

Shepherd's Staff



Inside this issue:

Faculty Square Dance	2
New Student Teacher	2
Robotics	3
8th Grade Fundraising	3
Trivia Night	4
G.S. Makerspace	4

Special points of interest:

- Gingerbread House
- Girls Basketball
- A Student Council
- A Co-Ed Soccer Team
- Boys Volleyball

Educate: The New School Management System

By: Kyle C.

There is always someone who loves to check his or her grades online. That was what Renweb was for, but not anymore. Students at Good Shepherd have a new way to check grades online; it is called Tads Educate. Renweb worked well for students and families, but Educate is the new and improved way to be informed and ready for whatever pops up at school.

Educate is not only good for grades, it tells students and families about upcoming events, new assignments, and it provides student GPA's (grade point averages). Educate has many advantages over Renweb, especially because it is connected with the school's website, so it tells everyone about upcoming events at school, the lunch calendar, and more.

Mr. Mayhew said, "The reason we



Tads Educate Login Page

changed was because we wanted to find a better way to get information like addresses, phone numbers, and etc., It would be easier for the people putting in the grades. It also makes parents more aware of what is going on at school. The last reason was that we can customize report cards much cheaper and easier than Renweb".

Claire Loemker from 8th grade said, "This will affect the whole school posi-

tively. It shows me exactly what grades I get, so I know where to improve. I use it every-day; I probably will use it in the next hour."

Matthew from 8th grade said, "All of junior high will use this. This will help me to know if I need to do better on my grades." The next time he will use it is this weekend.

Now you know the facts about Educate. Login in today and see what's happening at G.S. and in your child's classes.

Faculty Get Paid to Square Dance!

By: Alice K.

A Good Shepherd church member, Mr. Schoenbeck offered to donate \$500 to Good Shepherd. However, there's a catch. The faculty would be required to square dance at the Harvest Fest. Also, the eighth grade class was offered a chance to earn up to \$200 dollars for their class trip. If every eighth grader came and clapped, Mr. Schoenbeck would donate \$200.

"I feel privileged and grateful to have someone generous

enough to donate that much money," adds Megan

Houberg, an eighth grade student at Good Shepherd.

Many students were eager to watch their teachers square dance at the Harvest Fest.

Mrs. Streuter, one of the preschool teachers at Good Shepherd said, "I felt a little apprehensive to square dance, but had a lot of fun once I did." When asked how she felt about earning money for the school, she said, "That is always a good thing!"



Principal and Teachers Square Dancing

"I feel privileged and grateful to have someone generous enough to donate that much money."

—Megan Houberg

New Student Teacher

By: Madelyn G.

Mr. Brenner is a student at Concordia University Chicago. He is our student teacher, teaching from August until December at Good Shepherd.

Mr. Brenner is studying to become a teacher at Concordia University. He is student teaching at Good Shepherd to gain experience and complete his degree. Mr. Brenner is currently teaching grades 6-8. His last day is December 6, 2017, and he is graduating December 9, 2017.

Mr. Brenner said, "I've always enjoyed working with kids. In middle school, I had people tell me I would be a good church worker, and that inspired me". He chose a Lu-

theran school because he wanted to be able to share his faith and Jesus with his students. When asked if he is en-

to his fiancé. After that, they will both be looking for jobs to teach together, as she is also a teacher.



Mr. Brenner dissecting with students Emma B., Claire L., and Matthew H.

Sydney, a student in 8th grade says, "I think it's nice to have another teacher teaching us. He is very nice and he helps us learn from our mistakes".

In September, Mr. Brenner did two dissections with the 8th grade in science. He did cow hearts and sheep lungs, and fetal pigs. Matthew and Carson, two students in 8th graders agreed it

was fun. The students and staff at Good Shepherd wish Mr. Brenner God's Blessings as he begins this new, exciting part of his life.

joying Good Shepherd he said, "I like Good Shepherd a lot. The staff is very friendly and welcoming. The kids are very nice". Next semester Mr. Brenner may substitute teach. In June, he will be getting married

Good Shepherd Robotics By: Trevor P.

Robotics is a fun activity that many students participate in at Good Shepherd. The robotics program is based on STEM. This stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. One specific team has 5 players. This same team meets 3:15-5:30 once a week.

Coach Rusty Lingafelter says, "I like to see the progress of the kids."

Another coach, Matt Klaustamier, says, "I like showing the team how to solve problems. The concepts apply in the real world."

There are three parts to the robotics competitions. The

first part is the project. Each team has to come up with an idea that could help other peo-



This is the board on which the robot goes around obstacles and does certain tasks.

ple or the environment that has something to do with the dynamic. This year's topic is hydro dynamics. The second part is with the robot. You program the robot on the computer to make it go around

obstacles and do different tasks. The third part is the core values. There are eight core values. This does vary from team to team, though.

There is definitely a lot of problem solving in robotics. If this is something that interests you, contact the school office to see about joining a team.

You have to be 9-16 years old to be in FLL, but you can be in Jr.

FLL in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Eighth Grade Fundraising By: Khushi J.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Class of 2018 has been fundraising for its Washington D.C trip ever since the school year began.

Each year the 8th graders go to Washington D.C. This year's 8th grade class will be going on May 12, 2017. Each year they have to fundraise to go on the trip.

Each student raises money, and that money goes toward the trip. Students first sell entertainment books. The books were each \$30 and were sold during the months of August and September. Then they had the Italian Fest on September 15-16. The Italian Fest is a family friendly event in Collinsville. Students sold Italian chicken sandwiches for \$6.00. From that they raised \$7,242.23. After that, they sold pies baked fresh from the Eckert's Country Store in Belleville, Illinois. They were each \$17 and were delivered on November 20, which was just

in time for Thanksgiving. The last fundraiser they are going to



Fundraising Booth at the Italian Fest

be doing is partnering with Schwan's Home Services. Schwan's Home service is an online grocery delivery service. They will be doing it from November 1, 2017 through March 16, 2018.

Maggie and Anna, two 8th graders out of the class of 25, were asked if fundraising had been easy for them.

Maggie said, "The entertainment books were a little hard, but the pies were super easy because they were delivered just in time for Thanksgiving!"

Anna's response was, "Kind of, because I know many people that would like to support us."

Maggie said, "I really enjoyed selling pies most of all.

Anna said, "Honestly, I didn't really like doing it, but I know it will be worth it in the end."

Each year, the Washington D.C trip is a success. This year's class has been very lucky because their fundraising has been going so well and many people have supported them.

"I really enjoyed selling pies most of all."

-Maggie S.

Trivia Night

By: Sydney S.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School held their 2nd annual Trivia Night on November 11, 2017, at the Madison County Fireman's Hall in Collinsville, IL.

They held this event to raise money and replace two other fundraisers, the candy and Christmas sales. Many adults, along with the Jr. High students, helped with this event.

Amber G., one of the many adults who helped with this event, said, "It's a fun themed evening. It's fun to play dress up and hang out with friends for an adult night out." When asked why the Jr. high should participate in this event, she answered, "Jr. high students are needed to make the night successful. They sell items and collect answer sheets after each round played. They help to ensure everything is taken care of. They can also apply these hours towards National Junior Honor Society. The students also provide entertainment. They get to dress up and have a fun filled night

with friends together." The

final question she was asked is *What happens at trivia night?* She answered, "This is our 2nd annual Trivia Night. Last year was a huge success and we sold out. This year we have a bigger venue. Trivia Nights are usually a themed event, and this year's theme is the

50s. The ten rounds of questions will revolve around this theme. You have a table of eight to ten people, and you answer the questions together. There are prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. There is also a silent auction to raise more money."

Emma B., a participant last year and an eighth grader at Good Shepherd, said, "I enjoyed it. It was fun and an excuse to hang out with your friends. Even though you have to work, you can still spend



Student Maddy G. and mother Amber G. dressed in 50s attire at this year's Trivia Night

time with your friends."

Madelyn G., another participant and eighth grader said, "I had a lot of fun last year! I got to dress up, hang out with friends, and help out. We helped collect answer sheets and sell mulligans."

Good Shepherd plans to continue hosting this event in future years. If you missed out on this year's event, make sure you save the date for next year's trivia night!

"I had a lot of fun last year! I got to dress up, hang out with friends, and help out. We helped collect answer sheets and sell mulligans."

—Maddy G.

Good Shepherd's Makerspace (Learning Center)

By: Carmen S.

Located in the old computer lab, there is now a Makerspace. If you have not heard, the Makerspace is a place where students can go with their classmates to solve different tasks and problems. This enables students to use their minds in different ways than they do in the classroom environment. This is something that every class can use at Good Shepherd. This also lets students be active and enjoy themselves while

learning everyday skills that they can use in life.



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Megan H., an 8th grade student from Good Shepherd says, "I think that the Makerspace is very beneficial, especially for the younger kids.

It would help encourage kids to use their creativity. I haven't seen the progress that has been made in the room, but I am sure it will grasp students' attention during their lesson."

Another student, Emma B., said, "I think that it is a good opportunity for students to learn in different ways and for them to work on their creativity."

Overall the Makerspace is a great opportunity for all students to learn and use their creativity.

Gingerbread House By: Quintin S.

The Christmas season is coming, so get ready for the Gingerbread House! Every year, G.S. has a Christmas shop in the school balcony above the gym. They have items like toys, books, rings and much more! The gift prices range from \$1.00 to \$7.00, so they are all very affordable! Students can buy these items for family and friends for Christmas. They can have the gifts wrapped there to keep them

secret, or they can have them put in a bag to wrap at home.



Another great thing about the Gingerbread House is that students can shop during school. Each class has a scheduled time to shop and volunteer parents will help supervise. That makes it super convenient for everyone!

This year's Gingerbread House will be on Tuesday, December 5th-Thursday, December 7th. Start making your lists now! Don't miss out on this!!

Lady Chargers Tip-Off Again By: Lillie C.

It is it November once again, and basketball season is tipping off at Good Shepherd Lutheran School. I interviewed two teammates of the girl's basketball team and one pep band player. Jordan, Gary my first interviewee and a point guard for the Lady Chargers, was asked, "Are you excited for the basketball season, if so, why?"

"Yes, I am excited for basketball this year. I think we have all improved, and it will be a great year for the whole team. A group of girls including myself have been working hard over the summer and our off time to develop our team and individual skills," said Jordan.

"What do you think about new girls joining our team?" I asked.

"I'm excited for new girls to come because you never know where basketball skills are hiding. Like, we could have a new star for the team. However, girls are going to have an eye-opener if they have not been working hard and doing their best to improve their basketball skills, so they can be the best player they can be. It's a big transition from pee wee girls to playing real hard competition," Jordan said in response to the ques-

tion.

What do you expect from the team?" I ask lastly.

"My only goal for this year is to improve and have a better

impressive amount of overall points this season, maybe shoot for MVP, and make sure to always be there for my team, so I can help them with anything they have trouble with," she said.

"Do you think the girls can go to state?"

"I think so, yeah; we won forty percent of our games last year, and we had major disadvantages. We just have to win sixty percent of this season, and with some more people joining and our experiences from last year, I think we could make it," Autumn said.

The girls' and boys' basketball seasons will be very intense, but full of fun. As you can see these two teammates are mainly expecting the same things. Next we have Elliot J., who is part of the pep



band. team on and off the court," Jordan said.

Jordan is very excited for the season and cannot wait to see how they do. Next Autumn D., one of the eighth grade leaders for the basketball team and post player, showed her thoughts about the girls basketball season.

"Are you excited for basketball season, and why?"

"Yes, I'm excited to grow more as a team and continue improving our skills," She said with optimism.

"What do you want to accomplish for your last season?"

"I'm hoping to get an

band.

"Are you excited for girls basketball season?"

"Yes, it brings new opportunities for my friends. Since they're doing something they enjoy, it lightens the mood," Elliot said.

"What role do you play in basketball? Have you played or just played in the pep band?"

"I'm a band person and will always be a band person. I enjoy pepping the team up!" Elliot said with great enthusiasm.

The girls basketball season will be great and tipping off very soon. Let's go Lady Chargers! "Modest in victory. Gracious in defeat."

"Yes, I am excited for basketball this year. I think we have all improved, and it will be a great year for the whole team. A group of girls including myself have been working hard over the summer and our off time to develop our team and individual skills," said Jordan.

It's High Time for a Student Council!

By: Kasondra M.

In the 2017-2018 school year, Good Shepherd 7th and 8th students are learning about leadership, and the best way to show leadership is by having a student council. A student council is a group of students elected by their peers to address issues of concern and organize student activities. Good Shepherd needs one because activities would be more fun when students plan them because they have student opinions. It would also give students another opportunity to practice their leadership skills.

Some students in seventh grade were interviewed about



having a student council. Marlaina G. said, "A student coun-

cil would be bad because one of the students may do something just to be silly, but it would also be good because some of the members could actually be doing something for the younger students."

Another seventh grader, Jakob F. said, "A student council would be good because the school would be less chaotic."

In conclusion, having a student council would be better for Good Shepherd because it would be training and bringing up leaders that may one day help the government not be so corrupt. A student council is NEEDED.

"A student council would be good because the school would be less chaotic."

—Jakob F.

Co-Ed Soccer Team for GSLS?

By: Jordan G.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has several fall sports. Students can compete in girls volleyball, boys baseball, and both genders can participate in cross country. However, we do not have a GSLS soccer team. Several students have the eagerness to play school soccer. A common question that came up was, who would we play? Two other schools in the midst of GSLS have soccer teams. Communication could be traded, and the problem of competitors is solved. Practice could take place in the field next to the Early Childhood Center. Fundraisers could also be held to purchase practice material.

Soccer could easily be fit into the list of GSLS athletics. The team could practice in between the cross country (3:15-4:30) and baseball (6:30-7:45) practices. The only problem is who would play. If lots of kids came to play soccer, then we would lose players from the other sports held at our school. If we have all these

sports being held at our school, why do we need soccer? Soccer keeps kids in shape. Yes, we have other sports in the fall, but soccer keeps a higher health



chance by the shifts between walking, running, and sprinting throughout the game. Soccer also builds teamwork and allows us to work on our Christian sportsmanship. The sport helps improve our concentration and persistence because soccer is a fast-paced game that requires you to make decisions quickly.

When asked why GSLS does-

n't currently have a team, the school principal, Mr. Mayhew, answered, "When would we play it? Who would we play? And who would coach? We have all these other sports in the fall, so we would not have enough kids. We just don't want to hurt what we have already." He was also asked if we could possibly see Good Shepherd with a soccer team in the future, he answered, "There is always a possibility; I would never say never."

Students were also asked about their view on a Good Shepherd soccer team. Elliott W. answered with, "Yes I would because I like to hang-out with my friends and be active. It also gives students in our school another sport to be excited about."

Lillie C. answered optimistically as well, "Yes, I would participate; I think our team could do well."

All in all, soccer would be a great addition to Good Shepherd.

Boys Volleyball Trending Upward at GSLS

By: Elliott W.

Boys volleyball is rising in Southern Illinois and fast. The addiction has recently caught on to students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville, and they cannot get enough of it. Several students are onboard with the idea, but are still awaiting the backing of their principal. "You can never say never," Mayhew states. So he is semi-optimistic; however, there are still some major conflicts or "logistical issues", according to the GSLS principal.

If they were to get a team, there would be conflicts with other sports. With a smaller school like Good Shepherd, it's hard to have all these sports without enough time or space. Who would coach the team? Where would they get enough time and would there be enough space? What would the financial issues be if they got a team? There are many things to consider.

The interest in boys volleyball has started hap-

pening because students have talked about boys volleyball a good amount this past year and have wanted to have a team. This is happening because some boys don't play other fall



Students intrigued by the possibility of fielding a team in 2018-2019 school year

sports, but this can be another sport where students can come together and stay active.

There are still many questions to be answered before considering getting a team at Good Shepherd. The sport originated in the United States, and is now just achieving the type of popularity in the U.S.

that it has received on a global basis, where it ranks behind only soccer among participation sports.

The game of volleyball, originally called "mintonette," was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan after the invention of basketball only four years before. The first volleyball net, borrowed from tennis, was only 6'6" high (though you need to remember that the average American was shorter in the nineteenth century). Volleyball is for boys too, not just girls.



About Shepherd's Staff Writers

This edition of *Shepherd's Staff* was written, edited and published by Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Journalism 101 class, which is composed of seventh and eighth grade students. The newspaper is a culminating project of this semester-long course. During this class, students analyzed many local and national news articles. They learned the key components of a news story, the importance of a good lead, and the value of citizen interviews.

Students were involved in every step of producing and publishing this newspaper. In addition to writing the stories, they also determined the newspaper layout and the arrangement of the articles.