

# STEINMETZ STAR

Volume 77, Number 3, December 2011

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### Join our dynamic Louder Than a Bomb slam poetry team

Wednesdays at 2:45, Room 127  
All students are welcome, see Mr. Sloan, Mr. Hood, Ms. Cotto

## Occupy Chicago protesters rail against economic injustice



STAR PHOTOS

Shekira McKnight and Lamar Jorden, members of the 2007 Steinmetz poetry slam team (and featured in the award-winning documentary 'Louder Than a Bomb'), perform at Occupy Chicago on November 9. Occupy Chicago protests have ranged from a handful of people to more than 1,000 demonstrators.



### 'We are the 99 %'

By Jennifer Czahor, Judy Czahor, Agnes Pasterczyk

**B**usy with classes and homework, friends and family, work, extra curricular activities, video games, Facebook, and paying attention to the Kardashian marriage and divorce, students may have not noticed that since school started this fall a world-wide protest movement has begun.

A world-wide protest movement has begun. Millions of people — calling themselves the "99%" — have been speaking out against corporate greed and corruption ever since several hundred protesters "occupied" Wall Street (the financial district) in New York City on September 17.

The Occupy Wall Street protest spread to more than 100 U.S. cities and 1,500 cities globally. Occupy Chicago started soon after the Occupy Wall Street began.

Protesters say the 1% of people controlling the major banks and multinational corporations have too much power and caused the

2008 financial crisis, which left 4.5 million Americans without jobs.

Imagine graduating from college, but instead of a job all you have is a huge student loan debt. This is a reality for many people today. Students should pay attention.

The dedicated people of Occupy Chicago are at their posts at LaSalle and Jackson every day, rain or shine, no matter how cold, hot, or snowy it gets. In addition to standing on the corner with protest signs, they hold teach-ins, march in "peoples parades," and attend general assemblies.

"The protest is a way of expressing people's views," said senior Luis Mecit, one of the few

Steinmetz students who noticed Occupy.

While most students here haven't paid attention to Occupy, many other people have. Some poets, rappers, and singers associated with the Louder Than a Bomb poetry slam — including Steinmetz graduates ShiKira McKnight and Lamar Jones — performed at Occupy Chicago on November 9.

High school students across the nation have created Occupy Facebook pages and websites. Time magazine named Occupy Wall Street the top national news story of the year, and "Occupy" is the word of the year, according to a National Public Radio commentator.

**Continued on Page 4**

### 99%-er anthem

we, the 99% have known for too long its time for a new dream  
the signs explain it all. hand-written  
or on computer paper: tax the rich, feed the poor.  
this seems reasonable.

By Kevin Coval, co-founder of Louder Than a Bomb poetry festival  
See [kevincoval.com](http://kevincoval.com) for the rest of the poem

## Illinois State Scholars



Yara Garcia, Jorge Villanueva, Jared Klein, Lauren DeJesus

The Illinois State Scholars for the Steinmetz Class of 2012 are Yara Garcia, Jorge Villanueva, Jared Klein, and Lauren DeJesus, selected based on test scores and class rank.

"Illinois State Scholars are

the best and the brightest in our state's high schools, and we salute them, their families and their teachers on this achievement," ISAC Executive Director Andrew Davis said in a press release. ●

## Monserrat Rafael reaches Top 10 of city vehicle sticker contest

By Anyssa Ascencio

**M**onserrat Rafeal's "Chicago Heroes" drawing made the top ten of the Chicago city vehicle sticker contest. Monserrat was one of 240 students in the contest.

The drawing she entered wasn't her only one. Monserrat created two others before her final. She sketched and just kept making it better and better, working on the drawing for two weeks.

She created her piece with colored pencils and a charcoal stick, which she says makes it easy to blend colors.

"I wanted to represent union  
**Continued on Page 4**



PHOTO BY ANYSSA ASCENCIO

Teacher Rosanna Mark, senior Monerrat Rafael, Monserrat's contest entry



PHOTO BY DESIREE GARCIA

## Hefner proud of Star

**PLAYBOY**  
HUGH M. HEFNER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

November 28, 2011

Sharon Schmidt  
Steinmetz Academic Centre  
3030 N. Mobile Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60634

Dear Sharon,

I'm really pleased by your letter and the front page story on my donation in the Steinmetz Star.

Please tell everyone responsible for putting out the new Steinmetz Star how proud I am of them.

My own years at Steinmetz High were among the very best of my early life. That is when and where I dreamed the dreams.

Sincerely,



Hugh M. Hefner

HMH/jn

PLAYBOY MANSION WEST/10236 CHARING CROSS ROAD/LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

## Not all students like rap, hip hop

December 8, 2011

Regarding the Oct.-Nov. Star photo opinion question about music: I noticed that most of the songs people said they liked were Rap, and Hip Hop.

It's annoying when most people like that kind of music. For me, I like some of that, but it gets annoying when most people talk about it and sing it. I don't like how it says too much about sexual things and drugs.

At least some rappers and hip hop singers talk

about life. I liked Eminem when I was younger, but Lil Wayne drives me nuts. I've heard he doesn't even write his stuff.

I dislike how people judge me for my music. I like metal, alternative, rock, punk, blues — many different kinds of music.

The music I listen to addresses loss, love, inner feelings, international issues, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I like Breaking Benjamin, System of a Down, Paramore, Metallica.

*Aldo Peralta, freshman*

## Kicked off staff for telling the truth... Radio career began at Star

November 15, 2011

Greetings to Star Staff!

I attended Steinmetz from 1984-89 and was on the writing staff with my friend, Sal Cavalero in 1985 under Mrs. Grier-son. I saw the online edition of the Star and was amazed how far things have come in the last 26 years. The Star never looked better... although there was one thing I recall from 1985 that was the same: Hugh Hefner!

Yes, Mr. Hefner graced the halls of SHS back in 1985, and gave my friend an exclusive interview. At the time, that was a pretty big thing. Now quite a number of years later, I've moved on in the media world and have worked in radio for 14 years. While stops in Watseka, Bloomington, and Atlanta (IL) have given me stories and memories I will have for some time, it's the time I spent with

the Star that stands out.

Not for any one story I covered, but why I was taken off the paper.

I was sent to cover the 1985 Homecoming game between Steinmetz and Lane at Hanson Stadium... which was a very one-sided game (46-7 I believe was the final in favor of Lane). And I was told that I had to write a positive story about the game. Without seeming like I was playing favorites (a friend of mine was the backup quarterback) I chose to stand by my principle and write a factual story. This story featured horrible decisions by our coaching staff (like punting into a 40 mile-per-hour wind... which resulted in a punt of -11 yards). After I presented this story, I was dismissed for not following directions.

But my journalistic integrity

was intact ... and reminds me that even though there might be a penalty for telling it like it is, and giving credit to the other team might not be popular, it is still the right thing to do. To do anything less would be a compromise of my integrity as a reporter.

In my time in radio, I have had the opportunity to call 2 state semi-final football games, 2 sectional basketball championships, and been the on-air studio host for the Illinois State Redbirds for 2 seasons. I have also done work as a public address announcer for the McLean County basketball tournament for the past 11 years and have also been on PA for the NCAA Women's Division III Final Four twice.

Not bad for a kid from the Northwest Side of Chicago.

*L.A. (Lamont) Decker*

## We've got talent, need glee club



By Amanda Gidney

Every Tuesday night at 7 p.m., million of teenagers and their families tune in to Glee on Fox. The show deals with teenagers facing pregnancy, gay love and finding out what makes them unique, while they also strive to do their best musical performances.

Here at Steinmetz, we have only a few times when our students' talents are shown. The winter concert, spring concert, and the talent show aren't enough.

It's time for Steinmetz to have more spirit than just for one week in October.

We need a Glee Club in case we don't have chorus on our schedule this year we can still sing and have a great time.

**Get to class with good music**

On November 20, during the passing period from 4th to 5th period everyone heard 'Bring it Back' by Sean Paul and Lil Jon. It's about time we had some music that we like to hear Now we'll see if students can still make it to class on time, because if not we are going back to that boring fight song.

Being tardy has awful consequences: "Last week I had in-school suspension because I was walking in the hall with one of friends after the bell rang," freshman Victoria Patino said. "You don't do anything in there, just sit quietly. If you talk they can add another day or suspension out of school. They give you cold lunches that are nasty. So don't be in the halls when the bell rings." ●

## STEINMETZ STAR

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www.steinmetzac.com ("Steinmetz Newspaper" link)

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**Star adviser:** Ms. Sharon Schmidt

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**Newspaper club reporters:** Shanna Arceo, Earl Billingsly, Datin Butler, Kiara Davidson, Amber Dukes, Jennifer Czahor, Judy Czahor, Javier Delgado, Amber Dukes, Wendy Flores, Amanda Gidney, Julia Gonzalez, Malica Lacy, Tabitha Morales, Ruby Perez, Gabriela Pineda, Maria Sanchez, Nailya Sanchez, Saremm Saenz, Julian Salgado, Shem Stasik, Jeremy Valentin, Miguel Varela, Quijina Walton, Salma Zaghoud

**The Newspaper Club** meets on Tuesdays after school in Room 333. All students are welcome. See Ms. Schmidt for information.

**The Steinmetz Star** welcomes letters to the editor, corrections, comments, and bylined articles from all members of the Steinmetz community.

**Printing:** Mr. Hugh Hefner's June 2011 donation to the Star covers the costs of printing the Star at NewsWeb Corporation, Chicago. ●

## What do you think of the DEAR program?



BY DESIREE REYES

"So far I think it's a good program so students could catch up on their reading. I read an interesting magazine article about wolves."

*Adrian Gomez, freshman*



BY NAILYA SANCHEZ

"I think DEAR is good because without it students wouldn't even read."

*Terianna Saunders, freshman*



INTERVIEW BY JAVIER BARRERA  
PHOTO BY SHEM STASIK

"I think it is good because people need to start reading more. I read 'Living Dead Girl.' I think you should read a book that you are interested in."

*Zurielis Chajon, sophomore*



INTERVIEW BY TANYA PRANNYCHUK  
PHOTO BY SHEM STASIK

"It gives us time and a break from classwork. It encourages teenagers to get into reading books, which most of us don't do."

*Alan Salazar, junior*



INTERVIEW BY LUCAS BURRELL  
PHOTO BY SAREMM SAENZ

"The DEAR program is a great way for students to become interested in reading. I read more at home because of it. I read 'The Land' by Mildred D. Taylor."

*Antiara Thompson, senior*



BY CRYSTAL PHILLIPS

"Students checked out over 600 books in the month of November. Over 200 books were checked out in the first week of DEAR. Many kids have returned to check out sequels and other reading materials."

*Bernie Eshoo, librarian*



INTERVIEW BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
PHOTO BY AMBER DUKES

"When you read for pleasure time flies and you feel intellectually fulfilled afterwards. It would be cool if there was a group of kids that would come up with different readings that would be distributed throughout the school for both adults and students to read."

*Renato Roldan, attendance*



INTERVIEW BY LUCAS BURRELL  
PHOTO BY HAYWOOD GANDY

"It's a fantastic program. I enjoy seeing students reading stuff they want to read. It's not a sacrifice. Reading is a big part of what we're doing here as teachers."

*Tara Brownlee, teacher*



INTERVIEW BY JAVIER BARRERA  
PHOTO BY DESIREE GARCIA

"I love spending a portion of my day reading, and I like sharing the reading experience with my students. 'Read more, learn more, change the globe' (NAS)."

*Lydia Ryan, teacher*

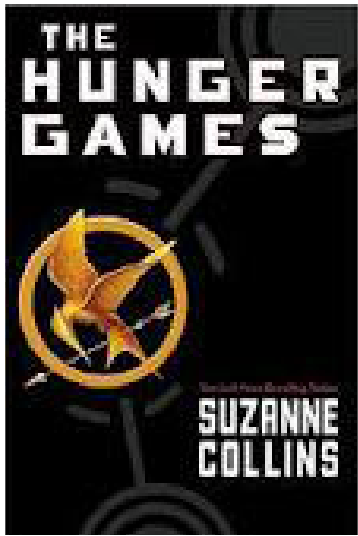


INTERVIEW BY CRYSTAL PHILLIPS  
PHOTO BY MIGUEL VARELA

"This couldn't hurt us. Sitting kids down once a week to read sounds like something they need. Only time can tell if this will work."

*Fred Stark, security guard*

## Need a good book? Check out these Star staff picks...



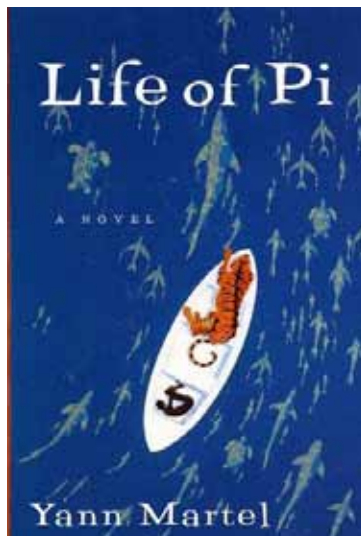
By Nassrin Jalili, librarian

**T**he *Hunger Games* is set in a future in which a TV-dominated dictatorship of those living in the Capitol rules over the rest of the people who live like peasants in the 12 districts of the country Panem. Their lives consist of hard labor, like coal mining and farming.

To make things even worse, once a year each district is required to give up one boy and one girl and enter them into the "Hunger Games." They are dropped into an enormous arena to fight and kill one another. The last child alive wins a lifetime of luxury. All the fighting and action in the arena is filmed and broadcast throughout the districts.

The games, the hard life, the hunger, and the harsh conditions of the lives of these characters are completely controlled by Capitol. No one dares to complain.

In the sequel "Catching Fire," the main character Katniss rebels against the government. Her actions



By Dattrin Butler

**D**EAR was actually better than I thought it would be. It introduced me to "The Life Of Pi," a novel about a young man's quest to get back home while stranded on a life boat with wild animals, one of them being a tiger.

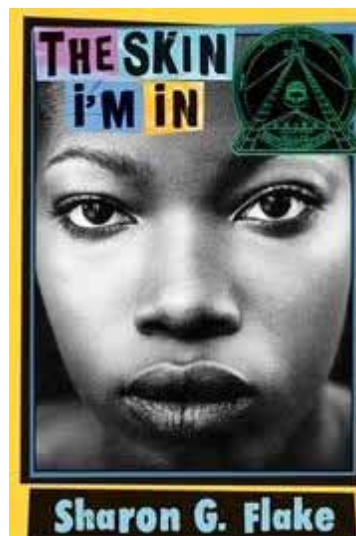
We should have DEAR more often because it introduces students to new books that they would never read and actually like.

**Book Club meets every Tuesday after school in the library. See Ms. Jalili or Ms. Lydon for more information**

ignite and energize the people to start a revolution.

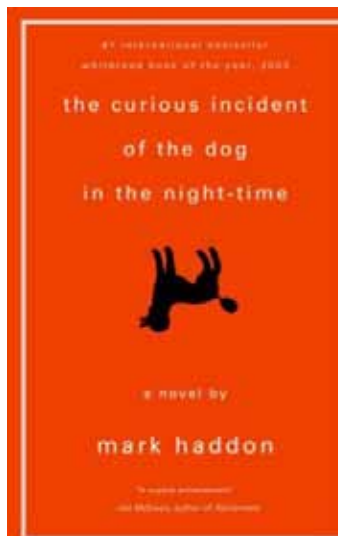
Even though the novels are set in the future, they're not far from reality as we watch many revolutions taking place around the world in the past year.

I highly recommend these books and the third in the series, "Mockingjay." Read these books, you will not be disappointed. ●



Another interesting book I read this year is "The Skin I'm In," about a girl named Maleeka who's being bullied for almost everything about her. She almost starts to hate herself and her color until a teacher who also never really fits in for her looks comes along.

I think most students would like to read this book simply because it has a great message which is to love yourself for who you are and appreciate being you. ●



"It has a lot of drama, comedy, and mystery."

*Luis Perez*

"It gives a really good twist in every passage. At the end of the chapter, I would want to read more."

*Nayeli Martinez*

"I loved the ending"

*Maria Barajas*

"I liked everything in this book, especially when Christopher went on his search."

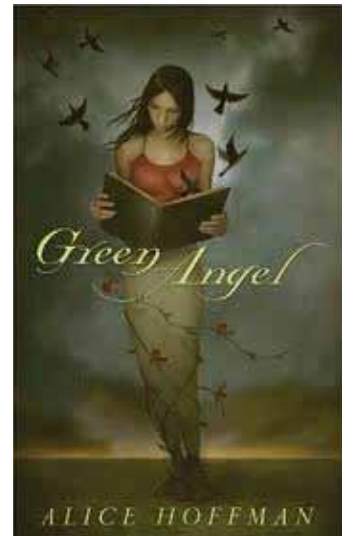
*Jesus Vences*

"It shows you how a person with disabilities doesn't quit."

*Jasmin Sanchez*

"Throughout the whole book I had a movie going in my head."

*Eric Salinas*



By Crystal Phillips

**A**fter everyone in her family and all the people in a nearby city are killed in a fire, 15-year-old Green is abandoned. She goes through a total transformation, even changing her name to Ash. She eventually meets a boy she can trust and care for.

This book can really open kids' eyes to serious tragedies. Anyone who likes drama would enjoy this book because of the girl's journey. I personally liked this book because I could relate to a misunderstood girl trying to find herself with no one to look to for direction or advice.

"Green Angel" is dystopian fiction (like "The Hunger Games") with elements of magic realism. Major events in the book happen suddenly at the beginning of the book, mostly because it is short. ●

# New JROTC instructor brings experience, heart

By Gabby Pineda

**F**irst Sergeant Roberto Ruiz (1SG) is a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) instructor. He started working at Steinmetz in the spring of 2011, coming over from Phoenix Military Academy.

1SG Ruiz retired from the U.S. Army after 26 years of service, including a 15-month combat tour in Iraq. He said wanted to join the military as soon as he got out of high school.

"The military was a passion for me," he said. His father also served in the military and in the Korean War.

1SG Ruiz appreciates many things about Steinmetz, including the size of the school and the many different programs available to students. He sees the majority of students as a "great group" that wants to make something of themselves after high school.

"I love teaching here," he said. Students in all sections of JROTC like Sgt. Ruiz's warm personality and excellent instruction.

"I think he's a great instructor," said Cadet Command Sergeant Major Sean Smith. "He really cares



First Sergeant (1SG) Roberto Ruiz with Sgt. Phillip Yangas at the Veteran's Day parade and teaching his 4th period sophomores. 1SG Ruiz has added much to Steinmetz's already strong JROTC program.



about the cadets. He has helped me out a lot with guiding me and showing me how things are supposed to be done. He has done a great job with our program."

Other student leaders in JROTC see the positive changes 1SG Ruiz has made to Steinmetz's already strong program.

"I think of 1st Sgt. Ruiz as a strong, positive man who doesn't only address what needs to be done or told, but he has a heart to make change for everyone," Cadet Executive Officer Emily Irizarry said.

"We welcome him with open arms to our program and treat him with high respect. Thank you 1st Sgt. Ruiz for the support from an amazing instructor and leader," Emily added.

Like most teachers, 1SG is happy to hear that he's helping his students.

"I love the fact that I can be a change to my students, even though its a small change," he said.

The Star asked 1st Sgt. Ruiz if he would change any past decisions he made. He said that he probably would have continued in his pre-med studies to become a doctor, but does not regret any decisions he has made in life. ●

## Monserrat in city Top 10

Continued from Page 1

between races, downtown, and not just the higher class, but regular people like us in the neighborhoods," Monserrat said.

Monserrat worked with art teacher Rosanna Mark.

"She told me to push it, develop it more, push it further," Monserrat said.

She will receive a \$100 savings bond and be honored with a special awards ceremony at City Hall where the artwork will be on display.

"Monserrat had extreme patience, motivation and she took well to criticism," Ms. Mark said.

"Her piece was a sophisticated commentary on how all areas of Chicago depend on one another to be a city that is caring and nurturing. It shows the importance of our fine police and medical services." ●

## Kaylee Sherrod wins art contest

**K**aylee Sherrod won first place in the category of "Tollway of the Future" in the Illinois Tollway 2012 Map Cover Art Contest. She received \$200 in gift certificates from Blick Art Materials and \$100 in gift certificates from U.S. Equities. ●



BY KAYLEE SHERROD

## Drama Club is finally here!

By Destiny Carpenter

**S**ponsored by teacher Lynda Meunier, the drama club meets after school every Monday in Room 127, 2:45 to 4:00.

During this time frame we go over concentration methods when on stage, play fun, creative, and informational games, and express ourselves through small motions.

The Drama Club will be putting on a play in spring of 2012. All students who are interested in participating are welcome to join the club. ●



PHOTO BY DESTINY CARPENTER

### Mentoring Moms for pregnant teens and teen moms

- Martha Rubio of Metropolitan Family Services is available on Thursdays, from 10:30 – 1:00 to help students.
- Mentoring Moms is a free, no obligation program committed to helping students and their families learn about available services and help them gain access to the services.
- If you are interested, you should contact your counselor.

# Occupy Chicago: 'This is what democracy looks like'

Continued from Page 1

Many people join Occupy Chicago and other occupation movements every day. Some have camped out in New York and other cities where protesters made tent villages. In Chicago, when people tried to occupy Grant Park overnight, they were arrested.

Keith Smith who has been at Occupy Chicago every day since Day 10, told the Star he will protest "until there is a change."

People are angry that the richest 1% dictates the rules of the economy and have so much more than everyone else. It is unfair.

"There's gross discrepancy in the levels of income," teacher Michael Arroyo said. "Something needs to be done. There needs to be some kind of revolution for us to have some sort of degree of equality. Since 1% controls a vast majority of the wealth, where does that leave the minority who have struggles? Occupy is a gathering of people from all walks of life, minus the rich elite."

Protesters highlight corporate corruption. "People are angry that the financial institutions abused the system," teacher Marcie Buckmaster said. "While we're in a recession,

those responsible didn't suffer consequences. Corporate executives should be held accountable."

Politicians of both parties are behind the bank bailouts, which were necessary, but corporate lobbyists have much influence over the government, Ms. Buckmaster explained. Also, we have been suffering gridlock in the Congress, so people feel the government is not able to solve these economic problems.

Some people have been disappointed that the Occupy movement does not have a coher-

ent leader and many observers don't relate to its strategy.

The movement was inspired by the uprisings in the Middle East last winter. Some of the same strategies used by Occupy protesters include long-term demonstrations as well as the use of social media to organize, communicate, and raise awareness. Occupy protesters use Twitter and Facebook and Occupy websites to share information. The protests allow everyone to have a voice at general assemblies. "The occupations around the world are

being organized using a non-binding consensus based collective decision-making tool known as a 'people's assembly,' according to Occupywallst.org.

The protesters don't agree about everything. At Occupy Chicago, many different opinions were shared. Keith Smith talked about ending the Federal Reserve. A woman demonstrated for "Books, Not Bombs." Other signs read, "The Revolution is Now. Fight the Power," "Honk if You're in Debt," and "Unf\*\*\* the Future."

The main ideas of the Occupy movements are to end the greed and corruption of the 1%, improve the economy, and have more equality. To achieve this, the U.S. government should eradicate the Bush tax cuts for the rich, institute new taxes on the wealthiest Americans and corporations, and place government regulations on businesses and banks.

Occupy highlights economic injustice. The more people speak truth to power the more likely a change will occur. As protesters say at the demonstrations, when they're marching and beating drums, "This is what democracy looks like." ●



Star reporters Judy Czahor (above), Jennie Czahor, Saremm Saenz and the Occupy Chicago protesters braved the rain and cold on November 26. Occupy protesters have demonstrated for more than 100 days.



## Wendy Flores knits for orphans



PHOTO BY MIGUEL VARELA

By Miguel Varela

Junior Wendy Flores decided to raise funds to buy Christmas presents for orphans, after hearing about the children at Our Lady of Grace Church.

"I felt bad because I am not going have anything either because of my economic situation," Wendy said.

The priest suggested people ask others for donations, but Wendy took the initiative of being more creative and decided to knit hats.

She sells them for \$12 and is donating all the money back to the church to give to the orphans. Wendy's grandmother, who has a knitting and craft store on 26th St., gave her the supplies.

Wendy showed solidarity with the less fortunate and is an example of what students could be doing for their community.

If you would like to help, you can purchase a hat from Wendy. She has many designs and colors. ●

## Super hero worship

By Yasmin Ramirez

Some college-bound seniors are still amazed by super heroes. Angelica Orihuela and Marcelino Lagunas love Batman and Superman.

**Star:** What do you like about Batman?

**Angelica:** I like that he has no fruity colors! Also because my favorite color is black. He's different from all the other super heroes.

**Star:** What do you think about the movie "Batman The Dark Knight?"

**Angelica:** "Batman The Dark Knight" was a great movie! This was shown by its popularity once it was released! It has been one of the top selling movies.

**Star:** Do you think Batman made any changes on what people think about him?

**Angelica:** Batman is an American cultural icon.

**Star:** What Batman things do you own?

**Angelica:** A shirt, sweater, lanyard, belt buckle, notebooks, stickers, bracelet, folder, ring, bookbag, cup, cards.

**Star:** What do you like about Superman?

**Marcelino:** His strength, intelligence, and bravery.

**Star:** Do you really believe in Superman?

**Marcelino:** Yes, I do believe in myself.

**Star:** What do you own from Superman?

**Marcelino:** Four Superman shirts, underwear, ring, flag, sweater, bed sheets, dog tags, bobble heads. Superman is better than Batman! ●



PHOTO BY YASMIN RAMIREZ

## Brianna Harris bakes her way to Europe

By Salma Zaghdoud

Senior Brianna Harris, in the IB program, is one of the hardest workers at Steinmetz. Her enthusiasm and bright spirit is bound to make anyone smile.

Brianna got the opportunity this summer to travel to Europe for three weeks. The Star interviewed her about the experience and the unusual way she raised the funds to get there.

**Q:** Where did you go over the summer?

**A:** I went to Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, and Germany.

**Q:** How did this opportunity occur?

**A:** People to People Ambassador Program sent me a letter saying I qualified to be an ambassador and I went to the meeting and did all the mandatory assignment projects and I went.

**Q:** How did you come up with the money?

**A:** I baked hundreds of cookies (butter, peanut butter, and chocolate chip) and sold these. I received donations from many people including Steinmetz staff.



**Q:** How was your experience?

**A:** It was awesome. I really enjoyed it. I ate so much good food and saw many pieces of famous art and beautiful building. I want to live to Europe.

**Q:** What did you learn?

**A:** I learned that people in Europe are so much calmer (even with the 20% un-

employment). I also learned that they are somewhat similar to the U.S.

**Q:** What was your favorite part of the trip?

**A:** I don't have one, there were just so many — my home stay in Austria, getting lost in Venice, Italy, climbing the Eiffel Tower, eating snails, and visiting museums. I loved it all.

**Q:** Would you go back if you had the chance?

**A:** I would absolutely go back if I can get the money again. I would like to go with family and friends and see all the places I did not get the chance to see, and also do more shopping! And next time I must stay longer.

**Q:** How has this experience changed you?

**A:** I have become more open to new experiences and foods. I have become more interested in studying abroad for college and travelling more when I get older. I have a new respect for other cultures and people's way of living. ●

## 10 things you should know about Josue Torres

By Cristia Hart

**H**is favorite color is red.  
2. He's in track and cross country and wants to beat the two mile record which is 10:11.

3. His favorite band is Avenged Sevenfold.

4. He always eats sandwiches in class.

5. He's in love with Fanny Reyes.

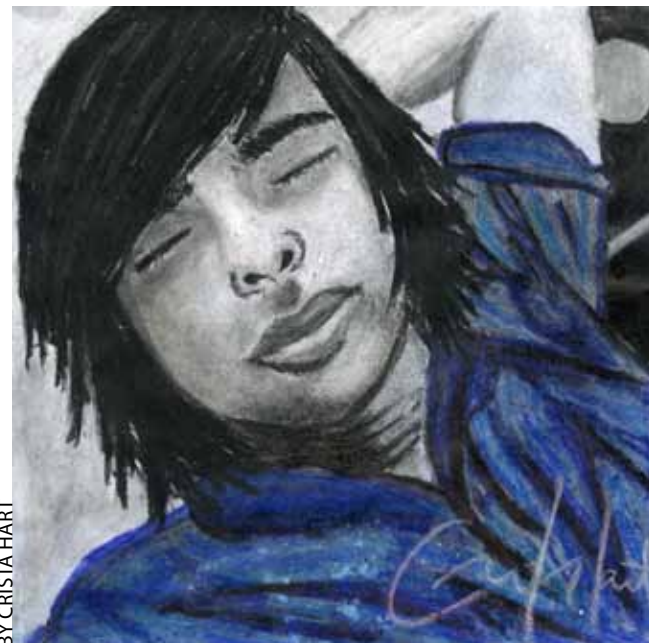
6. He wants to be in the Olympics.

7. He recycles.

8. He plays the electric guitar.

9. His nickname is Chepo.

10. He wants to be a physical therapist or a personal trainer. ●



BY CRISTIA HART

**Who would you like to see featured in the Star?**  
Email: [steinmetzstarnews@gmail.com](mailto:steinmetzstarnews@gmail.com)

## Frank Bland is someone you should know

By Brittany Robertson

Senior Frank Bland is someone you should know. He has participated in sports every year. He's played on the basketball team and football team.

This 18-year-old, whose birthday is October 23, gets along well with students and teachers alike.

"Frank Bland was a playboy, maybe he still is!" teacher Derrick Spencer said. "He's a man of town, all of the females like him. He's a basketball player extraordinaire! And in a couple of years a college graduate."

The Star interviewed Frank and found out a few things that may surprise you.

**Favorite color and, brand?**

Blue. Parish

**Favorite teachers?**



PHOTO BY DESTINY CARPENTER

Justin Everage, Patti Stuber, James Saunders, Derrick Spencer, Miguel Ochoa and Barbara Slanec.

**Plans after high school?**

I would like to further my education, I want to be an obstetrician.

**Favorite girl?**

My mother is my favorite girl

**Have you ever been in love?**

No!

**If you could start over would you consider it?**

H\*\*\* yeah.

**If you could do one thing different in high school what would it be?**

Complete all of my homework.

**What do you want for Christmas?**

I want a \$50,000 scholarship to the University of Illinois.

**What is your nickname?**

Lil Frank, Ben, Ben Daddy and Ben Frank

**What your most memorable moment?**

When our boys basketball team won the championship game against Schurz.

**Who are your homies at Steinmetz?**

Donald Steele aka Trump, Breonn Bland aka Breezy and all of my Brick-Squad Monopoly family. ●

# International students share Christmas traditions

## Italy



PHOTOS BY DESTINY CARPENTER

By Destiny Carpenter & Brittany Robertson

International students in Izabela Miklowicz's class gave presentations on how they celebrate Christmas in their countries.

They also shared examples of their ornaments and traditional decorations. ●

## Poland



Ilona Helinska, Weronika Kwiatkowska, Maria Landowska

By Maria Landowska

In Poland, Christmas is a very important holiday. It is a time when all family may be together, celebrate, talk, and laugh. In the Roman Catholic religion we wait till midnight, December 25, the day when Jesus Christ was born.

The family makes a special dinner on that occasion. In my family we have the tradition that there has to be 12 meals without meat. Family always sit and eat together. One empty plate is a symbol of kindness. When a person knocks on your door, you have to open the door and let the person come in. He or she is your guest.

In my family before our special dinner, my dad prays and we do the same. We make wishes to each other. My grandma and my mother always tell a funny thing that if someone's very rude and eats fast or too much on Christmas Eve, he or she will behave like that all year. We always try to be good on this day.

After a big dinner we wait till midnight, and we all go to the church to celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday. The holy mass is always beautiful and very special.

On December 26, in my village, we have a custom to walk from house to house and

The first star on the sky symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem, whose appearance was accompanied by the birth of Jesus. Because of the Star, the shepherds and three wise men could reach the place of birth of the savior. Today we expect the First Star, when she shines we can sit at the table.

We put straw under a white tablecloth on the table at which we eat Christmas Eve dinner. Of course this symbolizes the place in which Jesus was born.

We begin to sing Christmas carols at the Christmas table.

Traditional mass is celebrated on the night of Christmas Eve. We participate in it together with family and friends. It is the most important moment of Christmas times.

We divide a wafer before the Christmas Eve supper and offer a wish. Wishes should be sincere, forgive yourself of all the guilt, and then sit down for dinner reconciled with pure hearts. ●

throw candies on the floor and wish the people a good year, for example, wish people health or more money. ●

## Ukraine



Andriy Kukhtyn

By Andriy Kukhtyn

In some regions people make decorated Christmas eggs very similar to Easter eggs called Pysanly.

On Christmas children gather around with their neighbors holding torches and sparklers called Bengal lights. During that time we wish people good health and abundant harvest for the next year. Also, we perform some Christmas songs called Koliadky' or 'Shchedrivky' like these: "Joy, Earth, Joy. The Son of God was born." ●

## Phillipines



Lovely Pontiveros, Frevelyn Nava

By Frevelyn Nava

The parol or Christmas star is a stronger symbol in the Philippines than Santa Claus or the Christmas tree. Parol is a traditional Filipino Christmas decoration, a five-point star Christmas lantern, originally made of thin bamboo frames and cov-



Patrycja Jarzabek

By Patrycja Jarzabek

On Christmas Eve, Italians like eating "Il Panettone," a very famous cake.

The pastry is called that because of a legend about a handsome noble Ugheto Ateuqni who loved falconry. His favorite place to fly his falcons was near a poor baker's shop.

Whenever he was waiting for his falcons, he could see the beautiful baker's daughter, Adlgisa, hard at work. Ugheto fell in love and couldn't bear to see her work so hard for so little. So he offered to work for the baker for free.

He discovered he enjoyed baking, but he didn't feel the coarse corn cakes that the baker made for Christmas were worthy of the work Adalgisa put into them. Ugheto sold his beloved falcons. He added dried grapes and candied fruit.

Word of the wonderful bread spread and the baker became very successful. Ugheto revealed the nobleman he was and asked for Adalgisa's hand in marriage. The cake was featured at the wedding and became known as Pan de Ton, which means the "bread of luxury." Now in each family, the panetton is presented as a symbol of Christmas. ●

## Mexico



Selene Cortes, Emily Hernandez, David Cruz, Lucero Rivera, Jennifer Jimenez

By Jennifer Jimenez

Dia de los Reyes is celebrated on January 6. This day in Mexico children receive gifts brought by the three kings, Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar. In the days preceding Kings Day, children write letters to the Magi requesting a toy or gift that they would like.

On the night of January 5th, the figures of the Wise Men are placed in the nativity scene. Traditionally, children would leave out their shoes with a bit of hay in them to feed the animals of the Magi. When the children wake up in the morning their gifts appeared in place of the hay. ●

By Lucero Rivera

Christmas is an event so special because you spend time with your family. Sometimes you don't see your family as they are working. On that day you have a nice dinner and a nice time.

But not in all cases is it a nice day, not for poor people, not for the persons that are far from their families.

We are always thinking about ourselves when maybe we should care about poor people. Maybe we are not rich, but we have food and clothes. Why not give some food and clothes to the poor? It is better to give something than receive. ●

ered with colored cellophane or with rice paper, also known as Japanese paper. It has two tails that serve as the rays of the star.

During the Christmas season, parols are seen everywhere. As early as November, parols are hung on windows or doors of every Filipino home, office, school, and shopping mall. You will even find mini parols hanging on

buses and cars.

Parol reminds the Filipino Christians of the star of Bethlehem that guided the three wise men on their way in search of baby Jesus. The parol is also a symbol for hospitality because the people who hang parols in their houses intend to welcome visitors

Parol has become the Philippines' most recognizable ornament. ●

## Senior holiday party an annual tradition



By Monserrat Rafael

The senior tree decoration on December 2 was pretty awesome.

Many of the Steinmetz senior really enjoyed decorating the tree and at the same time spending some time with their friends while having a nice evening listening to traditional Christmas songs and hearing teacher Robin Russo and others sing.

Although the tree was really big and required a lot of work from everyone, at the end the tree was looking nice and everyone had a great time, like a family. Some of the people at this event shared the things they like to do with their families for the holidays.

“The main thing my family sees as a tradition for Christmas is having Ponche Navideño. That can never be missing on Christmas,” senior Sara Maya said. Ponche is a warm, fruit punch. Sara said she also likes to buy meaningful things for her family.

Gonzalo Salgado said that his family gets together at Christmas and eats a lot. He said he likes to put up the tree and his favorite part is putting up the lights. ●



## HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUTS

### Season's Greetings

To the IB family, DIV 240  
We will just like to say we miss you guys. Happy Holidays and Season's Greeting from all of us to all of you.

Take care. We will see you guys around.

*Juan "Pooh Bear" Agustin, Martin Stormageddon Espino, Luis Cervantes*



### Merry Christmas to Mr. Hood

I would like to extend a happy holiday and/or Merry Christmas to Mr.Hood.

Hey Hood, back to laughing.  
*Emanuel Cajigas*

### Remember the most important things

Dear Steinmetz,

While this time of the year is mainly associated with the exchanging of gifts, no one should forget the many things that are more important. Before you open each of the many gifts you might receive, thank whoever went out of their way to get you something.

Before you enter your nice warm home, remember that you are fortunate enough to have one. Even before you flip out on somebody who is being rude, unfair, or mean to you, let it go, for there are more important things in life that actually matter (especially at this time of the year where you should be happy).

I hope that everyone's holidays consist of togetherness, happiness, and, above all, peace.

*George Vazquez*

### Merry Christmas to Ms. Russo

You deserve a million presents.

*Love, Chantesha Rogers*



### The best Christmas for a true friend

Dear Nathalie Ortiz

Merry Christmas Baby Mama! I love you so much you have been my best friend since freshman year, and even though we had our ups and downs you have been there for me through thick and thin. You will always be there for me when I need you the most.

I can honestly say that I have a true friend and I wish you the best Christmas ever.

*Love always, Dashia Curtis*

### To motivating yearbook teacher

To Ms. S.,

You're the best yearbook teacher ever. Although you're hard on us sometimes you motivate us to do our work and make our yearbook pages look great!

Thanks for all your help. Have a great Christmas break — you deserve it.

*Tetyana Prannychuk*

**More shout-outs on Page 8**



### Happy Holidays, I'll miss you

Dear Dashia Curtis,

Happy Holidays to you and your family, Sissy. We've been through so much these past three years at Steinmetz. I'm going to miss you bunches when I move, but I'll still have our crazy fun time memories.

John wanted to be included in this by saying Happy Holidays. We love you bunches, Baby Girl.

*Love always, Nathii Ortiz*

### Computer programming class greeting

Shout-out to Ms.McSwine and all computer programming students.

*Victor Alicea*

## JROTC food drive



PHOTO BY SAREMM SAENZ

Alexis Quimso

By Saremm Saenz

**J**ROTC donated 2,243 cans of food to St. Cyprian's food pantry in its sixth annual canned food drive.

Senior Alexis Quimso led the effort, from October 13 through December 13.

People in the Steinmetz community also donated many bags of clothes and toys. ●

## Modern communication in Digital Media

By Gabby Pineda

**D**igital Media classes explore modern communication using computer applications like Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash and Dreamweaver.

Photographs, graphics, posters, letterhead, video and websites are just some of the communication forms produced by Digital Media students. This year Digital Media students, as well as members of Digital Streaks, are participating in Adobe Youth Voices (AYV).

"AYV supports creativity with a purpose by helping elementary and high school students develop digital media communication that ties students to local and global cultures," teacher Judy Eichstaedt said. "Digital Streaks are learning the process of videography while exploring their connections to the world."

Sophomore Mario Gonzalez said his Digital Media I class is useful and will help him in the future.



PHOTO BY GABBY PINEDA

Michelle Pellot, Julio Cortezano

Mr. Mike Edwards teaches Digital Media in Room 211. Ms. Judy Eichstaedt teaches Digital Media classes in Room 209.

"I want to be a video game designer, and this class helps me get the practice I need with Photoshop and other programs," he said.

Other students agreed that the class is both fun and helpful.

"I chose this class because I wanted to learn more about Photoshop," sophomore Zaina Alquero said. "I thought it might be a benefit in my future." ●

### Digital Media I

Introductory course explores digital design and communication skills using Photoshop and Illustrator with overviews of Flash, InDesign and Dreamweaver; culminates in a digital portfolio.

### Digital Media II

Intermediate course develops real world skills in digital design, culminates in Adobe Associate Certification in Photoshop and advanced digital portfolio.

### Digital Media III

Advanced course focuses on real world problems and tasks in digital design and communication integrating Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash and Dreamweaver; culminates in Adobe Associate Certification in Flash, and a professional digital portfolio suitable for college and career applications.

### Technology

- 21.5 iMac Workstations • Color Laser Printers
- 42" HP Plotter • Heat Press (iron-on T-shirts)
- Silk Screen Printer (process ink T-shirts) • Digital Cameras
- Scanners • Wacom Drawing Tablets
- Flip Video Camcorder

## Expressing oneself with hair color, body piercing

By Judy Czahor

**F**ashion statement? Maybe. Rebel? Possibly. Self expression? Absolutely! The halls of Steinmetz are filled with wild hair color and body piercings.

Here you can see hair color changing with the seasons and new, shiny body jewelry almost every week. It's exciting to watch people with blue, green, and purple hair walk around and even sit next to you in class. It's also very interesting to watch people stretch their ears bigger and bigger each month until you could put a pencil or even a finger in the jewelry.

People like this are always an amazing sight to see. I believe they make Steinmetz a more interesting place. ●



## HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUTS

### Have a great holiday

I will just like to give a shout-out to some awesome people I know: Anthony Lagunas, Braulio Lagunas, Amber Dukes, Dee Lunjas, Geric De-laPena, Jean Biasbas, Jonathan Arguello, Kelly Carter, Lauren De Jesus, Lester Argueta, Liz Gomez, Octavio Valdez, Olga Martinez, Vivian Balleza, Williams Blanco, Martin Stromageddon Espino, and last, but not least, the coolest guy I know — Luis Cervantes.



From the bottom of my heart I wish you a great holiday. I wish you all the best. Take care and thanks for being great.

*Your friend, Juan Agustin*

### Proud of US Empowered class

Earl, Carlos, Jocelyn, Edwin, Manny, Chris, Fernando, Lucinda, Nichelle, Megan, Armon, Meosha, Ghely, Alicia, Rolando, Violet, Derek, Patty, Chris, and Yaya: I wish the happiest of holidays to my most beloved students, the Urban Students Empowered, Class of 2016.

I am so proud of your accomplishments. You all embody the definition of "relentless." You deserve a beautiful holiday season full of joy and love. Thank you for all of the smiles and all of the hard work. You make me so happy.

*All my very best, Ms. Ryan*



### Thanks to friends

I just want to take a minute to say thank you to all of the people who have touched my lives this year. Every year presents its trials and triumphs. We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

May heaven smile on you this holiday season.

*Love, Latanya McSwine*

### To wonderful students

To my 3rd period chorus class: You are the most kind and considerate group of young people I've had the privilege of working with in quite a while.

Best wishes for a wonderful concert and a great holiday season for each of you and your families.

*Love, Mrs. Zaluba*

### Special shout-out

I want to give a special shout-out to my amazing girlfriend Nina. She means a lot to me and I'm really happy I have her in my life. We've been through a lot in our relationship and we remain with one other. I love you, Marina!

*Your princess, Delilah Perez*

### Shout-outs to friends I love

I want to give a shout out to Lucero Alvarez, David Cruz, Chris Centeno, Geovanni Cruz, Johanna Lopez, Matthew Joiner, Anyssa Lupe and Juan Rodriguez.

Also I want to send a shout out to my goofy friend Freddy Gonzalez and all my other friends that I didn't add in here. I love you all and thanks guys for everything!

*Donna Landa*

**More holiday best wishes on Page 11**

# Animal companions add to health, happiness

By Jon Ruiz

**P**ets help us thrive everyday in our lives. They keep us company, and they're there for us when no one else is. No matter how bad our day might have been, our pet will always be there to love us and make us feel better.

Senior Jessica Conneely owns an 14-year-old Miniature Poodle named Reggie.

"He only has two bottom teeth, but he's still super cute and sweet," Jessica said. "He makes me feel so much better when I'm upset, and I know that he wouldn't ever let me down."

Our pets can't live without us, therefore, it gives us another good reason to live. Many people get their pets from animal shelters.

"I have a male rescue Dalmatian," teacher Beth Zaluba said. "His name is Lucky, and we adopted him in 2008. Fifteen minutes after getting out of the car, he was playing with five kids. I thought it was quite amusing. My family and I have an annual party with the kids on the block on Lucky's adoption day."

Not only do pets help us emotionally, but also physically. Scientific studies show that dogs also improve our cardiovascular health. A National Institute of Child Health and Human Development study found- that dog owners were more active than those who did not own dogs. Dog owners are more active and less likely to be obese, than those who don't have pets.

"I have a Yorkie that is three years old," junior Oscar Strupinski said. "I have had him since he was 8 weeks old. When I am at home and there is nothing to do I play with him and take him for a walk."

Pets are used for many different things, such as therapy to make people in hospitals and prison feel better. Dogs are also used for criminal justice, such as the K-9 unit in the police force.

But for most people, they just need the company and love of their faithful animal companions.

"My dog's name is Katrina," senior Emily Alvarado said. "The reason for her name is because she destroys everything and leaves everything a mess just like a hurricane. She's playful and sleeps with me on my bed every night. She follows me around everywhere, keeps me company, and protects me. I love my doggy." ●



Senior Emily Alvarado with Katrina, who keeps her company, protects her, and provides love.



Teacher Beth Zaluba with Lucky, who was rescued in 2008. Ms. Zaluba celebrates his adoption day every year.

**"I know that he will never let me down."**

## Tell us about your pet...



"I have a Pit Bull named Audi. She's awesome! She's a trouble maker and a sweetheart. I raised her since she was 5 weeks."

**Rosbely Rosales, senior**



"I have a pet mouse named Max. It is really funny when he runs around my room."

**Jakub Sadowski, senior**

**Pet photo opinion reporters:** Mateusz Baranowicz, Javier Barrera, Nayeli Hernandez, Filip Palka, Juan Rodriguez, Sarem Saenz, Jazalynne Velez



"Ever since we got my turtle Jack, my dad would take care of him, clean him, feed him, etc. When my dad passed away I took over. So now, as weird as it may sound, I take as much care of Jack as possible because my dad loved him (even though he always denied it)."

**Anyssa Acensico, senior**



"My cat is named Marbles. She loves to play with Christmas ornaments and has already broken a few this year. My cat keeps me entertained, she's fun to play with, and she helps me get up in the morning because I need to feed her."

**Maribeth Ward, teacher**

"I have a Border Collie mix named Lola, who I raised and keeps me company when I'm sleeping."

**Karina Barragan, freshman**

"I own a Chihuahua. He's part of the family."

**Luigui Sobenes, sophomore**

"I had a hamster for six months. He kept me company and I could also play with him."

**Elvis Ramires, junior**



**Toby Urian with Scrappy, (daughter Makayla appears with puppy on Page 1)**

"I love my dogs, they keep me going. Dogs are therapeutic. They can help you forget about stressful days. They are your friends, they listen and don't judge you. I have Old English Bulldogs. I participate in competitions and dog shows. One of my dogs Leo won best dog in breed and took 1st place. I am very passionate about this. I breed my dogs, but I breed selectively. I don't breed just to breed, only quality dogs. I had my first dog in 2008 and now I have three."

**Toby Urian, security**



**Corey Randle, lunchroom staff, picks out a Bulldog pup**



"I have a fat guinea pig named Taylor. When my mother cooks Puerto Rican food he squeaks."

**Reymond Rodriguez, junior**

"I have three small dogs — Toby, Dolly, and Lulu. They're crazy. They love me and get on top of me when I come home. They keep me happy. They're there when I want to cuddle."

**Tatiana Turcios, freshman**

"I have about 15 Cockateils. My father loves them and he breeds them."

**Priscilla Roldan, senior**

"I have a 1-year-old cat named Cat. He is a wonderful companion. He's with me when I'm watching TV and wherever I am. He sleeps in my bed. People already think I'm a cat lady. I'm obsessed with cats. They're my favorite animals"

**Jonelle Babula, freshman**

"I have a Yorkie named Dafi and I love him so much. My favorite thing in him is that his ears are standing up. Cute!"

**Joanna Kuczynska, junior**

"I have four dogs: Chino, Piku, Ilene, and Lala."

**Fena Matarazzo, staff**

"I have a Beagle named Roy. He really likes bacon. On Saturday mornings I fry up a pound and we split it. My wife appreciates the dog a lot now that we're empty nesters. I'm really more into birds."

**Ted Majors, teacher**

"I have a 9-year-old cat named Kitty Dawgs who break-dances and only eats expensive brand cat food. My cat is not declawed so it tears up carpet and couches. The great benefit of having a cat is being free of mice."

**Renato Roldan, attendance chair**

## Gift ideas for each sign

By Jennifer Czahor

Follow our recommendations for the perfect holiday gifts for your friends (sources: www.tarot.com, www.gifts.com). Or, you could just ask them!

### Aries: March 21-April 19

Aries love fun and tend to be impulsive, active, and informal. A great gift would be a new snapback, sports gear, or tickets to the big game. Aries also love to be #1 with everything, so getting them something that makes them feel like this (such as the newest release of a video game or music) would be perfect. ●



### Libra: September 23-October 22

Libras love living the good life, they also love harmony and balance. Their favorite music would be an exceptional gift idea, as well as something that they can experience, like tickets to a concert or passes to a convention. ●



### Scorpio: October 22-November 21

Scorpios tend to be mysterious, adventurous, are passionate, and love intensity, as well as flashy things. Crystalline accessories, fine jewelry, flirty perfumes/ cologne, and higher end clothing would be awesome. ●



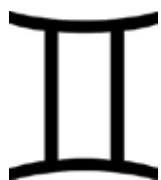
### Taurus: April 20-May 20

Taureans are very practical, but also have expensive tastes. They love money, so gifts like wallets or a small clutch purse would be fantastic. Taureans also love comfort, so soft clothing (hoodies, shirts, fuzzy socks) or luxurious bedding would be much appreciated. ●



### Gemini: May 21-June 20

Geminis are talkative, creative and knowledgeable. The typical Gemini is very social, so a new cellphone, laptop, or webcam would be great for this sign. They also like to be in the know about a lot, so an informational book (such as one all about the zodiac signs) would be well received. ●



### Sagittarius: November 22-Dec. 21

Those born under the Sagittarius sign tend to be philosophical and optimistic. A philosophy, or joke book, going to see a comedy or psychological thriller at the movies, or something that engages their mind, as well as keeps the content (such as a puzzle book) would be great. ●



### Capricorn: December 22-January 19

### Cancer: June 21-July 22

Cancers love the idea of being home and are very sentimental. A homemade batch of cookies (or any other sweets, for that matter) or card would melt their heart. Something that can brighten their room, like a poster or even a lava lamp would make them smile. ●



Capricorns are determined people, and love to be on top of things. A nice watch, a PDA, or a planner would be great for this sign. Anything that can inspire a new creative streak in a Capricorn, such as yarn and knitting needles, or anything to start off a new hobby will make them truly grateful. ●



### Aquarius: January 20-February 18

### Leo: July 23-August 22

Leos are the drama kings and queens of their pack, and will settle for nothing less than something just as real as FABULOUS! Brand names are extremely appealing to this sign, so if you have the money, go all out, they'll love you for it. ●



Aquarius individuals tend to be a bit "weird" or out of the ordinary, and like quirky or cutting edge things. The newest tech device (camera, iPad, iPod, laptop, Nook, Kindle, cellphone, etc) along with a colorful (or wildly printed) case for it will satisfy their need for the latest and greatest as well as the unique. ●



### Pisces: February 19-March 20

### Virgo August 23-September 22

Virgos tend to be very knowledgeable and practical. The newest New York Times Best Seller would be the ideal gift. Virgos also tend to be health conscious, so anything that can help keep them in shape (jump ropes, yoga mats, etc.) would be wonderful. ●



Pisces have a wild imagination and are often in their own little world. They love to escape, so a long book or very engaging video game would be fantastic. Also, they would be happy with something that sparks their creative side, like multicolored pens, paints, sheet music, or even sports equipment. ●



## PS3, Xbox users claim 'best'

By Ricardo Arroyo

The game system war continues to go on. Gamers everywhere still argue whether PlayStation 3 or

GRAPHIC, RICARDO ARROYO



VS



Xbox 360 is better. These are two of the most popular game consoles out on the market. There are many popular titles available on both systems. The gamer needs to figure out which one really fits his or her gaming style.

PlayStation 3 is the third home video game console produced by Sony Computer Entertainment. It was first released on November 11, 2006. This system comes with a built in Blu-ray player, letting you view movies more clearly and making the game play more clear. It also lets you connect to a Wifi network and you do not have to pay for online gaming.

Xbox 360 is the second video game console produced by Microsoft. The 360 was officially unveiled May 12, 2005. More than 11.6 million Xbox 360 console have sold across the 37 countries where it is currently available. You can watch high definition movies and television in the U.S. on-demand market.

### What's so special about the 360?

Eduardo Ruelas: "We don't get hacked like the PlayStation network. And the online game play is much better. They're going to update our dashboard so we can get YouTube and other things."

### What do you think of the PlayStation3?

Eduardo Ruelas: "I think that the PS3 sucks because they got hacked. It has little-girl remotes, you need a "man remote" like the Xbox. I think that the PS3 is overrated because of the Blu-ray, not everyone needs that."

### Would you ever buy a PS3?

Eduardo Ruelas: "Yeah, I would because some of my friends have one and we would be able to play online. And I like some of the games that came out for the PS3 and not the 360."

### What's so special about the PS3?

Geovany Garcia: "Everything! You don't have to pay for the Internet because you can use Wifi. Also, the remote is easier to handle. The best thing is that it comes with a built in Blu-ray player."

### What do you think about the 360?

Geovany Garcia: "I think the Xbox remote sucks and I don't like how the remote is set up. Their Internet isn't free, you have to pay. I don't think they have good games like the PS3. It doesn't come with a Blu-ray player so if you want to watch a Blu-ray movie you have to buy your own expensive one. The Xbox takes up too much space."

### Would you ever buy an Xbox 360?

Geovany Garcia: "No, I would only take one as a gift because I wouldn't waste my money on it." ●

## Violent action, with a good story

By Haywood Gandy

The Saints are back and better than ever. With the new addition to the series (Saints Row 3) the Saints are on both major consoles (PS3 and Xbox) with more violence, bigger explosions, and, last but not least, better graphics. I've never really been a big fan of this series, but just after 15 minutes of game play I was hooked.

If like me, you've always been a fan of GTA (Grand Theft Auto) and it was just lacking that action factor for you, you will find it in Saints Row 3.

Game Pro reviewer Tom Price also compares the two sandbox platform games.

"Not to diss GTA — it's still in my top 5 games of all-time — but Rockstar made a conscious decision to make that game a platform for better narrative storytelling and its world more of an



New additions include the "octopus gun" and "human catapult."

interactive dramatic stage than a sandbox full of rocket launchers." One of the new addition to the Saints Row series is the human catapult. Basically what this beauty does is suck up people you aim at in the street like a vacuum and launch them sky high across the city. Another new addition is the octopus gun, which when shot at a person the victim hit becomes your mindless slave.

I can't tell you everything because what fun would that be? If you want more go buy the game. I give Saints Row 3 a 9 out of 10. The story is kind of short, but other than that it's a great game. ●

## Is Facebook becoming pornbook?

By Desiree Garcia

Many students report seeing disturbing photos of exposed girls' and guys' body parts posted on Facebook. When they log in all they see on their news feed is uploaded pictures of nude people doing inappropriate things. .

"I have been using Facebook since 8th grade and throughout the whole time I have never seen this at all until this year," senior Megan Mendez said.

People are complaining that they are tired of constantly logging in to see such things like that. "It is getting annoying already to log in and constantly see that stuff," Megan said.

In addition, there are many anonymous Facebook pages made girls from Chicago schools saying the most horrible things about them or just having pictures of them doing inappropriate things.

"I don't see why people wasted their time to do a fake page and upload stuff like that," senior Denysse Fret said.

Why do people waste so much time doing this? Does it seem thrilling to them or to the others that see the page?

"I find it disturbing," Megan said. "There's nothing thrilling about seeing that type of stuff posted. It's unnecessary and unproductive."

"It's a very dramatic situation and it's childish," Denysse said. "I see nothing thrilling about it whatsoever."

Students wonder why the owners of the website allow it.

"I think Facebook should be more aware on what's on going on with all of this," Denysse said.

"I think Facebook should keep track of who is uploading these pictures and delete their privileges to upload photos or just delete their page," Megan said. ●

## Co-captains lead team



PHOTO BY JEREMY VALENTIN

Co-captain Michael Newson

By Julian Salgado

The boys swim team faced the Prosser Falcons on December 4 at home in the first meet of the season. The Streaks were winning at first, but unfortunately we didn't have enough swimmers on the team, so we weren't able to compete in three events. Some of swimmers felt sick that day. Others

hadn't had enough to eat and they didn't have enough energy to win. But Saul Zamora and Michael Newson both did a terrific job in every event they swam.

Co-captains Saul and Michael cheered for the team for they can feel confidence in themselves. Swimming is hard and tiring. It's harder than any other sport. That's why we practice our best everyday for the upcoming competitions. ●

## Girls win battle of the sexes

By Nailya Sanchez

The girls had just finished nearly four months of workouts. The boys were just beginning their season. Is it any wonder the girls dominated in the Streaks swimming battle of the sexes?

The beginning of the "friendly" late November meet started off with the boys taking the lead. Some of the girls were getting discouraged, but luckily our captain Salma Zaughdoud gave us some motivation.

Then came a few races that the boys had to forfeit because they didn't have enough swimmers. So those were points that the boys didn't get.

The tension was definitely on between both sexes. What made it even funnier was that the boys had been saying all week, "Man, we're gonna beat you," and "Prepare to get your butt kicked." But it turned out to be the boys got their tushes kicked.

Victory felt good. Our whole team was too excited! It was like when the Pittsburg Stealers won the Super Bowl. We were so happy that the whole team jumped in the pool and starting swimming and doing handstands. It was probably the best moment of the girls swim season, and could be the worst of the boys. ●



PHOTO BY NAILYA SANCHEZ

Captain Salma Zaughdoud

## HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUTS

### Cardio Club wishes Coach P. all the best!



PHOTO BY HAYWOOD GANDY

On behalf of the Cardio Club, Cross Country and Track Teams, I am sending a holiday shout-out to Coach Abel Perrerya:

You're a wonderful person and we thank you for spending so much time on us. You have given us great advice and you take care of us like we're your own. It is great to see someone so busy like you make time

for us and still have a great attitude at the end of the day. We all wish you the best and thank you so much for being the way you are. We wouldn't possibly trade you for even 1000 gold medals because they just wouldn't mean anything if you weren't there to support us.

*Monserrat Rafael*

#### Merry Christmas basketball team

Quick shout-out to the basketball team and my boys George and Angel de Jesus.

We're having a decent season this year. Keep it up. Big thanks to all the coaches for teaching skills on how to be a better player.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Keep it simple on vacation — stay away from trouble and stay good.

*Jesus Vences*

#### Happy Holidays coaches

I want to give a shout out to my basketball coaches Mr. Everage, Ms. Barnes, and Mr. Dejesus. Thanks for all your support and making me a better player. Happy Holidays!

*Desiree Reyes*

#### Merry Christmas swimmers

I want to give a shout-out to my swim team. I miss our season! I enjoyed every minute with you through the season, through the good and bad times.

*Nailya Sanchez*

#### My New Year's resolution: Do better in class

To Ms. Gold, have a wonderful holiday. You deserve a nice, relaxing break.

My New Year's resolution is to do much better in your class.

*William Moctezuma*

#### Shout-outs to friends

To my beautiful friend, Mireya, a.k.a. Curls!

Monicaaaaaa, my best friend. I love her more than anything. She has always been there for me, through everything. I love you, Momo!

To Adrian Bautista, my brother, who is awesome in every way possible!

To Adrian Gomez a.k.a. Paisa!

*Alexis Bautista*

#### Glad you're in my life

I wanted to give a shout-out to my baby and say I'm thankful for you and glad you came into my life. As much drama we have I know we can always pull through.

*Tati Turcios*

#### Have a great holiday teachers

For all my teachers — Mr. Henry, Mr. Sloan, Ms. Smunt, Mr. Chitazehrani, Mr. Amdouni, Mr. Apostolopoulos, and Ms. Walker — I hope that you have great holidays!

*Lesly Popoca*

#### Have a blast!

To my best friends Dianiris Rivera, Luis Ortiz, Aaron Barnett, Jocelyn Villa, Kendrick Pozos, Danielli Perez, Janelle Munoz, Maria Vezquez, Dalila Sanchez, Emmanuel Lagunas, Arely Ocampo and Janet Solache. I wish you the best of the holidays ever. I hope you have a blast! Happy Holidays!

*Stephany Jimenez*

#### Thanks for encouragement

I want to let Ms. Schmidt that she is very awesome and I love her class a lot. She is a very good teacher I want to thank her for all the nice things she tells me, that I'm going pass my classes I just need to try. Thanks for everything.

*Happy Holidays, Vicky Patino*

#### Hope you like your present

To my cousin Brigget who is like my sister: I hope you like your present for Christmas.

*Wendy Bonilla*

#### Thanks to friends

Ms. Gleeson and Ms. D., thank you for all your friendship and support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*For the kids, Ms. Ryan*

#### Love how you smile

Happy Holidays to my best friends Julissa, Julio, Stephanie M., Stephany J., Patsy, Jocelyn Villa, Dianaris!

You all make my day every single day and I love how you all are goofy and always smile! Thanks for the time spent so far. I love you all. We all better party. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Shout out to my baby. "2014 Running it!"

*DiDi Perez*

#### Happy Holidays teachers

I would like to give a shout out to Ms. McSwine for being a good teacher, and Mr. Saunders for always bidding us a happy Monday, or whatever day it is.

*Matthew Joiner*

**Best Wishes for the New Year! — Steinmetz Star Staff**

## After winning conference last year, then moving up a league, Streaks face Tough competition in Red-North division

By Lucas Burrell

In pre-conference play the Streaks had four wins and one loss (in a one-point, last second shot defeat by Northside College Prep). Players were optimistic for the season.

"I'm very confident in this team and our ability to go all the way," senior Armon Minniefield, #23, said.

But because Steinmetz won conference last year, the Streaks moved up to the Red-North division and now face tougher competition.

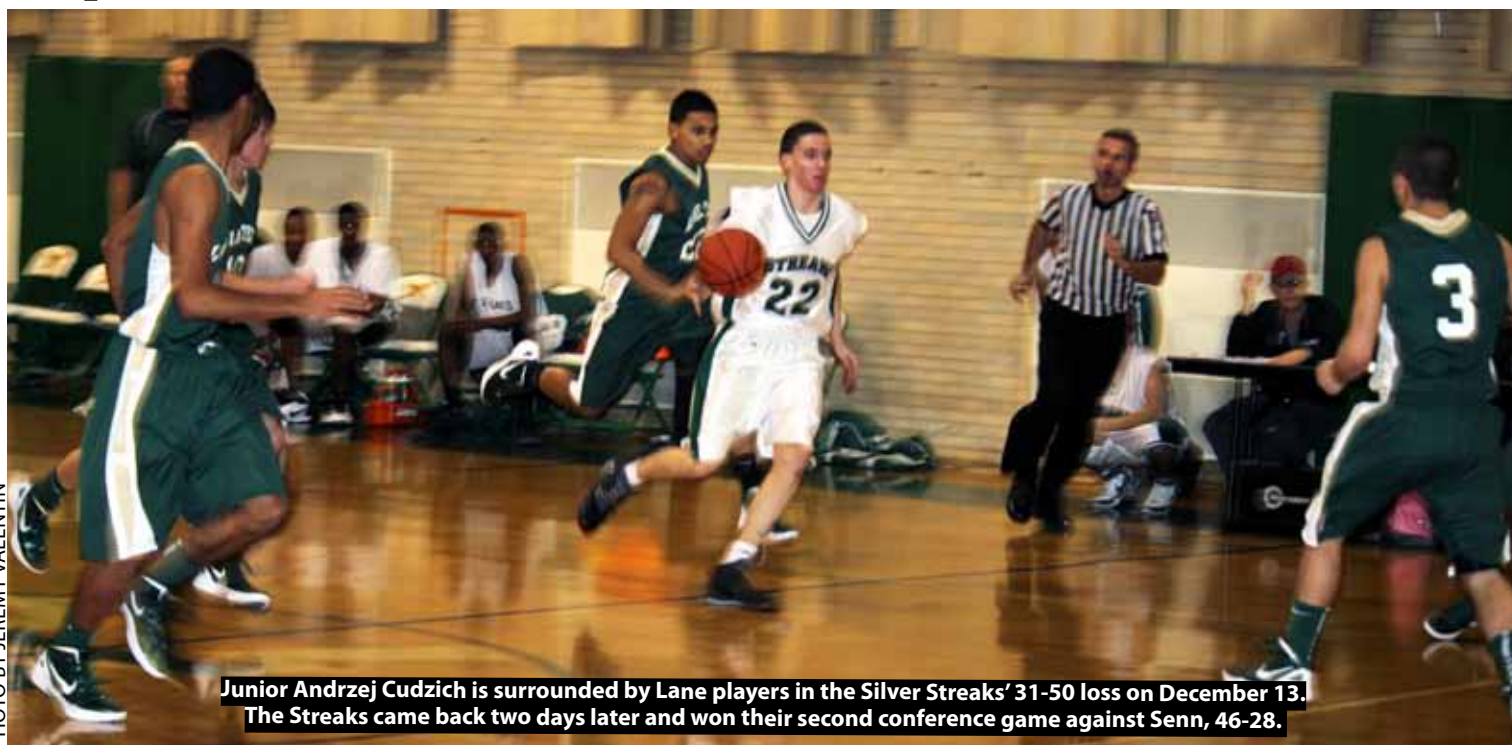
Lane beat the Streaks 50-31 in the first conference game at home on December 13.

The Lane players overpowered Steinmetz with size, skill, and possibly dedication. Three of the top four leading Streaks scorers didn't play. Coach Brad Dowling benched Breonn Bland, Derek Rice, and Armon Minniefield because they hadn't attended practice.

The players returned for the second conference game, in which the Streaks decisively beat Senn.

Frank Bland is leading the team in scoring.

"Frank has been shooting the 3-ball with a phenomenal shooting percentage," Coach Dowling said, in a pre-conference interview. "With the shots he's been taking he's really been a great asset to the team."



Junior Andrzej Cudzich is surrounded by Lane players in the Silver Streaks' 31-50 loss on December 13. The Streaks came back two days later and won their second conference game against Senn, 46-28.

PHOTO BY JEREMY VALENTIN

The Streaks have games against Mather and Foreman before winter break. The team Armon wants to beat the most is Foreman so the Streaks can get payback for losses in the previous years. The game is at home, Thursday, December 22.

Armon says the Streaks have good chemistry this year.

"We get along well, even outside of the gym, whether it'd be helping the underclassmen in the classroom or seeing each other in the hallways and making sure we get to class on time,"

Armon said. Disappointed that Breonn, Derek, and Armon didn't play against Lane, fans hope that chemistry works during practice times, too.

Coach Dowling wants his players to do their very best, offering these inspiring words:

"Look at yourself in the mirror knowing you gave it your all and left it all on the court." ●

## Bowling team provides athletic, family-like fun

By Wendy Flores

Many students don't know about all the sports and clubs we have. For example, every winter students enjoy being on the bowling team.

On the Streaks bowling team no one is left out. We treat each other more than teammates, but as family. Boys coach Sergeant Billy Hill and girls coach Sergeant Garry Frank help us become the greatest team.

This has been a fun experience because before joining the team I never once in my life bowled. But once I got on the lane, concentrated, and rolled the ball to the pins it felt great.

Since bowling is an anaerobic type of physical exercise, similar to walking with free weights, bowling helps in burning calories and works muscle groups not usually exercised. Bowling is not just rolling the ball down the lane, it really helps hand eye coordination.

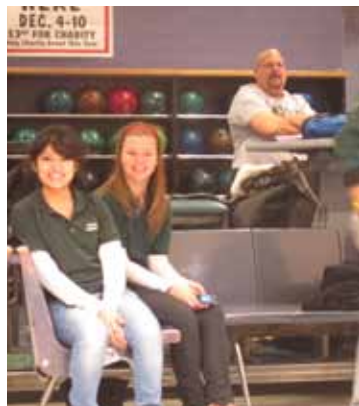
Practicing and competing with other schools really helps me become a better athlete. Our team doesn't "just put everything in a bag and call it quits," no! We try our best and give it all we got until the game is over.

My teammates Jasmine Colin, Jocelyn Uruchima, Patricia, Sarah, Vanessa Hernandez, Joanna Colin, Jessica Lindsay, and Ilse Castellanos are the best players I have seen. They never let anything get them down in our meet. I see them working hard in our practices on Wednesdays.

Jasmine has a different technique and body movement that makes her strike more. Jocelyn, Vanessa, Jessica, and Ilse have a greater power in their feet. Sarah and Joanna have a good capacity to concentrate where the ball may land with their hand movements.



PHOTOS BY WENDY FLORES



My teammates teach me that not everyone bowls the same way, you have to find your own style to become a champion.

I learn a lot from the boys, too. Carlos Pinto, Andrew Pincsak, Brian, Sean Smith, Erik Martinez, and Victor Alicea have different skills from the girls. Sean, Carlos, Brian, and Erik have the strength to roll the ball hard while balancing which way it will hit the pins. On the other hand, Andrew and Victor have a different way of moving and hand-eye coordination that makes them different in a good way.

With the help of both teams and our two great coaches, we will make it to victory and throw a great, fun game together as one. ●

## Streaks crush Kelvyn Park



PHOTO BY JEREMY VALENTIN

Senior Amber Dukes (above, at practice with her brother, freshman Cameron Dukes) received All-Tournament Honors at the Prosser Thanksgiving Tournament.

By Julia Gonzalez

The Streaks dominated Kelvyn Park 45-23 on December 6. Junior Ciara Gold and seniors Kelly Spivey and Amber Dukes were the top scorers.

Amber is a good player and a good coach. She will not let you get down, she will bring you right up with her.

In the game against Kelvyn Park some of us thought we were going to lose. For several minutes Kelvyn Park was ahead. One excellent play occurred when Amber passed the ball to Kelly. Kelly tried to shoot, but couldn't because of Kelvyn Park's defence, so she passed the ball to Ariel "Tweety" Johnson, she took a shot and made it.

In another play, we missed a lay up. We thought Kelvyn Park would grab the rebound, but in less than a second, Amber grabbed the rebound and put the ball back up. The ball hit the inside of the rim. We waited to see, and yes, the ball went inside. At the end of the game Kelly and

Amber made a good play. They were faking out the Kelvyn Park players, who got confused about where the ball was — on the left, right, or middle. Kelly and Amber kept passing the ball around and around, making time for the last shot. Kelly shot it, but it didn't go in. Amber got the rebound and we won the game.

The JV team also played. When you're in a game it feels like you're under pressure because you have the coach yelling at you from the sidelines telling you what to do. During the game you feel the heat all over your body. ●

### Winter Break School Work

Steinmetz will be open over the Holiday Break for students to make up work, use computers, complete college applications, receive tutoring, and make up detentions.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., both weeks  
Dec. 27-29, Jan. 3-5