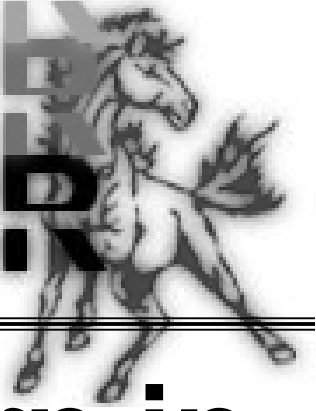


MUSTANG MONITOR

Evergreen Park Community High School



Former E.P. Student Sworn in as Arizona Congressman

By: Anthony Miglieri

On January 3, 2015, former Evergreen Park student Ruben Gallego was sworn into Congress, giving the Evergreen Park High School Herd the extraordinary pride and privilege of having a fellow Mustang in the United States government. However, his immense success and work ethic did not begin with his

meteoric rise in politics.

Ruben Gallego, born Ruben Marinelarena, lived in Evergreen Park as a child, but the absence of a father figure in his household forced him to take on adult responsibilities and an unswerving determination in order to support his three sisters and mother. As a teenager, Marinelarena became employed at Souzy's on 95th Street, which was managed at the time by

current EPCHS staff member Mr. Zerlentes. "Of the 60 kids who worked for me at Souzy's," Mr. Zerlentes now reminisces, "there were only three that stood out, that I felt I could trust to run the restaurant while I was gone. Ruben was one of them."

Ruben's diligent pursuit of excellence also translated to his school work at EPCHS, where he was taught by current faculty members, including Mr. Gustafson. In addition to constantly excelling in his classes, Marinelarena was heavily involved in the high school's extracurriculars, including baseball and Scholastic Bowl. When asked today to describe Ruben's personality and drive, Mr. Gustafson replies without hesitation, "Driven and inspired."

After graduating from EPCHS in 1998, Ruben Marinelarena's proficiency and ambition as a Mustang extended to his college career, and he was accepted into Harvard, his first-choice university. Studying political science at the prestigious school, Marinelarena began realizing his childhood dream of foraying into the nation's political system. Marinelarena proceeded to graduate from Harvard University with a degree in International Relations.

After completing his stint at Harvard, Ruben soon made a decision that, despite perhaps seeming incongruous considering his elite schooling, nonetheless reflected his immutable allegiance to his country: he enlisted in the Marines. Deploying to Iraq in 2005, Marinelarena was thrust into combat with the well-known unit Lima 3/25. The tour in the Marines, which unfortunately saw the deaths of many of Marinelarena's fellow infantrymen, including personal friends, left an indelible impression on

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Ruben Gallego (third from left) gets sworn into office by his former Marine friends while his wife (middle) and mother (second from right) stand proudly at his side. Congressman Gallego represents the state of Arizona.



Mrs. Zerlentes, Congressman Gallego, Mr. Zerlentes, and Mrs. Gallego pose in Washington, D.C. in front of Gallego's new home away from home, the Capitol building. Mr. Zerlentes was proud to see one of EP's own be sworn into office.



Congressman Gallego gives a speech after he was sworn into office this past January.

Welcome to Evergreen Park, Dr. Dunlap!

By: Matt Kuchan

After seven years as superintendent of District 231, Dr. Beth Hart will be retiring at the end of this school year. EPCHS is pleased to welcome Dr. James Dunlap from District 154 in Thornton as her replacement. Dr. Dunlap was the proud superintendant in Thornton for five years, and now he is excited and eager to start his superintendent position at EP next year. So far, he thinks that EP is a fantastic school and community with great students, good faculty, and caring people. He believes that EP is going in the right direction in terms of learning. He intends to implement a 1:1 technology program, which



School board members Mr. Brett, Mr. Trzeciak, Mr. Sinon, Mr. Schergen, and Mr. Symanski welcome incoming District 231 superintendent Dr. Dunlap (middle).

he has experience using in the past and believes it will help further the educational experience for Evergreen Park. The 1:1 program is a system of learning where students are given laptops, tablets, or other devices to access the internet for learning purposes. Overall, he intends to come in to the school fresh and see what improvements he can make from his observations. Dr. Dunlap is hoping to move to Evergreen Park and soon be a proud member of our community and neighborhood. So, let's all welcome Dr. Dunlap with open arms and show him what Evergreen Park High School has to offer.

Beauty and the Beast Unveils New Auditorium

By: Gianna Pinotti

EPCHS's production of *Beauty and the Beast* was unbelievably phenomenal. It was the debut show in the brand new auditorium, and every night was a full house of people anxiously waiting to watch this "tale as old as time." The cast, pit, and crew had been working on this show since early December, and it definitely took a lot of hard work to accomplish. Everything was completely new, but everyone worked together and had a great time. The Batho auditorium underwent a total renovation that took about a year to complete. The renovation included new seats, lighting and sound equipment, a new stage and back-stage space, a lowered pit area, a scene shop for the crew to build, and new responsibilities for everybody. Teacher Amy Kazin was the director, along with student Colleen

Diamond as the assistant director. Without them, there would be no show at all. The cast was also pleased to welcome Gil Olivia, the new master carpenter. The entire cast had so much fun putting on this production in their new home.

The cast also hosted a "meet and greet" on the final day of the show. Children of all ages were able to come in and meet Belle, the Beast, and all of the other unique characters in the show before the performance. "It was such a blast," says Julie Allpow, who played Belle in the show. "It was amazing to work with so many talented people; it was definitely my favorite theater experience so far." The cast is sad that this journey is over, but they are very excited for the next theatrical show, *Lucky Stiff*, which will open in April.



Top left: Belle (Julie Allpow) stares at the ever persistent Gaston (Matt Przeslicke) during his stubborn marriage proposal; Top right: School board president Mr. Trzeciak cuts the ribbon for the newly renovated auditorium's grand opening.



The cast smiles and beats along during the "Cup Song," a favorite of the cast and crew and audience too. This was just one of several entertaining and inspired musical ensemble performances that captivated audiences at three sold-out performances in February.



Junior Jonathan Alexander looks fierce on stage as "The Beast" in the new auditorium's inaugural production.

Mr. Pasek Honored as WGN Teacher of the Month

Senior Emily Ragdowski nominated business teacher Mr. Pasek for WGN's Teacher of the Month. Mr. Pasek was selected as February's Teacher of the Month and was featured on the WGN news on February 24th and 25th. Below is the nomination Emily submitted.

I'm nominating Mr. Pasek for the WGN Teacher of the Month award for several reasons. To begin with, Mr. Pasek has increased the educational achievements of students in the classroom by providing real life examples that make the classwork entertaining and worthwhile, providing true meaning to subject topics. The way we discuss jobs in the economy, financial situations, and just working towards your dreams really motivates me to want to strive in his class to really be able to succeed in my future. Before I took Mr. Pasek's business principles class, I had no idea where I wanted to go or what I wanted to do after school, but Mr. Pasek's class has led me in the right path, and to me, that is definitely my best educational achievement I have made at EPCHS.

Mr. Pasek also has definitely made many impacts on our school atmosphere and probably our whole student body. Just his friendly and funny attitude can even make Mondays seem not so bad. He brings such school spirit to pump up any pep assembly our school has that he even hosts. Mr. Pasek is the speaker for all of our school pep assemblies and everyone here at EPCHS could agree he knows how to pump up the crowd.

Mr. Pasek has many teaching strategies that I and others could agree are very entertaining and helpful. One of my favorites is when I took his business principles class last year, we would end every day with watching ten minutes of the television show *Shark Tank*. While watching *Shark Tank*, we would pause and discuss our opinions on the idea being presented to the millionaires who were to invest in inventions made by everyday people. Even the silliest inventions that were presented, Mr. Pasek stressed how if you work towards your dream, you really can achieve it. I became interested in the business side of things when we would talk about the investments being made on the products and if it was a good deal or not. I didn't really realize it at the time, but I was actually having fun while doing those math equations for those investments. Also, one of our big class projects for the term



Senior Emily Ragdowski nominated business teacher Mr. Pasek for WGN's Teacher of the Month. Mr. Pasek was selected as February's Teacher of the Month and was featured on the WGN news. WGN reporter Muriel Clair (left) surprised Mr. Pasek with the award.

was to do a report on a successful business person. We were to create a poster and present to the class why we thought that person was successful. I loved that project because I picked the man who started Culvers (where I am employed) and Mr. Pasek let me present in my work uniform. This project was very entertaining, and I learned a lot about inventors and entrepreneurs along the way.

Furthermore, Mr. Pasek is not only a teacher, but he is the head coach of our school's golf team and head coordinator for our Future Business Leaders of America club. Mr. Pasek has impacted our golf team bringing in five conference wins in his time here, and this year and last year they were back-to-back conference champs, not to mention him receiving a Coach of the Year award. Victory like that definitely adds to the positive spirit at our school. The Future Business Leaders of America club that he is involved in is really special because he helps students run

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Slam Dunk for The Special Olympics



Evergreen Park student volunteers pose with the winning Special Olympics basketball tournament team as they pose with their much-deserved trophy. EPCHS was proud to host several teams from nearby schools at an all-day basketball tournament on January 11th.

By: Jayson Mijangos

There are athletes in all of us, and the Special Olympics truly brought out the best of this year's talented group of kids. Evergreen Park High

School was honored to host the basketball event of the Special Olympics and proud to be associated with a great organization for a good cause. The event took place on January

7th and January 11th. With a total of 164 volunteers to help out, it was a much supported event. Ms. Konley and Mr. Novak were very proud to support and participate with Special

Olympics for quite some time, and they truly enjoyed organizing and running this event. Mr. Flannigan, Mr. Scaduto, and their basketball teams were also on hand, as were many vol-

unteers from NHS and additional EP students and staff members. One of the volunteers who had a hands-on experience is senior Alex Deninger, who hosted a team. "I recommend it to everybody because those kids have more love for people than anyone else I know," said Alex. Colleen Neylon, a senior at Evergreen Park, says "I think it's amazing. It was such a wonderful experience. The Special Olympics are so cool because they are proving to people that all kids are capable." The Special Olympics are year-round events and Evergreen Park will be looking forward to hosting another event in the future. Everyone has talent in them, and this is something that brings out the good of many athletes and volunteers.

Snowball 2015: Yet Another Year of Teamwork, Friendship, and Everyone Wearing the Same Shirt

By: Alex Deninger

Snowball 2015 was a sweet success! The 10th anniversary theme was "ten years of making life sweeter." The weekend started

Snowballers got split up into different small groups named after beloved candies. On Friday afternoon, all of the small groups had to come up with a chant for



Judo chop! "That will teach you to wear the same shirt as me!" shouts Elizabeth McDonald. Edith Morales will make sure such a thing never happens again.

with the small group leaders gwelcoming the Snowballers by standing on both sides of the sidewalk and forming a tunnel with their hands and high-fiving students as arrived. All of the

their roll call and design a coat of arms for their group. That evening there were various great speakers, including an inspirational speech about defining the one life you have, an

amazing presentation by a group called M&P about embracing the awkward things that happen to us with a smile (sophomore David Blue won the M&P game show and walked away with a signed selfie from both Matt and Phil of M&P Productions), and the talented UIC improvisational comedy group. On Saturday, the students had the chance to participate in various breakout sessions ranging from juggling to self-defense. At one point in the day students were outside learning to make the perfect s'more with Mr. Nesler. On Sunday, students participated in an award ceremony where Mr. Schellenberger was awarded the title of "Only Person to Age 10 Years While Putting on a Coat," and everybody got to participate in a soul train. The perfect end to a perfect weekend was a parent ceremony where one student from each small group talked on stage about their family. The theme for this talk was "How sweet it is to be loved by you."

This year featured one of the largest groups of fresh-

men and alumni. Sophomore small group leader Maggie Zofkie remarked, "I'd say Snowball was defi-



Four-year senior snowballers play off the embarrassment of everyone wearing the same shirt by acting silly. Zach Rogers and Sam Deanne ponder the seriousness of the predicament.

nately worthwhile because I became closer with some friends; the speakers were relatable, eye opening, and fun to listen to; and it was a weekend full of laughs and dancing. Also, it was my first time being a small group leader, and I'm ready to start working on next year."

While it was a big year

for seniors, it was also a year for the alumni. Snowball 2015 had an astounding 21 alumni spanning

over all ten years of Snowball trips. As the parents collected their students, everyone had the chance to reflect on how sweetly their weekend had gone and how much they would miss it.



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"I can't believe Dave Schulte is wearing the same shirt as me," thinks Lizzie O'Dwyer. "It's so embarrassing. I'll just eat my embarrassment away with these delicious fondu marshmallows."



The leadership activity group is trying a civil way to see who has to change their shirt. "Last one to fall gets to keep the shirt," groans Dave Schulte.

The Concert Band is 'All About That Bass' Magnificently Mysterious Masquerade

By: Jonathan Alexander

This year, the EPCHS concert band is yet again experiencing both a successful and smooth performance season. Currently, the band has just finished another successful Midwest Music Festival placing in Division II just behind Sandburg High School and is preparing next for the State Competition that will possibly be held at Rich East High School. Throughout the season, Mr. Kazin has remarked that, "no person has outperformed any other because the band acts as the ultimate team. Every-

one has a place. Everyone is important." The band is also experimenting with the new auditorium by trying to fashion a synergy between both the band and the choir in that they will share pieces of music and also have the central theme of the Civil War for their music. Next year, the band is looking to possibly travel to San Antonio, Texas over spring break. Mr. Kazin says, "The trip will be a well-deserved treat for the band whose practice and commitment has so far paid off in our performances."

"Gallego"

from page 1

Ruben and gave rise to his dedication to veterans. After changing his name in 2008 to include his mother's maiden surname, Ruben Gallego was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2010, where he served until 2014. In Phoenix, Gallego held the positions of Chief of Staff, Councilman, and State Assemblyman. It was during this time that Gallego established himself as a "progressive," or forward-looking Democrat.

After campaigning for Congress with the help of his wife Kate Gallego, Ruben was elected and finally sworn in on January 3, 2015. Recalling his formative years in Evergreen Park, Gallego invited EPCHS staff members Ms. Konley and Mr. Zerlentes (who was also Gallego's boss at Souzy's during his teenage years) to the ceremony in Arizona. After he was sworn in by three of

his fellow Iraq servicemen, Congressman Gallego delivered a deeply felt speech in which he acknowledged everything, including his indispensable young life in Evergreen, that allowed him to reach his prestigious position.

Today, Ruben Gallego represents in the famously liberal 7th Congressional District in Phoenix. Gallego is noted for being one of the most influential Hispanics in Arizona, a notable leader of his state under the age of 40, as well as an ardent supporter of the working class and veterans' rights. "He always loved the underdog," Mr. Gustafson says today. Considering the current U.S. Congressman once roamed these same halls in our small town of Evergreen Park, it is inspiring to know that Ruben Gallego has become a perfect model of the type of underdog that he once idolized.



Back by popular demand: The Snow Dance photo booth got steady work once again this year with students taking the wackiest of pictures with their friends.

Jasmine Tapia and Sarai Salazar (upper left) rock the fedora. Don't they look fedora-able?



Check out David Torres and his crew (upper right)--super silly.

We don't know who you are because you're wearing masks, students (upper right).*

Nothing says "cool" like sunglasses and dollar bill fingers, right, Mike Rizzo?(middle)



Emilie Cruz and Jaclyn Kremposky prepare for a hoedown

Yes, peace and love to us all. Thanks, Patricia Del Rosio and Snow Queen nominee Abbi Donovan (bottom right).



We kid-- you all look terrific!

by: Madalyn Grohovena

Laissez les bons temps rouler ("Let the good times roll")! The Mardi Gras Masquerade theme was sure to put everyone in a swinging mood, and the dancing, photo booth, and complimentary snacks sure did the trick! "Kameron Hoover's selfie stick made the night," says junior Abbi

Donovan, who attended the dance. Students lined up on Saturday, February 7th in their New Orleans best and while waiting to dance, they voted for their favorite Snow King nominee, either Kameron Brown, Kameron Hoover, or Jeremy Onyango. By the end of the night, Jeremy Onyango was crowned victorious as Snow King alongside Kiari Cooper, our Snow Queen.

This year was the largest Snow Dance crowd ever, with around 300 students in attendance. In addition to the complimentary masquerade masks and Mardi Gras beads, many students brought their own personalized masks to add to the mysterious atmosphere and give a unique twist to the night. The evening was splendid and certainly will be remembered!

Faculty Celebrate Winter Wedddings



School nurse Ms. Kusper (now Mrs. Kovanich) pauses with her new husband by the sign outside of their November wedding reception.



Physical education teacher Ms. Johnson (now Mrs. Minogue) and her husband give each other a loving smile on their magical day in January.

*None of the photos were taken by the Mustang Monitor.

Do you know Mr. Illichman?

By: Lucy Guzman

Q: Where did you attend college?
A: I am a graduate of Western Illinois University.

Q: You first taught here at EP in the Spring of 2013. How does it feel to be back?

A: Since day one, the students have been very welcoming, friendly, and...lively, to say the least.

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

A: I was originally interested in becoming a meteorologist, but I found my true passion in teaching after helping out peers on my dorm floor with their math homework. I switched majors to math education and stuck with it ever since.

Q: What do you like about teaching?

A: I enjoy figuring out misconceptions and trying to address them to prevent future mistakes.

Q: What is something we may not know about you?

A: I am an Ultimate Frisbee athlete.

Mr. Illichman is a part time math teacher. He also works part time at Revis High School. He is a very busy man.



Math teacher by day, Ultimate Frisbee aficionado by night! Mr. Illichman makes a miraculous game-saving catch during one of his Ultimate Frisbee tournaments.

“Pasek”

continued from page 3

fundraisers for our student body. In doing that, they learn leadership roles, money skills, and planning skills. They participate in community service activities like helping out at the Ronald McDonald House. Basically any position Mr. Pasek is in charge of, he goes above and beyond and leaves his mark. Also, the things that are most important to Mr. Pasek are his students' success inside and outside of school, definitely his golf team, and lending a helping hand or giving advice whenever needed.

I am a senior now, and ever since last year, before I even started applying for colleges, I have kept him updated and have gotten helpful advice in potential jobs and schools to go to. Building strong student relationships is definitely of importance to Mr. Pasek. Mr. Pasek has definitely made a huge difference in my life. Junior year started out as a very rough year for me. I switched out of my Spanish class and into his business class second term. I hadn't had him as teacher since freshman year, but from the second I walked in the classroom door, I felt a little bit of relief off my shoulders because I knew how awesome of a teacher he was. At that time I had no idea what it was I wanted to be or where it was I wanted to end up. As the weeks went on in his class, many opportunities were opened up that I could definitely see in my future. Mr Pasek showed interest in my job I have at Culvers and I could always go to him for work advice. I came up with an idea for our custard machine at Culvers and showed it to him, and he gave 100% support and began helping me strategize how to come about it. I really grew an interest in business from this class and listening to Mr. Pasek talk about working for what you want and everyday problems and issues in the world really has urged me to do whatever I can to achieve success in my life.

I can't thank Mr. Pasek enough for being a tremendous help, a great friend, and a true role model. Everyday Mr. Pasek continues to change people's lives, whether it be advice and coaching on the golf course, mentoring the Future Business Leaders, or his explanations of why what he's teaching is so important. His friendly attitude adds so much to our positive atmosphere here. I don't think there is not one student, whether he just met you or has known you, that he can't make up a nickname for, either. Mr. Pasek is a great example of an outstanding teacher and deserves the Teacher of the Month Award very much!

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Redmayne holds back nothing in *The Theory of Everything*

By: Anthony Miglieri

When a film places almost all of its emphasis on a single person, especially a real-life person as universally recognized and lauded as Stephen Hawking, a single choice is what usually determines the film's fate. Luckily for *The Theory of Everything*, the choice to cast Eddie Redmayne as Hawking has bestowed us with what is one of the most convincing and moving embodiments of a factual figure yet put to film.

As is the case with most all biopics, *The Theory of Everything* rises and falls with its lead role. As such, Redmayne's performance, which has already been praised to no end by critics and has garnered several awards (including the Oscar for Best Actor), carries with it nearly every plot point and dramatic peak of the film. Redmayne prepared extensively for the role, going to such lengths as to lose weight, meet with dozens of real ALS patients, and spend months training himself to contort his face and body to accommodate the crippling physical nature of Stephen Hawking. Not only is Redmayne able to flawlessly embody the tragically speechless, ALS-stricken, and wheelchair-sentenced Hawking, but he illustrates the grueling shift gradually, from his time as a fully mobile and vocal Cambridge student to his jarring diagnosis and further physical deterioration. Without question, the slow, nuanced, and wrenching transformation of Hawking's mind and body is the film's highlight, and warrants repeat viewings just to witness again.

Although Redmayne's performance is undoubtedly and rightfully the centerpiece of *The Theory of Everything*, it is certainly not the lone praiseworthy element. For one, the entire picture looks ravishing; director James Marsh and cinematographer Benoit Delhomme drench Hawking's journey in the beautifully saturated colors and sublimely subdued tones of England. The production is also superb, as the period attire and scenery morphs perfectly as the story moves through time. Felicity Jones is delicately vulnerable yet strong-willed as Jane Hawking, the woman who falls for Hawking before his symptoms begin to arise. The chemistry between Redmayne's Haw-

ing and Jones's Jane is palpable, especially as Jane chooses to embark on the painful journey of Stephen's ALS with him.

This film is titled *The Theory of Everything*, yet the movie's content contradicts this in a way. Herein lies the

film's most notable shortcoming. As *The Theory of Everything* focuses so much on the tender yet often-trying relationship between Hawking and Jane, it largely loses sight of what made Hawking such an influential individual: his extraordinary

scientific work. The film does not ignore Dr. Hawking's professional doings, as the earlier sequences do document his forays into physics and his search for an all-encompassing theory, but as the film progresses, it veers more into occasionally-

schmaltzy romantic melodrama. In addition, the pace of *The Theory of Everything* becomes more and more episodic as it continues, seemingly to accommodate the milestones of the marriage rather than the groundbreaking scientific progress. Even so, *The Theory of Everything* is an emotionally satisfying and overall very accomplished cinematic experience, headlined by the uniformly great performances. When it comes to a definitive history of Stephen Hawking's accomplishments, though, just don't expect everything from *The Theory of Everything*.



Eddie Redmayne gives a heartfelt speech after winning the Oscar for Best Actor for his portrayal of Stephen Hawking.



Playing Stephen Hawking required a major physical overhaul for Redmayne. The Academy certainly appreciated it.

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Moraine Valley Community College

April is Autism Awareness Month

By: Alex Deninger and Jayson Mijangos

April is known for its many affairs: April Fool's day, Good Friday, Easter, Earth Day, and more. What a lot of people forget is that April is also Autism Awareness Month. April 2, 2015 will mark the eighth annual World Autism Awareness Day. On this day people around the world work hard to bring awareness to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to the people it affects. The theme for Autism Awareness Day is "Light It Up Blue" or #LIUB. The Autism Speaks Organization has released some facts that they feel are important to the Autism community:

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children.
- Autism costs a family on average \$60,000 a year.
- Boys are nearly 5 times more likely to have Autism than girls.
- There is no cure for Autism.
- Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the US.

Some other facts released by the National Autism Association include:

- About 40% of those with Autism do not speak.
- The rate of Autism has steadily grown over the last 20 years.

(Alex) After researching the facts and getting the chance to work with students with disabilities for almost a full year, I'd like to share some of my own experiences. Taking this class and working with these students was not something I thought I ever wanted to do. After talking with my counselor I signed up for the class and hoped for the best. I was extremely nervous during my first week because I didn't know what to expect. Yes, I had gotten instruction on how to interact with the students but that didn't mean I actually knew how to apply them. So for the first week I was cautious and afraid to work with them because I had never done it before. But after the first week I realized just how much I enjoyed working with them. As the time went by I began to get more comfortable with and around the students

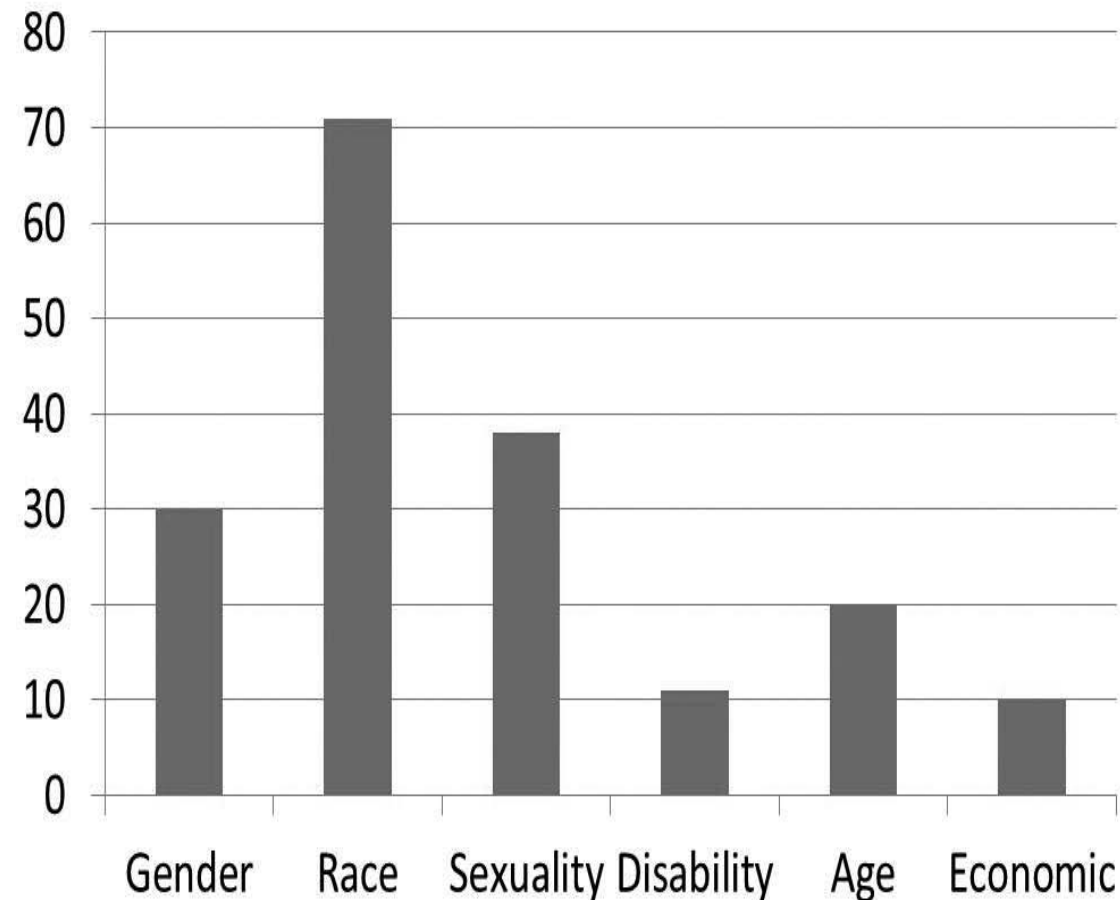
and I began to really enjoy it. I became more involved in the AERO program and began looking forward to it each day. There are times when I look back and reflect on those first few days when I was terrified to be in the class. These students brighten my day with their happiness and how hard they work. Becoming an AERO aide has been the highlight of my senior year, and it helped me to decide on a profession that I would like to pursue. Without the help of my counselor and the AERO students and staff I wouldn't have had such an amazing chance to do something I genuinely love doing.

(Jayson) I've always wanted to help children and students with disabilities. I have always wanted to join the AERO program and will always look at opportunities to help children and students alike, disabled or not. Steve Jobs once said, "People with passion can change the world," and I have always followed a certain philosophy that helping other people is such a great thing and trying to make others feel better is something personally marvelous. I believe standing up for others and helping each other is what drives us forward and brings out the good in people.

While April is known for fooling around with your friends and spending time with your family, it's also a big month for those raising awareness for ASD. (As of 2014, more than 3.5 million people in America live with ASD). We should be raising awareness for them and other individuals who have a disability. Eileen Caddy, a noteworthy spiritual teacher, once said, "What is right for one soul may not be right for another. It may mean having to stand on your own and doing something strange in the eyes of others." Standing up for something you believe can be one of the hardest things to do, but doing it for others because they need it is worth it. Imagine how hard it can be to not have a voice or understand how to advocate for yourself. You can stand up for everyone who cannot stand up for themselves and you can help put the pieces of the puzzle together for people with disabilities everywhere!

Common Stereotypes: The PRISM Poll

Most Common Stereotypes



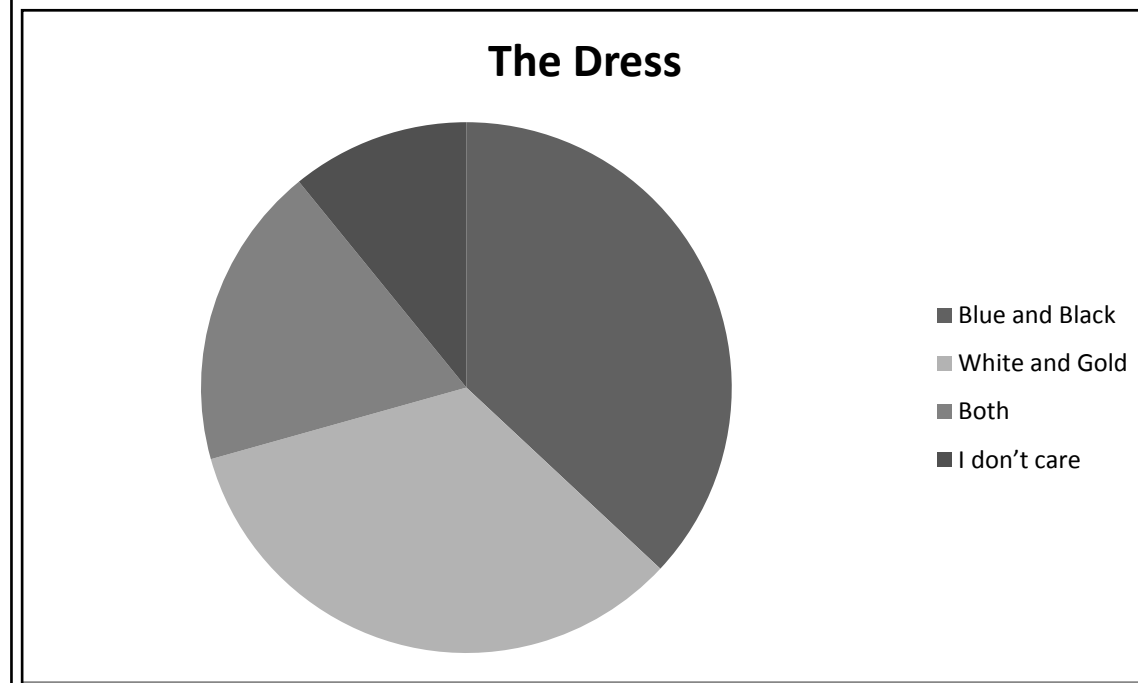
Members of the PRISM club polled the student body, asking them "What type of stereotypes do you hear the most among the student population?" Here are their responses.

Water Polo, continued from page 11 a water polo team in the past; many swimmers are happy to see this off-sea-

son sport make a comeback. Students will meet new people, gain leadership skills, and will have the opportunity to work

on their swimming skills. Water polo is a great addition to the Mustang Nation athletics program.

Is it Blue and Black or White and Gold? *Stay tuned for the correct answer below.



The Things We Said About One of the Most Talked About Phenoms of Last Week:

- "People can get a divorce over it." **Someone's newly single!!!**
- "I refuse to answer that question." **This student obviously finds this kind of pop culture appalling.**
- "It's dumb." **Simple, direct, concise.**
- "Gold is the new blue." **Said one optimistic student.**
- "Either way it's ugly." **Said one pessimistic student.**
- "There are starving kids in Africa, and we're worried about a dress?!" **Said one student while throwing away the mandatory vegetables on his or her lunch plate.**

* It's White and Gold.

Dance Team Steps Into the Spotlight This Season

By: Gianna Pinotti

This dance season brought many changes, but the girls all adjusted well, and it was overall a successful year. The team is now coached by Ms. Pietruszynski, who is a math teacher here at EPCHS, and is led by captain Abby Quigley and co-captains Justina Birden and Gianna Pinotti. The girls love their new head coach and are so excited for the next season, which is introducing a fall team along with the winter team. "The girls really had to push through the challenge of accepting a new coach halfway through their season," says Coach Pietruszynski, "and I couldn't have asked for a more supportive team and am extremely proud of what they have accomplished this year. I can't wait to start up the new fall sideline season!"

They attended five competitions this season and improved their scores each time. The dance team also performed at the home basketball games and always kept the crowds' spirits up with their "Space Jam" competition routine. They were dressed in personalized basketball jerseys and had such a blast performing the routine.

Next year, the dance team will perform at the Friday night varsity football games in the autumn and the varsity basketball games in the winter, plus competitions during the winter season. Make sure you're looking out for the flyers for the tryout date of the upcoming fall season!



The dance team, coached by Mrs. Pietruszynski, is reinvigorated during the winter season as the girls' new energetic routines mesmerize the crowd. The dance team will extend their entertaining experience with the addition of a new fall season next year in addition to the winter season. Double the dancing, double the fun!

Wrestling State



Josh Harvey and Ray Sieloff demonstrate a wrestling move as the Mustang wrestling team wraps up its season. Every member of the team made it to sectionals this year, which was a huge accomplishment for new coach Tim Lambert, who joined the Mustang Nation this year. In addition, teammate Sylvane Smart represented EP at State.

We're Number One!

EPCHS Cheerleading Doing all the Leading



Varsity Cheerleading wins first place at the Bolingbrook High School Competition. Coach Griffith is proud to lead a "#1" squad! "I am so proud of these girls for all their hard work and dedication," says Coach Griffith.

Join the New Water Polo Team!

By: Andrew Diaz

Starting this spring, EPCHS is welcoming a new team: water polo! Led by head swim coach Sarah Marshall, water polo is open to all EPCHS students. Now that the boys swim season is over, the school pool is open for water polo practice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Sign-up for the team is available at the pool as well.

Water polo is similar to soccer, but players use their hands in the water. It takes a lot of teamwork and stamina to play. The high school used to have

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Boys Basketball Wrap-Up Girls Basketball Concludes

By: Gabby Lazinek

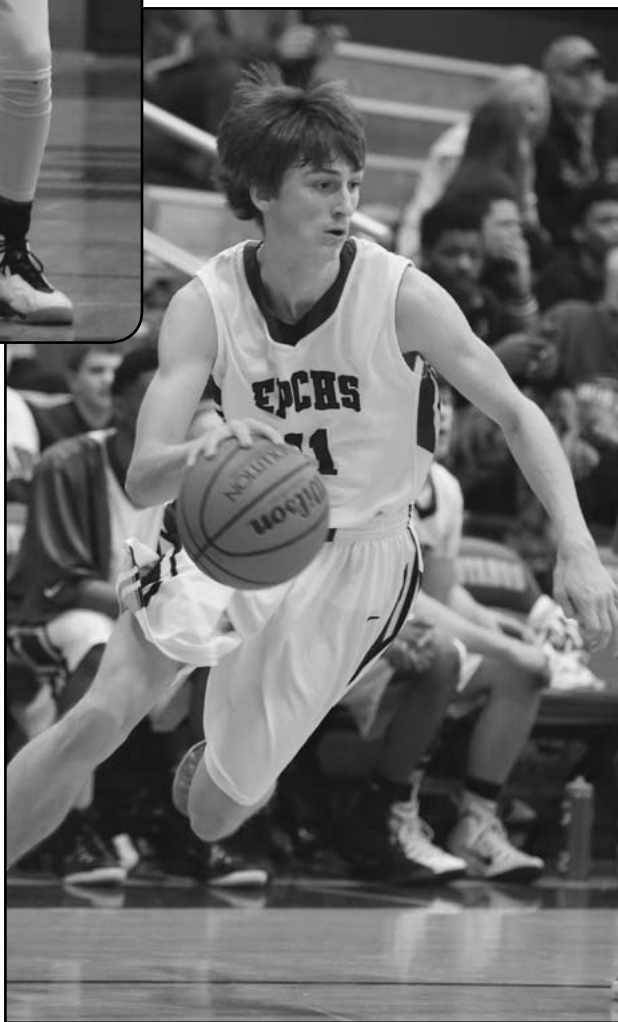
Coach Flannigan coached the 2015 Evergreen Park varsity boys' basketball team. The starting line up was Isaac Matthews, Joe



Above: Julian Rodriguez prepares to shoot a free throw to get another point on the board for the Mustang basketball team.

Right: Senior Joe Moran, a starter on the boys varsity basketball team, races down the court with ferocity.

Moran, Darren Pritchett, Jordan Brown, and either Danny Smith or Declan Smyth. The team captains were Joe Moran, Jordan Brown, and Isaac Matthews. Isaac Matthews was the MVP, and by his third year on varsity, he scored 960 points. He was also voted the All-Conference player. Coach Flannigan said, "This was a great group of kids that I will miss. Although we lacked a scoring punch certain nights, they worked very hard." Coach Flannigan will miss the seniors, but he is looking forward to next year. The sophomore team won conference this year, and Coach Flannigan is eager to see how the team will look next year.



By: Gabby Lazinek

Coach Scaduto coached this year's Evergreen Park varsity girls' basketball team. The team's record this year was 21-9, which, according to Coach Scaduto, is "the best record in 15 years." The starting lineup was Kortni Lewis, Nicole Larkin, Lashondra Johnson, Maddie Vojacek, and Megan Pfister. "This year's team was very hard-working and encouraged each other on the court. This group of girls was the closet I've ever had on a team. They are friends on and off of the court," said Coach Scaduto. The MVP for the 2015 varsity team is Megan Pfister. This is the third year in a row that Evergreen Park won

Regionals. Coach Scaduto says he will miss this team, especially the seniors Nicole Larkin and Megan Pfister. He had a great time coaching these two seniors for four years on the basketball team.



Above: Senior Megan Pfister is not fazed by her opponent as she makes a shot, showing why she was the MVP of the season.

Left: Lashondra Johnson takes control of the ball during an intense girls basketball game.



Boys Swim Shows Potential; Nearly Breaks Record



Junior Joe Albitouni races across the pool during a Mustang swim meet. Coach Sarah Marshall was extremely proud of the accomplishments of Joe and his teammates this swim season.

By: Jake Fennell

The 2014-2015 boys swim team did a great job throughout their season. Due to the low number of swimmers, they mainly focused on dropping time and bettering their races as opposed to the team record. Even though they had a small team, they had to work together to place 6th at conference and 8th at sectionals.

Junior Tautvydas Rudzinskas, one of the team captains, mainly focused on freestyle and backstroke and almost broke the school backstroke record. He came within one second of breaking the record at conference. "It took a lot of hard work and dedication this year to drop so much time," he remarked. Rudzinskas swam a personal best 59.33 for the 100 yard backstroke. This was a typical example of how the swimmers approached the season. Senior Jack Zofkie, another captain, was one swimmer who showed major improvement in all of his events.

"Throughout the season," said Coach Marshall, "I couldn't be more proud of the boys this year and how much time they've dropped." Their record may not show how much progress the team made this year, but with nearly the entire team coming back for next season, the boys are setting themselves up for a successful season next year. Rudzinskas said of the team, "Everyone on the team always went as hard as they could and it showed at practices."

