a teacher before he worked in foreign services so he wanted to get back into



teaching. Although he was unable to obtain his teaching license, he got his license to be a substitute teacher, which brought him to New Trier.

"I had some previous background in teaching. Before I joined the services, my job was teaching direct marketing back in Yugoslavia. I was looking for teaching jobs and I tried to get a license but I couldn't get the full license. I had only obtained a substitute teaching license and I started as a substitute," said Mr. Neb.

Mr. Neb loves it at New Trier and the students love him as a substitute teacher as well.

"I like to be here. I love New Trier. There are great kids here and it is a great school," said Mr. Neb.

People that know Mr. Neb always have great things to say about him and they love the person he is.

"Nebojsa is truly a fantastic guy. He is a great parents and he was a great diplomat while he was a vice-consul," said Kuzmanovic.

Won't you be my neighbor? Mr. Rogers revisted in new film

by Graham Ambrose

Fred Rogers with his songs, unforgettable songs, sweaters, and smiles taught kids pivotal life lessons about divorce, war, and even bereavement. His show reached millions of American children over its 33-year run.

With the new Tom Hanks biopic "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" hitting theaters, discussions about the TV icon that Hanks plays have been revitalized.

Someone who remembers the warmth of Fred Rogers is social worker Leanne Atwell. A life-long fan of the show, she described Mr. rogers easily in five words.

"Caring, love, happy, comforting, warmth," Atwell said.

"Despite all of the cheese, his show was relaxing and informative. He wanted to change TV for the better, and he did so by helping us slow down with his show." Atwell added.

Fred Rogers discovered television after his senior year of college and felt that this could be a great platform to speak to children. Rogers worked his way up the ranks, and eventually hosted his own TV show: "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood," beginning in 1968.

The show introduced a colorful bunch of characters, including the bashful Daniel Tiger, the totalitarian ruler King Friday the 13th, and the show's mother figure Lady Aberlin. It was an instant hit.

Rogers passed away in 2003 after a long battle with stomach cancer, but the crucial question still remains: do we need him more than ever?

After all, it's still debated to this day even by those who knew him best, like Esquire journalist Tom Junod. Junod met Rogers in 1998 and

the two struck up a close relationship. Junod is also the centerpiece of film albeit under a different name.

Junod said in an interview that "[Rogers] had a singular vision of kindness and love, and one thing that I still think about today is whether or not his attempt to positively influence America today succeeded."

One person who believes we need Fred Rogers again is Josh Runkle, the New Trier Aquatics Director. Runkle watched "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" when he was around the age of 6, and watching the Tom Hanks biopic brought back many memories.

"It might be a little bit of two things. We need him, and we need people like him; having someone like him while still keeping his message at heart."

Mr. Rogers not only spoke to children in a nuanced and intelligent way, but he reached adults off-screen as well.

During the Nixon era, the government was strongly in favor of cutting federal funding to public TV.

Rhode Island Senator John Pastore was the key vote on this issue, and he set up hearings for people to testify in defense of public stations like PBS while still maintaining an anti-public TV sentiment.

After two days of testimony that Pastore found unmoving, Mr. Rogers gave an emotionally raw speech about why television can be a gift for younger viewers.

Afterward, a teary-eyed Pastore replied "It's the first time I've had goosebumps in days. Looks like you just earned yourself 20 million dollars."

In just five minutes, Rogers essentially saved public television as we know it.

In several ways, Fred Rogers was no different than the rest of us.

He made mistakes, got angry, and occasionally doubted whether or not he was making a difference. The people close to the TV star took note of these moments of self-doubt.

One of these people was Elizabeth Seamus, who played Mrs. McFeeley on "Mr Roger's Neighborhood." in the documentary.

"I think at some point Fred began to wonder if people would see him as something other than a klutzy TV clown like many of the public hosts at the time. I caught him thinking about whether or not he was making a difference," Seamus said.

Since Mr. Rogers's very last episode of his show debuted in 2000, many familiar with the show have wonder whether or not it will continue to speak to viewers 20 years later.

While the majority say "no," their reasoning has little to do with the show itself.

For Charlotte McGee, a Winnetka resident and fan of Fred Rogers, she retains a fondness for his series, but she concedes that it wouldn't really have the same societal impact today.

"I don't think his show would really survive right now, and it's mainly because it wouldn't appeal to today's kids," said Mrs. McGee,

"They're used to shows that move at a fast pace and ones that are edited to fit their shorter attention span, and Mr. Rogers didn't do that with his series. He took his time and all episodes went at a very slow pace."

Whatever your thoughts on the show or the man behind it may be, there's no doubt that the question "Please, won't you be my neighbor?" will echo in the hearts and minds of many for a very long time.

Consult the stars to learn what the end of the year means for you

Throughout this week and into January, the sun will move into Capricorn with Mars shifting into Scorpio phase. This alignment signifies the release of ten years of negative energy.

by Hope Talbot



Aries

This is a great week for relationships, Aries. Your ruling planet is working with Saturn and Pluto to make partnerships stronger for you. You might find yourself thinking a lot about the past or regretting lost chances as Mercury squares off with Neptune. Try to release this energy though and focus on friendships as the sun's angle indicates those goals will come to you in the next few months.



Taurus

The end of December should be a time of independence and creativity for you. Thanks to Venus ascending, you're going to gain new perspectives and overcome an old roadblock. Be careful with words this week Taurus. Because of Mercury something you say might be misunderstood this week and create drama.



Gemini

This is a reflective week for Gemini. You might feel frustrated by the distance between reality and the future but this week is sending new experiences your way so be patient. Focus on balancing your emotions for the next few days.



Cancer

While the world might seem chaotic for Cancer, expect a relationship to deepen between Dec. 21 and Jan. 20. Try to be open to this supportive energy.



Leo

This week marks a new path for you. An existing emotional issue is expected to clear and allow you to see what's important to you with a clearer eye. The angle of your sun indicates a phase of supported self-improvement, so now's the perfect time for a New Year's Resolution.



Virgo

Stop being so critical of yourself Virgo. The moon on Dec. 17 may have had you doubting yourself but know that you're on the right path. Trust your instinct but allow yourself to be vulnerable this week.



Libra

This is a great week for anything family related for you. Like Virgo, you might find yourself being too harsh. Allow yourself to relax.



Scorpio

While it might go against your fiercely independent nature, try to remember that you're not all on your own, Scorpio. This week you can let go of that pressure by releasing that if you stop being so stubborn and allow others to help you, the world will become more tolerable.



Sagittarius

This might be a week of conflict for the Sagittarius. Mercury's positioning on Dec. 19 may have made for poor communication between you and others. Take this time to look inward instead and reevaluate your values.



Capricorn

Capricorns may feel that they haven't been getting the recognition they feel they deserve lately. Don't allow yourself to get discouraged this week because your hard work is receive recognition by the end of January.



Aquarius

While this is a restorative week, don't be afraid to take risks, Aquarius.



Pisces

Pisces will have the opportunity to be leaders this week. The Pisces social life is expected to pick up in the upcoming days but don't forget to take time for yourself.

David Davidkov looks to future as top player in his class

The junior prepares for college while maintaining his love of the game

by Brooks Herb

Following the 2018 homecoming game against Evanston, David Davidkov laid in his bed reflecting on his stellar performance. He recalled all the lead blocks he made as an offensive tackle, his two batted passes and numerous tackles he made on the defensive line, and, most importantly, the win he and his team earned.

Davidkov, who at the time was a sophomore, was obliterating the older players he was facing, which made him realize that he might truly be good enough to play college football one day. What he could have never predicted, were the countless scholarship offers that he would receive from the greatest and most prestigious college football teams in America.

But before that moment and before he knew he had the ability to be great, Davidkov was always silenced by his own doubts.

Although he was 6'6" and nearly 250 pounds, he still lacked confidence needed for him to take his game to the next level.

"The environment [against Evanston] was electric," Davidkov recalled. "I was ready to go and play."

He attributed his success against Evanston to him clearing his mind and not overthinking, which he said, "Made me play faster."



Davidkov (73) runs onto the field with his teammates just prior to a home game | David Davidkov Twitter

After his dominant homecoming performance in front of the biggest crowd that he ever played before, Davidkov knew he could overcome any roadblocks that he may encounter. He could finally see his immense potential and could see himself achieving his lifelong dream: playing college football.

Perseverance and good fortune run deep in Davidkov's blood. His parents, Emil and Elena, were Bulgarian citizens who realized they wanted a change. They applied for a green card in 1996, knowing their chances were slim due to the large number of applicants and limited availability of green cards; but against all odds, the Davidkovs received a green card and immigrated to the United States in 1997.

Once the couple had settled

in Chicago (which had a large Bulgarian community), Elena was informed by doctors that she would be unable to bear children; however, the Davidkovs once again defied the odds, amazing the doctors by having three children. Little did they know one of them would be Illinois' second-ranked player in the class of 2021.

Davidkov has achieved great success on the field, but his road to getting there was all but easy. When he was in fourth grade, he wanted to play tackle football after watching the Chicago Bears on TV, but living out that dream appeared to be unlikely.

His parents ran on an extremely tight schedule, being that his dad worked as a truck driver all day and his mom helped him, making them believe that getting their son to and

from practice and games would be impossible.

However, Davidkov was determined to strap on a helmet and play, so he started reaching out to his friends to see if someone could help take him to practice, eventually arranging a carpool with his friends who lived nearby.

As the years have gone by and Davidkov's love for the game has grown, he has played for the Wilmette Eagles in middle school with the goal of playing at high school when that time would come; and with his experience at the high school level, the game has become more natural for Davidkov.

Even though Davidkov has become an unstoppable force on the field, he has made a far greater impact on the team than his role as an

offensive tackle who plays defense on a need-be basis would indicate.

Junior Luca Wojewski, a long time teammate and friend of Davidkov's said, "David is the heart of the team. He's a true leader and works harder than anyone I know. He may be a big guy, but he's one of the kindest and most generous people here at New Trier."

While Davidkov's future school is unknown, he certainly knows the factors that will contribute to his big decision. He affirmed that education will play a major role in his decision as less than 2% of college football players make it to the NFL; so in the process of representing his college football team, he wants to make his parents proud by successfully raising a family, which starts with a good degree.

Davidkov also acknowledged that he will be looking for a good fit in making his decision, believing that no one can play their best and give it their all in an uncomfortable environment.

Davidkov is a humble and soft-spoken person. He established that "he doesn't want to go around the halls with [his] chest puffed out because [he has] offers from Ohio State, LSU, and Wisconsin."

Davidkov just wants to be the best person he can be and leave it all out on the field; and while it is certain that Davidkov will be suiting up for a top tier team on Saturdays, the thought of him eventually playing on Sundays at the professional level isn't far-fetched.

Gymnastics takes down Evanston

Team pulls out narrow victory against conference rivals

by Connor Caserio

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, varsity gymnastics defeated Evanston in an early season conference dual meet.

Despite several Trevian gymnasts being out due to sickness, the team was able to come out on top by a final score of 136.3-129.1. A key factor in the Trevians' winning effort was their collective ability to step up in the face of this adversity.

"We had some different girls competing in different events [because of the sickness]," said head coach Jen Pistorius. "It was nice that we have a large talented team—we have a lot of girls to pull from at different levels and different events."

Junior Amelia Montgomery was sick during the meet, so she only competed in the vault instead of her usual all-around slate. Considering how being sick set her and many of her teammates back, Montgomery felt that the team did an overall solid job in winning the meet.

"It definitely was not our best meet because we only got a 136, but without our full lineup and a lot of people being sick it wasn't that bad," she said.

Outside of struggling with teamwide sickness, the Trevians also had to fight through a lot of falls. Pistorius explained that Seniors Maeve Murdock and Rachel Zun, two of the team's top gymnasts, are working on new routines with more difficult tricks.

"Rachel tried her new release move and she had it and then fell," said Pistorius. "And, then, Maeve made her whole routine and then just



Senior Avery Faulkner in action against Glenbard West | NT Athletics Twitter

kind of over-rotated her landing, so we did have to count a bunch of falls last night."

Such falls are a necessary part of learning a harder routine, but they were almost costly for the Trevians against Evanston.

The Trevians emphasized that sickness and difficult new routines is not meant to discredit Evanston's strength as a team nor downplay their own successes in the meet.

"In terms of the competition, I definitely think Evanston has overall improved from last year and previous years, and I think they did a pretty good job at this meet specifically," said Montgomery.

Regarding the Trevians' own strengths at the meet, Pistorius noted, "[Sophomore] Maria Morobito had a nice beam routine—I think she was our only stick for the varsity level. And, on floor, Rachel, Maeve, and Maria all had really nice routines."

Looking ahead, the Trevians will need to get better if they are going to repeat or improve upon last year's second place finish at state.

In an article published in the Glencoe Anchor on Dec. 10, Pistorius said "That's [winning a state championship] the ultimate goal."

The first key to winning state

will be to win the Central Suburban South Conference. Glenbrook South is projected to be one of the better teams in the state and this meet against Evanston showed that the Wildkits are a strong opponent, so GBS will be a tough challenge.

If they win their conference, the Trevians will have to face the best the state has to offer at regionals, sectionals, and state. Two-time defending state champion Glenbard West Hilltoppers are as good as ever, and four school co-op Prairie Ridge looks formidable after defeating both the Trevians and the Hilltoppers at the Glenbard West Invitational earlier this season.

"We kind of know what we have to work with working towards the state series," said Pistorius.

In the end, how well the Trevians do this season will come down to them. They still need to improve, but anything will be possible if they work hard to get better and have fun doing it.

"Some future goals we have for the season are really just going out there and doing our best," said Montgomery. "I think getting a new record score [at state] is possible if we do our very best and just have fun."

Green Hockey beats Loyola Gold 4-2 in rivalry matchup

Boys hockey trumps Ramblers in annual charity game

by Frank Zawrazky

The defending state champion New Trier Green played their annual charity game against Loyola Gold this past Saturday. This game raised money for the Cardiac Care Unit at Lurie Children's Hospital. New Trier Green cruised past Loyola by a score of 4-2.

Green got off to a fast start as Spencer Livvendahl scored ten seconds into the first period courtesy of Danny Pugliese. After Loyola evened it up moments later, Green would retake the lead on a wrist shot from Mac Zelazny to round out the first period scoring.

Goaltender Preston Watt, who led the defensive effort, commented on the strong start and the early goal scoring.

"We were a little bit nervous coming out, but we put a puck in 10 seconds in and that really helped us out. Big play by [Danny] Pugliese on the goal. After that we just got rolling and didn't stop."

After tying it up early in the second period, Green would score two goals within fifteen seconds of one another. The first came from Daniel Budington and the second, a point blast from captain Brian Dolby, was assisted by forward Graeme Paul.

After this defensive breakdown, Loyola would change goaltenders. Midway through the period, Green would get a five on three power play, which although did not yield any goals, continued the offensive

onslaught of shots by Green.

Paul described the momentum shift after the scoring explosion as "awesome."

"The team really wanted to work to preserve the lead and stay back while being physical. Our breakout was looking great in the third period, so we needed to just keep the pick out of our zone and we did a great job of it."

Green would increase its physicality in the third with big men Trent Kadin and John Kane leading the hit carousel. Kadin explained the increase in hitting after the second intermission was instrumental in the change in physicality.

"We got a big energy boost during the intermission. Our captain Brian Dolby fires the whole team up and his energy is just infectious and gets everybody else going working their butts off," said Kadin. "[Physicality] is part of the season. We have games week after week and tournaments weekend after weekend and you just have to get your body in it."

The remainder of the period was full of chances but no conversions, as Watt backstopped the victory with a 26 save performance.

Dolby went into the game confident about the offensive nature of Green against Loyola, especially due to Loyola's goaltending issues.

"We put up 13 against them in the spring, and we knew if we put up shots on him we would dominate the game," said Dolby. "We got the first goal and kept rolling; and after the goaltending switch, we did the same thing. We needed to get a presence below the goal line, and that is exactly what we did."

Boys swim and dive beats Naperville Central in dual meet

Team fights through fatigue to remain undefeated in dual meets

by Matt Murray

The boys varsity swimming and diving team defeated Naperville Central in their second dual meet of the season, picking up a convincing 127-59 victory at the New Trier Natatorium on Dec. 13.

Although both teams were slightly hampered by injuries, the Trevians managed to take down the Redhawks fairly easily despite missing senior Pearce Bailey, who was participating in the Junior National Championships in Seattle that weekend.

Though they missed Bailey's impact in the pool, the swimming team embraced the opportunity of trying to win without their star teammate.

"I think the big win really helped the team see that we are a much deeper team than we were last year, which is really reassuring because most other teams last year thought of us as a 'one man team' in that no one else was that good," said senior Sam Dienstag.

The team's senior core of Dienstag, Rishi Nair, Marc Hagist, and Evan Rittner led the way in Bailey's absence, tallying a combined 34 points from their individual races.

Hagist and Rittner both finished in the top three in each of their individual races while Nair and Dienstag won two races apiece with Dienstag winning the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle races by 4.13 and 3.25 seconds

respectively.

Dienstag, Hagist, and Nair also joined forces with sophomore Edward O'Hara for two of the team's three relay victories, finishing with times of 1:30.22 and 3:20.03 in the 200-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle races respectively.

"We did as well as we could have last season, but we all still wish that we could've done better; and this year, the guys on the team are clearly super motivated to do better," said Hagist. "All of the guys have started this season clearly hoping to beat last year's subpar record and it shows."

While the seniors dominated the swimming portion of the meet, sophomore John Ervin and freshman Wyatt Wellehan put on an exhibition of their own against the Redhawks, finishing with the two highest scores among the varsity divers.

Ervin and Wellehan engaged in an epic battle for first place, trading the lead six times and finishing with 233.40 and 214.65 points respectively.

The pair also posted the varsity team's four highest single-dive scores as Wellehan scored 43.05 points off of his 2.1 difficulty dive in the third round while Ervin topped out at 48 points with his 2.4 difficulty dive in the second round.

"I feel really excited about our team. We've got a lot of young guys that have a lot of potential and a couple of [junior varsity players] who I think can be really good if they keep working hard," said head diving coach Bruce Kimball.

"It may be up and down at points this season, but I think that as [the divers] get more experience, they'll end up becoming a strong group by the end of the year."



The swimmers begin the 100-yard varsity breaststroke race, which was won by sophomore Sam Brown | Murray

While getting a victory over a perennial state title contender proved to be a major confidence boost for the team, it should be noted that the Trevians, specifically the swimmers, were far from being at their peak performance level, for the rigorous training schedule, which include practices bookending the school day, has been taking its toll on the swimmers.

"The challenge for us is really the fatigue factor and how broken down we are," said head swimming coach Josh Runkle. "Swimming is one of those sports where taking time off can be detrimental because it's such a training-based sport."

Although the heavy workload left the team banged up going into

the regular season, their performance thus far has not given any indication of their fatigue.

Following a 2nd place finish at the Warrior Relay in Deerfield on Dec. 6, the team trounced Rockford-Guilford 141-27 on Dec. 7 behind freshman Graham Wilson and junior Nathan Reid and picked up a road victory against Hinsdale Central on Dec. 14.

"We want to practice to be the fastest as we can possibly be at the end of the season, and everyone's been holding each other accountable for hard work and fighting through the pain that comes with tough practices," said Dienstag.

Although the team has embraced the hard work that it will take to regain

their state title-contending form, both the swimmers and divers are keeping their focus on the future as they still have yet to face state title favorite Glenbrook South or conference rival Evanston.

However, with the way that they've performed so far this season, they look to be up to the challenge.

"Realistically, I think that we can get back to being a top ten team in the state meet," said Runkle. "Last year was a down year for us because we were really young. We had a lot of first-time varsity guys that were being counted on, so now that [they've] got that year of experience under [their] belts, I'm looking forward to a good year."

Fencing shows out at Midwest Open, takes home seven medals

Team puts their competition on notice at midseason tournament

by Cleo Pool

On Dec. 15 the fencing team competed at Culver Academy in the Midwest Open.

The team placed well considering the tough competition that came from all across the midwest. The team took home a gold, a silver and five bronze medals.

Many members finished in the top eight. Senior Katia Tsytarina finished 2nd, and junior Eva Goren finished 3rd in women's sabre. Senior Amelia Jacobson placed 3rd in women's epee and Junior Daniel Lai finished 3rd for men's sabre.

While the three disciplines of foil, epee, and sabre all practice together, the players can only compete with opponents of the same discipline in tournaments, which can make events like the Midwest Open hectic.

Senior Emma Chipman explained how the bracketing system of these competitions works.

"Tournaments are formatted with 'pool' rounds where we are put into groups of five to seven fencers, and we all fence each other. We are then seeded and put into direct elimination rounds which are like brackets," said Chipman.

The Culver tournament serves as a check-point in the middle of the season. Senior Thomas Criswell knows the significance of the Midwest Open, which was made up of a range of ages and levels of experience that had come together.



The women's sabre team poses with their gold medals following the Midwest Open on Dec. 15 | Jacobson

"It is easily one of our most competitive and talent studded tournaments of the year and something we have marked on our calendars from the start of the season," said Criswell.

This long-awaited tournament upped the intensity of practices of Colby Vargas, who is the head coach for both girls and boys fencing. Criswell noticed a new trend in the way Vargas led practices as the

tournament approached.

"Practices leading up to the tournament and this year in general have definitely increased in intensity. Our head coach, Mr. Vargas, has put more of an emphasis on cardio and weightlifting than we've done in past years," said Criswell.

The team is expecting good things for the end of the season. When comparing this season to last, Junior Lizzy Marino sees great promise for

the future.

"Last year, my team [women's epee] went undefeated against all 14 other teams in the Midwest fencing conference, so I have high hopes for this year," said Marino.

Looking to the end of the season, New Trier will host state in February, but the state competition is going to look a little different. Instead of it being focused on individual fencers, the focus will be on the team as a

whole. The team is looking to bring home a big win this year.

"Unlike previous years, this season's state meet will be a team meeting instead of an individual meet, so I am hoping for my team to win," said Marino.

Everyone is looking to a successful end to the season. Chipman believes that this is the strongest team yet, and that the season can only go up from here.

"I think the team is super strong this year to be honest. Our main rivals are Stevenson and Culver, but we've been doing pretty well against them as a whole. Our biggest achievements haven't really come yet, we're waiting for Conference champs," said Chipman.

Criswell credits this success to the younger side of the team. He sees fencing as a sport that requires time and dedication and the underclassmen are bringing that to the table.

"This sport has a very steep learning curve with a lot of your success directly correlated to the time you spend practicing. The fact that we have so much success at the younger level is really a testament to their work ethic and time each one of them has put in," said Criswell.

Junior Eva Goren used the Culver Midwest Open as an opportunity to reflect on the first half of the season. She has seen some great performances and great growth in the overall team. She looks forward to the rest of the season.

"We are halfway through our season and we are doing very well. Women's varsity has been undefeated in team tournaments. This year has been going well and our team captains are great," said Goren.