



A look into Charity Week, from Monday, Jan. 29 to Friday, Feb. 2. To see more, head to page 4.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACT TESTING
Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8 a.m.

FRESHMAN LINK CREW SEMINAR
Monday, Feb. 12 at 8:40 a.m.

INTERACT CLUB MEETING
Thursday, Feb. 15 from 3-4 p.m. in cafeteria

MID-WINTER BREAK
Feb. 19-23



ALEX HARRING

State revises substitute requirements in response to personnel shortage

15 percent of all classrooms are unable to find a substitute

By Syeda Rizvi, Abi Murray & Michael Hartt
PAGE EDITOR & STAFF REPORTERS

Each year, 2011 alum Peter Cherry finds himself in a smaller pool of substitute teachers than the last.

“Well, there is more frequency for work, that’s for sure,” Cherry said. “It is not really as stable in pay as it used to be,

and it is affecting whether or not people are interested in education.”

A new bill created by Michigan lawmakers proposes lowering the college credits required for a substitute teacher from 90 to 60 credits or an associate’s degree. The Michigan House approved the bill, and it will be moving to Senate for further approval this year in hopes of making it easier to recruit substitutes.

Teacher shortages are becoming a common problem in Michigan.

According to the Detroit News, for every 100 classrooms that needed a substitute in 2012, 95 could find one. But just a few years later, that rate dropped 10 percent.

A combination of low pay, state laws making it harder for retired teachers to re-enter classrooms and a general decline in enrollment in programs that prepare

teachers are causes of the shortage, according to Cherry.

Cherry said he thinks people in the community assume that the Grosse Pointe Public School System doesn’t have sufficient substitute teachers because there are behavior issues in the classroom. He disagrees.

“When we go through our education coursework at the collegiate level, we are learning techniques in classroom management, and as a substitute teacher, you should be able to implement some of those techniques that you learned,” Cherry said. “(Behavioral problems are) nothing that we are not going to deal with as regular teachers. The difference is that we will see the students more frequently.”

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Infrastructure needs discussed at Town Hall

By Michael Hartt & Nick Asimakis
STAFF REPORTERS

For the first time ever, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is having a comprehensive analysis of all infrastructure needs that should be met for each school by holding town hall style meetings at each school. The North Town Hall took place in the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The meetings, directed by the Blue Ribbon Committee, will include a walkthrough of the school, a discussion of future plans and a forum for community members to give their input on what key infrastructure needs should be addressed.

“Our goal is to have 400-600 people attend this spring to garner input from the broader community,” Rebecca Fannon, special events coordinator of GPPSS, said.

According to Fannon, key infrastructure needs that have been identified at North are the stairwells and windows. She said they will be the first items that the School Board sets aside money to fix.

At the meetings there will also be items that are considered low priority and will not likely be upgraded soon. Items that are low priority for North are tablets, computers and the technological hardware.

Social studies teacher Dan Gilleran said technology should be a high priority and listed as one of the critical needs addressed by the committee.

“We have to upgrade the technology and they know that. I’m not saying that these people don’t know that are in charge. Especially when we are talking about doing the M-STEP online and the SAT and everything online,” he said. “I lose the internet connection because the cord is so tight and heavy and old. I mean what if every teacher had a laptop? Then we could bring it home and do our work then come back.”

Social studies teacher Terri Steimer agrees with Gilleran. She thinks that the quality of technology across the district does not reflect its reputation.

“It is almost embarrassing that we have a premiere school district with so little technology,” Steimer said. “We definitely do not have enough computers, whether they are desktop computers or handheld. That goes without saying, and our speed of the internet has to increase, so obviously broadband has to be increased in all the schools.”

The Blue Ribbon Committee has already gone through the schools to identify infrastructure needs and classify them as critical needs, deferred maintenance or property improvement. The meetings throughout the school district are to affirm the classifications already identified by the committee, and also take the community’s opinions into account.

According to the Blue Ribbon Committee report that was presented to committee members on Dec. 7, the Blue Ribbon Committee has already found over \$111 million worth of critical needs that need to be met throughout GPPSS. The committee plans on getting the money needed for the upgrades by looking into the possibility of raising education taxes up to two-and-a-half percent higher than what they already are.

Overall, Gilleran thinks that the town hall meetings are a great idea, and that a lot of improvements will be done as a result of the meetings.

“It is always important to get honest feedback on what’s going on in the school, because sometimes when you are here everyday for eight or nine hours a day you can kind of lose sight of some of the big picture items that really need to be taken a look at,” Gilleran said. “I think it is important that they listen to the teachers, that they listen to the students. It is one thing to hear what people say, but then to also take their suggestions, take them seriously, and move forward with it is another.”

INSIDE

"THAT SOUNDS LIKE MY LIFE IN EVERY WAY, SHAPE AND FORM, LIKE EVER SINCE I WAS A KID."

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"I FEEL HONORED TO GO AND REPRESENT ALL THE GIRLS ON ALL MY TEAMS AND TO BE SEEN AS A FEMALE LEADER ATHLETE."

PAGE 8

Chemistry Club research to be published

By Rory Angott & Arzoo Chhaya
PAGE EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

Inspired by the tragedy of the Flint water crisis, alumnus Ben Sosnowski, along with senior Michal Ruprecht, alumnus Ben Sliwinski and junior Polly Fitzgerald, finally came to the successful creation of a ligand that could remove metal ions from water (like in Flint) after nearly a year of green chemistry research. This feat warranted publishing in the chemistry reference book, “Green Chemistry Processes: Developments in Research and Education.”

Chemistry Club adviser Steven Kosmas named the ligand, which is a molecule that binds to other molecules, “troctopus” because of its three octopus-like arms, which act like a claw crane machine. The group worked at the University of Detroit Mercy alongside Professor and Chair of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UDM Dr. Mark Benvenuto, who acted as a mentor for the students.

“Although our first efforts are simply to test if they can take any ions from water-based solutions,” Benvenuto said.

Benvenuto is the author of the “Green Chemistry Processes” series and said the “Developments in Research and Education” volume will be about putting more green chemistry ideas into both class and lab work. Kosmas, Ruprecht, Sosnowski, Sliwinski and Fitzgerald will be contributing authors.

“The experience was amazing, and I’m not just saying that because we were allowed to do this for free,” Sosnowski said via email.

At UDM, the students had access to equipment such as a nuclear magnetic resonance machine, which allowed them to test the ligand’s magnetic properties and identity.

“(Dr. Benvenuto) provided us with a lab to work in as well as all the materials we used during our research, including all reactants used, glassware, use of an NMR machine and perhaps most importantly, his time,” Sosnowski said.

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SADD hosts safety seminar, driving simulator

By Lindsey Ramsdell & Ben Uram
EDIOTR-IN-CHIEF & STAFF REPORTER

For senior Zoey Lightbody, a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, hearing stories of distracted driving is heart wrenching. SADD is trying to combat distracted driving by hosting an augmented reality simulator on campus Feb. 7.

“It impacts me so much to hear stories about teens who have passed away due to a mistake they made while driving,” Lightbody said. “Especially when those teens have other people in the car. They aren’t just risking their own life at that point they’re risking others in the car as well, and every driver is at risk when one is distracted.”

Each day in the United States, approximately nine people are killed and more than 1,000 are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. Among teens ages 16 to 29, distracted driving is the number one cause of fatalities.

To raise awareness, SADD has been passing out pamphlets and decorating their announcement board with posters related to the topic. But, today they will also be recruiting students to participate in the augmented reality driving simulator.

The simulator is brought to schools by the P.E.E.R.S. Foundation in partnership with General Motors. SADD adviser Lisa Steiner and student activities director Peggy Bonbrisco will be sending kids in tutorial down to the PAC throughout the day to experience the simulator.

“A person is placed in the driver seat of a GM vehicle that is rigged to be immobile, but functional in terms of the steering wheel, blinkers and pedals,” Steiner said. “Drivers are provided a META2 head-mounted display that is equipped with (augmented reality) that presents them with incredibly realistic, simulated scenarios that the driver must react to.”

The headset will instruct the student to do different things while driving such as turn on the radio, text someone or talk to their friend. At some point during a span of 30 seconds to four minutes, the driver will get in a crash.

Twenty to 25 students will be at the simulator during one period, and the students waiting line will be able to watch on screens a real-time display of what the driver is seeing in the car.

The opportunity came to SADD club through Bonbrisco, who received a flyer about it in the mail. Then, she brought it to the club

advisers, Steiner and foods teacher Stacy Kryzminiski.

“We’re always looking for different and more advanced ways to reach kids, because signs and posters only go so far,” Kryzminski said. “But an actual experience where they can sit and talk and really feel like they crashed a car because they were looking at their phone is way more memorable than just a poster.”

Steiner aims to send 100 kids through the simulator. Students will be asked to complete a questionnaire a few weeks after the experiencing so P.E.E.R.S. can assess the scale of its impact. Steiner said that if she receives positive results from the simulator, she will ask the company to come back next year.

Lightbody said she hopes the simulator will provide a deeper level of awareness to SADD’s distracted driving initiative.

“I hope to be able to influence students by showing how devastating distracted driving can be, and how much it could impact their life,” she said. “And to show them that their safety is more important than any text message.”



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IN BRIEF

Track conditioning begins

As the spring sports season draws closer, boys track coach Sean McCarroll will be using days beforehand for student conditioning, focusing on drilling runners back into form. McCarroll encourages anybody who is interested in running track to attend the conditioning. Through the drills, he explained, students will be able to continue building muscle further on into the season, as long as they perform them correctly. “Conditioning is our chance to get everybody back in shape for the season. We really work on a lot of different muscle groups. So we work on leg strength and speed and agility and endurance, and we do a lot of core and upper body,” he said. “We’re just trying to get the whole body back in shape.” Track conditioning will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Boys will condition Tuesdays and Thursdays, girls will meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Runners should meet at the vending machines in the A building.

Link crew holds seminar

Link Crew will hold a seminar on Feb. 12 from 8-8:30 a.m. in the gymnasium. Since the date is also a late start Monday, students won’t miss scheduled classes during the time they spend with their mentors. While it’s not a mandatory meeting, Link Crew member junior Emma Martell said she encourages freshmen to attend. Martell explained that freshmen will play games and do activities similar to icebreakers with Link Crew members, and both groups will get to know one another better than before. She hopes she will be able to connect with her freshmen on a personal level by the end of the seminar. “Yeah, I just want them to know that if they need someone, they can talk to me about anything, and that we’re friends,” she said.

Library hosts lecture series

Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Libraries is presenting a series of four book lectures by college professors at the Ewald Branch of the library in Grosse Pointe Park. Starting Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., one of the four guest speakers will talk about a specific book for about a half hour, then for the remaining time, answer questions about the book. Friends of GPPL is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting and expanding all programs of the public library system. According to member Tom Fentin, the idea to start the lecture series came from former Friends of GPPL president Mary Beth Smith. “The series was started over 15 years ago so that all Grosse Pointers would have the opportunity to interact with university professors in discussions about some of the great works of literature,” Fentin said via email.

Though all sessions are free and open to everyone, registration for each lecture is required because space is limited. Anyone wishing to attend can either fill out a form on the Friends website or call the office at 313-343-2074 (ext. 204). For further information on dates of each speaker, call or visit any of the Grosse Pointe Public Library branches.


By Cairington Stahl & Colin Haroutunian



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Cyber security class to start next fall

By Erin Kaled
WEB EDITOR

Passwords and data security will be topics covered in the new Cybersecurity class. The class will be piloted next year and was originally pitched by TV teacher Brian Stackpoole. It’s aimed at students with an interest in a career in technology. “There is a tremendous need for cybersecurity workers in the nation, but specifically here in southeastern Michigan,” Stackpoole said via email. “The cybersecurity field has seen a 414 percent increase in job openings since 2010 in Michigan.” Partnering with the Michigan Initiative for Cyber Education, the class will be a part of the Career and Technical Education program. Enrolled students can earn various professional certifications in cyber essentials, Internet of things and CompTIA A+ certification. Sophomore Michael Kehrig looks forward to the class if it runs and said he thinks it would spark an interest in North students. “With a growing dependence on technology in our society today, it’s necessary that people understand how to navigate and use the internet safely,” Kehrig

said. “Somewhere in the near future, I could see this class becoming mandatory at North, like an applied art or language credit because it is such a relevant subject.” He says he would hope to walk away with a better understanding of ways to stay safe on the internet and how to identify potential scammers or viruses. “From what I’ve gathered taking technology-related classes, most of my peers, as well as myself, enjoyed taking them and wouldn’t mind continuing to take those classes in the future,” Kehrig said. Kehrig is also interested in the certificates he could gain from the clasws. “I’m really excited about the ability for students to receive certification from classes like this one,” Kehrig said. “The application of resources will help students who are interested in these subjects prepare themselves for the real world and whatever jobs they wish to have.” Although Stackpoole originally had trouble funding the project and has faced other obstacles the past several years, he was finally able to pitch the idea. Stackpoole recently met with North and South counselors about the subject. “Cybersecurity would be a great class

for someone who is interested in the Information Technology field but would also be useful in other fields like law enforcement,” Stackpoole said. “We were able to get the class on the course selection form.” Although the teacher who would be in charge of the class is unknown, many in the school district are CTE certified. If it’s run at North, the class would be counted as a computer credit and will be available to sophomores through seniors. Cybersecurity I will be offered first semester and Cybersecurity II second semester. In two years, Advanced Cybersecurity will be offered as a pilot class. Senior Noah Lutes wishes he would have had the chance to take the class since he uses computers every day. “I would’ve hoped to learn how to protect my internet footprint and navigate the Web safer,” Lutes said. “I took a lot of electives that I didn’t need this year, and I wish they had (Cybersecurity) this year because it sounds pretty interesting.” Stackpoole says he looks forward to the outcome of the class after his meeting with counselors in December. “We expect the class will be very popular,” Stackpoole said. “Students have already shown a great interest.”

Chem Club

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Without the labs at Mercy and the help of Benvenuto, Sosnowski said that the experience wouldn’t have been the same, and that this experience was new and exciting for the whole team. Junior Polly Fitzgerald, who has been a member of Chem Club since her sophomore year, agreed with Sosnowski. “I think this is one of the best experiences of being in high school,” Fitzgerald said. “This is something that high school students really never get to do and we were working with undergrad students at UDM.” Kosmas is excited about the publishing and hopes it will inspire people to increase their interest in green chemistry. “I think it is unusual for high school students to be published,” Kosmas said via email. “So I am very happy to see my students’ (work) get published.”

Sub shortage

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The impact of this shortage can be seen in Grosse Pointe. According to English teacher Alyssa Sandoval, finding substitutes in the English department has been a struggle. With the promotion of Geoffrey Young from an English teacher to assistant principal, a position opened up for a long-term sub in the English department. Sandoval said that she can see the notable difference in substitute ratings. Sandoval said when she was in high school, there were many more experienced teachers who would come in as the form of a substitute. But now, the English department is finding it challenging to get substitutes with enough qualifications to teach higher-level classes. When it came to finding replacements for Young, no substitute met the qualifications that the department was looking for. So far, the school has been unable to find replacement teachers, which has resulted in changes made to current staff schedules. English teacher Charles Crimando is now taking Young’s Freshman Assist course along with his fifth hour AP Language and Composition. Sandoval is taking sixth hour AP Lang, and English teachers Jonathan Byrne and Allison Dunn are taking seventh hour AP Lang and second hour Explorations in Reading, respectively. Although Crimando is new to the course, junior Zac Ozomoor isn’t

Fitzgerald said, as a team of just four students, the work was tough. But, it gave her a valuable experience that taught her more than she imagined. As a result of the research, Ruprecht was awarded the 2017 American Chemistry Chemistry Society CIBA Travel Award and a letter of recognition from Gov. Rick Snyder celebrating his victory. Ruprecht was also the first high school student in America to receive this honor. Ruprecht will travel to the ACS National Meeting in Boston this August to present the research. Previously, the team presented their research at the ACS Regional Meeting at the Henry Ford Hotel in Dearborn. Going into the process, the team had no intentions of getting their work published. Rather, they looked to learn and were grateful for the experience. “The doctor we were working with realized that the stuff we did could be something, so he sent it to a referee journal. They started editing it and then they decided that they could publish it,” Fitzgerald said. “We went in with the intent of just having the whole experience of the situation, not to get our work published.”

concerned about having him as his substitute for AP Lang. Ozomoor said students prefer teachers they already have a sense of familiarity with over newly hired subs. “Some people like that we have a shortage in (substitute teachers) because we get some of our old teachers back from sophomore and freshman year that we already know,” Ozomoor said. Sandoval, who has never taught an AP class before, is a little worried over how she will be able to adapt to the new position. “I think I’m more nervous because the students are nervous. They want to get the highest scores,” Sandoval said. “But, this group of students in AP were the kids I taught my first year. That’s nice, and I haven’t seen them since they were freshmen, and to see them grow is amazing.” Cherry sees the substitute shortage as a quantitative problem that involves all of Southeastern Michigan, Grosse Pointe included, but doesn’t believe that it has affected the quality of the pool. He said that although teaching and subbing is a job that, paired with changing pay and inconsistent work, may deter people from the field, the people who do chose to sub know what they signed up for and are ready to do what is asked of them. “We are not seeing as many people taking substitute teaching as a part time job because they are going and pursuing other avenues to make a living,” he said. “Teachers have a hard time, substitute teachers have a hard time. We are dealing with teenagers. We know what we signed up for.”



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