



Beyonce  
Album Review  
PG. 2!



We the People  
PG. 5!

Ever feel like all of the work you're doing to keep good grades, or the work you're doing to improve them, isn't being recognized? Well, East Kentwood is doing everything they can to make sure the diligent students get the appreciation they deserve. "(Mr. Keenoy) wants to draw attention to the academic success, and he wants students to be aware that they are a big priority here at EK and that we are proud of the accomplishments that our students are achieving," says Mrs. Boshoven. We are already a phenomenal school in sports and the fine arts, and East Kentwood wants people to know that grades are a high priority in our book as well.

One of the ways we are going to reward the students of EK is by giving an incentive to those who have a good GPA, as well as those who are working hard to get their grades up. The kids who have the biggest jump in their grades, such as the top 40 kids who raised their GPA from the previous trimester definitely deserve some recognition, along with those who are on the honor roll. A high score on the ACT/MME is another target that kids should be shooting for because they will be rewarded as well.

You must be asking, what are these rewards I'll be getting, and is it even worth it for me to work hard for them? It is definitely worthwhile to

rinks, and roller blading rinks to offer incentives.

Other options are prime parking spots, going off campus for lunch and

be available during the 3rd trimester of your senior year for one class of your choice. This privilege, of course, won't be applicable for classes

where you have 9 absences or more, or your AP exams. You will have to discuss with your

teacher whether or not it will be allowed in that class, but it is a definite reward for those who get the 1 or 2.

Another way students are going to be recognized are stars hanging in the foyer with the name of a student and the college

they plan on attending on the back. It's a bit of a walk of fame in itself for those who plan on going onto higher education. The kids who receive scholarships will also be highlighted because those are difficult to get and deserve to be shown.

All of these wonderful additions to East Kentwood will be making an appearance some time during the third trimester, so start working hard to making improvements, it'll be worth it. If you have any other ideas for rewards, the board of teachers is welcoming anything they can get. If you have an idea or any questions, you can contact Mrs. Boshoven in room 64 or email her at Wendy.Boshoven@kentwoodps.org.

## Grade Goodies

The lowdown on the reward system for grades

By Megan Martine (15)

put some more effort into your grades, if you aren't already. The committee of teachers and administrators working on this have been looking at working with businesses around town such as Celebration Cinema, bowling alleys, ice skating

final exam exemptions. The final exam exemptions were officially accepted by the teachers on February 3, 2014. To receive an exam exemption, you have to receive 1 or 2 on all of the MME which includes the ACT. The exceptions will

## Capturing the Hearts of the Community

### Putting Together the Puzzle Pieces of the Face-Off for Autism Game

By Izzy Meier (15) Photos by Mrs. Laux and Mr. Aurand

Hockey is a sport known to be quite brutal, but the students and supporters of the East Kentwood Hockey team have shown a new side to the sport this year. By putting their creative and caring minds together, parents, and the friends of parents, of the hockey team have been able to successfully pull off an amazing game in support of Autism Awareness. Thanks to the East Kentwood and Grandville coaches and teams, vendors, guest families, National Honors Society volunteers and the East Kentwood faculty along with many others, the "Face Off for Autism" game was a huge hit.

Through three blizzards and three rescheduled dates, the Kentwood and Grandville communities finally were able

to come together in support of the much anticipated game. In honor of Autism awareness, the boys and girls of the East Kentwood hockey team sported jerseys donning patches representing autism on their sleeves along with puzzle piece symbols covering their chests.

In order to create a fun and safe environment for the families and children, the game had no loud music or horns. Along with

this, baskets were raffled off with tickets

with all proceeds going towards Autism Awareness foundations.

Finally, just when it was believed that the game could not get any better, it did. A ten year old ASD boy looked at his mother and announced, "This is the most fun I've ever had and I love my new hockey stuff!" Along with this, an announcer allowed another child the opportunity to announce the prize winner of the 50/50 raffle. The game ended in a 4-2 win for East Kentwood, with Bronson Foote (16) scoring twice, and Jake Gale (15) and Adam Goudelock (14) each scoring once, respectively. In the words of Mr. Steve Aurand, the father of team members Brendan (16) and Walker (14), "A platform that supports kids and wins the hearts of the community was satisfied that it had won, no matter the outcome on the scoreboard, and finally skepticism gave way to an event this day ... And it has captured hearts."



The East Kentwood Hockey Team with John after they presented him his EK Jersey.



Jacob Moefield (15) protecting the goal.

## Purple Week

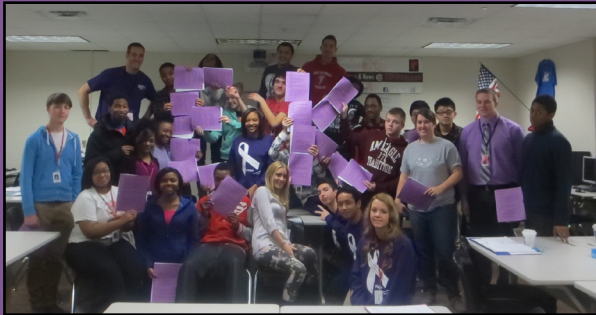
### A Recap of Purple Week 2014

By Kathryn Durston (14)  
Photo Provided By Mr. Anema

East Kentwood's own student council noticed the success of the pink game and decided it was time for another fundraiser towards cancer. They came up with "Purple Week" which was actually a two to three week span of events. The goal was to raise awareness about cancer and to donate money to the American Cancer Society. They decided the color purple since it is the universal cancer color.

Another goal of purple week was to be at every home event East Kentwood has to show appreciation

for East Kentwood and to bring attention to the "Purple Game" on January 31<sup>st</sup>.



Student Council auctioned off raffle tickets for an iPad mini, a 200\$ gift card to Cabela's, and a purple basket from Kentwood's own Mitten Ladies. They raised over \$1500 dollars and handed the check to the American Cancer Society.

Purple week was

a success! Many people ordered the Falcons Fight Back gear and participated in the \$5 raffle. These shirt and raffle sales contributed to the \$1500 that was raised. While the beads and bandanas didn't go as well, many students still rocked their purple on the Friday of the game.

When asked if there would be a purple week next year Lea Mavar, the head of the purple week committee, replies, "I hope so, seeing

how we were able to make something new a huge hit, I believe it should continue so we don't stop the fight against cancer." Hopefully purple week can be a new tradition at East Kentwood and we can continue to raise money and awareness towards the fight against cancer.

## Love, Chocolate, Stuffed Animals, Oh My!

By Chani Warfield (15)

The month of February is most commonly known for two things: being the shortest month of the year and Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day, however, takes the award for being the most popular. Most people have a complete spectrum of opinions toward this holiday. Some love the thought of roses and chocolates and others cringe at the sight of the six-foot teddy bear you

see in stores. Whether you have someone to share the day with, be it your friends or that special someone, or if you would rather spend the day by yourself avoiding the couples; no matter what the situation, there is something for everyone to do this Valentine's Day.

The holiday is usually most critical to the couples who like to celebrate it. Expectations for romantic

and cute gestures tend to be at an ultimate high. So what are some ideas for you and your Valentine to do this year? The movies is always a nice activity, many romantic movies out this year like "Labor Day" and "Endless Love" which comes on Valentine's Day this year. If watching a movie isn't how you like to spend your free time, there is always the classic approach of a nice dinner or lunch to be treated

to.

A huge part about Valentine's Day is also the gift giving. The gift that your special Valentine gives you can either make or break the day. If you're still contemplating gift ideas, you can never go wrong with candy. Reese's, Twix's, SweetTarts, and Hershey's Kisses can always do the trick. Stuffed animals also tend to make hearts melt. A huge oversized bear? Absolutely. So big you can't even carry it? Perfect. Jewelry sometimes really is the key to the heart. Depending on the relationship

with your Valentine, a nice shiny piece of jewelry can be just the right gift.

Enough about couples, now it's time for the singles to have a great day. If you don't have anyone you really have a crush on or have your sights set on anyone, spend the day having a good time with your friends! Go bowling with a group of your single friends around you to share the day; can be just what you need instead of a Valentine. Or maybe have an ironic movie day with your friends and watch scary movies instead of romantic ones.

This year there will

be many different Valentine's Day experiences for people. Whether it's your dream date with the perfect person, or a hangout with your friends to have more than one person to spend the day with or maybe it will be the day you finally tell the person you've had your eye on your true feelings. No matter what you choose to do, it should be a good day for everyone because Kentwood Public Schools has a half day on Friday, February 14, 2014. Whatever way you choose, just make sure that you have a good time, and to love what you decide to do, because that's what the day is about anyways, love.



# “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?”

A REVIEW ON THE MOVIE “FROZEN” By Linh-Nhu Hoang (15)  
Images Courtesy of Google

Two Academy Award nominations, Golden Globe Winner for “Best Animated Feature”, #1 Family Movie in the nation, and the reason for excitement in winter is what everyone is talking about. *Frozen*, released in November of 2013, has been the most seen movie and most talked about movie of the year! “Frozen is the best Disney film since the Lion King.” –Kevin Fallon, the *Daily Beast*.

Elsa and Anna are sisters, Elsa being the one with ice powers, who have been playing together since they were little. One day, Elsa’s magic got out of

control and hurt poor little Anna. Since then, Elsa has locked herself up in a room and ignored Anna for the rest of her life. Years later when their parents had passed away, Elsa became Queen and not so long until she had been revealed of her magical ice powers. While Elsa is away in her own ice castle, Anna is on search to find her to change Arendelle back to summer and makes new friends, Kristoff and Olaf. Soon after, Elsa is caught by the guards and is brought back to Arendelle. Before she was almost killed, Anna (instead of helping Kristoff from the blizzard) chooses to save her sister and

turns into solid ice. Elsa, who is heartbroken, rushes to Anna and hugs the sculpture. While the tears rushed down, the ice starts to melt and Anna is saved. Let’s just say that the kingdom of Arendelle lived happily ever after.

*Frozen* is known to be a movie that teaches teens and young adults that they don’t need man to be happy( although there is a bit of romance throughout the movie), instead they have the love of their sibling. *Frozen* has also taught the watchers, unlike many of the other Disney movies, that “you can’t marry a man you just met.” Rumor has it that with its

catchy songs and funny, cute storyline, *Frozen* is better than *Tangled*! I for one am a huge *Tangled* fan but I think they’re equally great movies.

In my opinion, *Frozen* is one of the few Disney movies that I can actually learn from and enjoy at the same time. Yes, the characters are funny and cute. Yes, the songs are catchy. Yes, the plot makes a little more sense than most of the Disney movies. I can see why many people enjoy this Disney film so much *but* there is one thing this film is lacking. Sure, it’s one of the first Disney movies to show realistic love between sisters instead of a man the

princess barely knows; but it’s not being realistic with a character having “magical powers.” I’m not saying I’m totally against the fact of having imagination, like when we thought we could fly or shoot lazars out of our hands. But later on, there will be disappointment, like when we thought animals could really talk.

Aside of that one flaw I had of *Frozen*, I think it’s an amazing must-see film. Even though, it’s been out for four months now, and spring is coming upon us, I still think it’s

worth it to watch again. So if you haven’t, go out to the movie theaters right now, and buy yourself a ticket to see *Frozen*. Trust me, you won’t regret it.



# “The Queen”

A REVIEW ON BEYONCE’S NEW ALBUM

By Megan Martine (15)

Beyonce claims she may have gotten “bored” with being a pop star, as she professes in “Ghost” which may be the reason she didn’t spend big bucks on marketing her new self titled album. Early on December 13, she dropped a “visual album” as everyone is calling it



without saying a word. This album is packed with 14 songs and 17 videos and not a single person involved in the creation of this project said a word about it. Beyonce has surprised us countless times before, but I don’t think anyone was expecting something like this.

Most of Beyonce’s album is about empowering women in today’s society and inspiring them to do what they set their mind to. “Flawless” even features a speech from Nigerian

feminist author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Although it is a very inspirational part of the song, it didn’t make the song very appealing to listen to. I can’t imagine anyone jamming in their car to this song just because of the interruption right in the middle of the song. It killed the vibe, to say the least.

“Pretty Hurts” really paints a picture of how painful it is for young girls in this day and age. The lyrics start out with phrases her mother used to say to her including “what’s in your head, it doesn’t matter” and “what you wear is all that matters” and to “pageant your pain away.” The video for this song

*“My message behind this album was finding the beauty in imperfection.” - Beyonce*

shows how girls put on a fake smile, whether in pageants or not, and how badly it hurts to keep up with expectation of their body, face, and beauty all around. The video even displayed a part with a man critiquing all of their bodies and what they need to fix. I got goose bumps the first time I heard “Pretty Hurts” and they just got even bigger when I watched the video. This song was definitely one of my favorites off of the new album because it was so empowering to girls everywhere.

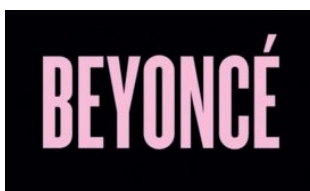
Beyonce also went on the other side of the spectrum with “Drunk in Love” which definitely earns it’s rating for explicit. It’s

one of the catchier songs on the album but it steers away from the album’s theme of female independence. The video is mainly focused on her body, which everyone knows deserves a little bit of the spotlight after she’s had a baby, but it was odd to see in the same album as something as inspirational as “Pretty Hurts.” Especially since it’s just focusing on her sexual encounters with Jay-Z.

To finish off yet another legendary album, Beyonce slows things down with her beautiful song about her daughter, “Blue.” It talks about how much she loves her little girl and how Blue may be the only thing that can

make her happy again when her life gets hectic. Although it is a very repetitive song, it’s still soothing to listen to - and when Blue is featured at the end, your heart can’t help but melt.

Overall, the album was inspirational in what Beyonce was singing, and by what she was doing. She was the first woman to drop an unspoken album, and no one has ever done it as big as she. Let’s just say, she is still the Queen Bey.



New restaurants have been popping up a lot lately, but one that has caught a lot of eyes is the new Tim Horton’s. Located on the corner of 44<sup>th</sup> and Kalamazoo, it is a convenient place to grab coffee and doughnuts with family and friends. It had its grand opening on December 17th.

For being the first Tim Horton’s in Kentwood, it has attracted many customers around the area. It is most famously known for their freshly baked doughnuts and coffee. But what people don’t really know about Tim Horton’s is that they also serve plenty of different baked

goods, drinks, sandwiches, paninis and soups. Since the restaurant is 24/7 inside and out, it is a nice place to grab food whenever you’re hungry.

The setting is like a typical coffee shop with lounge chairs, a tv, and free access to wifi. It is a bit small, but it brings a comforting feeling to it. It’s set up kind of like a fast-food restaurant, but better quality than one. As the store is fairly new, the service is a bit slow when it gets really busy but is fast most of the time. Also it is a great place to go with friends to study or work on school work since the setting is pretty calm and

quiet. A nice feature that they have is when the weather gets nicer outside they have an outdoor patio that you can sit in.

Depending on what season it is, the food products vary. But the one thing they will constantly have is their coffee and doughnuts. The best time to get the biggest variety of any food, especially doughnuts, is the morning time. Although they do have bakers in every shift, the variety of doughnuts will lessen throughout the day until the next morning when it is fully restocked. Coffee is always available 24/7, and so are other specialty drinks.



There are monthly coupons sent out in the mail for great deals that you can get at the restaurant.

Tim Horton’s is considered somewhat a fast food restaurant, so they do have a drive thru. If it is your first time visiting Tim’s and you’re not sure what you

want to get, I do recommend going inside the store. This is because it’s a lot easier in store to view what they have in stock rather than having them tell you every single doughnut over an intercom. Tim Horton’s isn’t like a typical coffee and doughnut shop. So with that in mind you will notice some of their products have different names than a typical restaurant. For example, Timbits are doughnut holes, and the “yeast” doughnuts are like Krispy Crème doughnuts.

Overall this is a great place for fast food that isn’t a “bag full of grease.” So if you are craving a midnight

snack, or even just want doughnuts and coffee in the morning, Tim Horton’s is the perfect spot to pick it up.



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Mission: The Talon will act as a medium between EKHS campus life and the surrounding environments that participate in the lives of students. The paper serves as an open forum for student ideas, opinions, and concerns. The staff commits to justly representing the student opinion with a student voice on any matter deemed necessary by the staff. Opinions expressed in The Talon do not necessarily reflect the views of The Talon staff, EKHS, or the Kentwood Public Schools Administration. The Talon will never knowingly print material that disrupts the learning process of the school.





# Falcons Fight Ferociously

## An up-close look at the East Kentwood Girls Basketball Team

By Chani Warfield (15) All Photos Courtesy of Mr. Swoboda

The wintertime brings many sports such as hockey, boys swimming, water polo, and basketball. This year our Lady Falcons basketball players have been working on and off the courts to have a successful season. Recently, the ladies have just been falling short of the win. On Friday January 31st, East Kentwood hosted the purple game against the Hudsonville Eagles. Everywhere you looked on the home side for the Falcons it was completely purple. Purple shirts, purple pants, even purple shoes and socks. It was the setting for a great game.

The ladies started off a little slow, still getting warmed up finishing the first

quarter 2-12. However, the girls started to get some fire back inside of them getting the score to 8-17 before the half ended, having to play a bit of catch-up. That determination from the end of the second half carried over into the second half with the Falcons scoring 14 more points, while the Eagles scored 7. Now the Falcons were only down by 2 at the start of the fourth quarter with a score 22-24. The fans were screaming and excitement was pulsing through the crowd. Baskets were being made left and right. The Eagles would score and the Falcons would come right back down the court to equalize the score. In the end, the Lady Falcons ended

up only being able to put up 9 points to the Hudsonville

The East Kentwood Basketball team however takes



Eagles 11 points, ending with a final score of 31-35. It was a close game, well played and fought, but the Falcons just barely fell short of winning.

no days off. After the game on Friday they were right back at it, but this time taking on the Rockford Rams. Unlike the Hudsonville game, the Falcons

started out strong against the Rams finishing the first quarter 14-10. Unfortunately, the second quarter wasn't as high scoring as the first, East Kentwood only getting 3 points to Rockford's 13. The team was trailing 17 to 23, but there was still plenty of time to catch back up. The ladies ran up and down the court third quarter constantly keeping up with one another. Both teams ended the third quarter with 9 points on each side. It was the last chance of the game, fourth quarter; both teams had given it their all leaving everything on the court. Even though the Lady Falcons were able to put up 7 points to Rockford's 6, the buzzer blared and the score

was final, 33-38, with junior Erika Ross leading the goal scoring with 14 points. Our Falcons put up a good fight last week, losing to West Ottawa 34-15 last Wednesday and Friday, losing 33 to 55 against Grand Haven.

The ladies had given it their all. Working hard all game, it was a shame to see the games end the way they did just short of a win, but the team will have plenty more chances to get the W. As of February 13, the Girls Basketball is record in conference is 1-6 and 6-10 overall. Next time you're free, check the schedule and listen to announcements to see if the Falcons have a game and go support the school basketball team.



# Varsity Swimmers Makes A Splash

## Dive into EK's Varsity Boys Swimming

By Kody Horton (15)

East Kentwood was originally built in 1969 and has gone through multiple transformations since then. There are some staff members who can say that they have been with the school for a long period of time while the walls changed around them. One of these people is Mr. Ambrose who has had many different positions throughout his years with the school, but he is probably best known as the boys swimming coach.

Mr. Ambrose started working as a boys swimming coach in 1976, the year after the school added on the West Wing, then stopped in 1996. Shortly then after, in 2002, he decided to start again and was eager to get back to coaching. Some of his major achievements from those time periods are 17 league titles, 3 State Runners-up teams (boys swimming), and 2 Boys Swimming State

Championships. Mr. Ambrose has also won awards through his years being a coach some of these awards are Michigan



Coach Ambrose leads the team with his passion and encouragement

Interscholastic Swimming Coaches' Association Coach of the Year for 1983 and 1989, Michigan High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year for 1984 and 2006, National Federation Regional Coach of the Year for 2009, and most recently was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association hall of fame.

Even though Mr. Ambrose has coached many teenagers, he still treats everyone different and remembers each person he taught. He's a kind-hearted man who gives a lot of his time into the community and helping high schoolers to discover their futures. That is why he is regionally recognized for not only his coaching, but his ability to create a progressive and productive atmosphere that allows teenager's skills to grow.

Coach Ambrose has had many teams over the years; some better than others. This year's team hasn't done the best but the season isn't done yet. There is some talent between the boys and they just have to join together and pull a win out for the falcons. Even though this season so far has been hard, know that every student and parent of EK is rooting for you guys.



# Everyday They're Tumblin'

## EK's Gymnastics Team Works for the Win

By Gabriela Mayorga (14)

Bars, floors, tumbling; these are just a few things that make up gymnastics. Hard work and dedication are all factors that make up our Girls Varsity Gymnastics team. As the season goes on, the girls keep working hard to improve and make their way to state. Gymnastics is a hard sport, but our girls' team endure hard work everyday to perfect their moves.

Everyday after school the girls have an intense practice. They start off with warm ups, and then practice routines before finally ending with hard conditioning. Although it consists of lots of individual work, coming together as a team is a very important task. It takes a lot of focusing and mental stability to nail their routines. Pushing themselves everyday helps improve their

scores and is what keeps them going and keeps them determined.



The girls compete in competitions all over the state. Recently, they competed in conference, and they are now heading to regionals where some will qualify for state. Although the competitions are very serious and stressful, they are fun at

the same time. Cheering on their teammates while they are competing is what makes the team come together as a whole; it is what keeps them strong. Winning is a big goal to them and they will work their way to the top no matter what obstacle they face.

As said by Corinna Ortiz (15), "If our minds can conceive it we know we can achieve it." There is no stopping them this year and they are determined to make it all the way to the top. As Ortiz is in her third year on the team and one of the three team captains, she has lots of high hopes this year for the team. "Our goals are to do well at regionals and get some of our top girls to state," said Ortiz. The gymnastics team would love more supporters so make sure to come to their next meet, which is away on the February 15, to cheer them on!



# East Kentwood's Finest

## Hip-Hip Hooray for Mr. Dave Emeott and Mrs. Stephanie Stephenson

Congratulations to Mr. Dave Emeott for being selected as the MITCA Division 1 Boys Track and Field Coach of the year. Emeott was selected for this award this past Friday evening at the Annual MITCA conference. Congratulations also goes out to Mrs. Stephanie Stephenson for being selected as a finalist for the Division 1 Girls Track and Field Coach of the year. Both of these coaches have worked tirelessly to build two of the most competitive and successful Track and Field programs in the state of Michigan.



### MME Testing Schedule 2014

#### Seniors

Monday - Regular School Day  
Tuesday - College Visit, Job Shadow, Attend KCTC  
Wednesday - Classes Begin at 10:45 AM  
Thursday - Classes Begin at 10:15 AM  
Friday - Regular School Day

#### Juniors

Monday - Regular School Day  
Tuesday - ACT & Writing Test 8am - 12pm Lunch  
Wednesday - Work Keys Test 7:35am-10:35am Classes begin at 10:45am  
Thursday - MME 7:35am - 10:10am Classes begin at 10:15am  
Friday - Regular School Day

#### Sophomores

Monday - Regular School Day  
Tuesday - College Visit, Job Shadow, Attend KCTC  
Wednesday - Plan Test 7:35am - 10:30am Classes Begin at 10:45 AM  
Thursday - Class Scheduling 7:35am - 10:05am Classes Begin at 10:15 AM  
Friday - Regular School Day

#### Freshmen

Regular School week





## Striking for the Win A Closer Look at EKHS Bowler: Derek Antsey

By Linh-Nhu Hoang (15)  
Photo by Mr. Swoboda



**Spare. Spare. STRIKE!**

East Kentwood's boys' varsity bowling team had a rough start to this year's season with an overall record of 0-3-0. With snow still falling this season and a little sun peeking through the clouds, this season is starting to brighten up for them.

Derek Antsey (14) has been bowling for only three years and this would be his third year playing for EKHS; and he seems to be the lucky charm for the team. Why? Antsey scored a perfect

300 on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in a match against the Grandville bulldogs.

### A Portrait of Bowling

**Hoang:** What inspired you to bowl?

**Antsey:** My parents wanted me to find something for after school, so I chose bowling.

**H:** What are your strengths in bowling?

**A:** I think my five-step approach is pretty good.

**H:** Do you have a weakness or flaw in bowling? If so, what is it and what could you do to

change it?  
**A:** A weakness I have is not being able to adapt to changing lane conditions. Once lanes have been used a lot, you have to move where you are throwing the ball.

**H:** Do you have any rituals that you do before a match? If so, what are they?

**A:** I have the same routine before I throw every shot. I take my ball off the rack with two hands, wipe any oil off with my towel, dry my hands in the air for a couple of seconds, and then I step up and throw the ball.

**H:** Do you see yourself bowling in the future (as a professional)?

**A:** I don't think I will become a pro, but I think I will continue to bowl for fun.

### A Striking Night

Let's talk about that perfect 300 on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Not only did Antsey do well during that match, word on the street was that he had also scored a perfect 300 during practice!

**H:** What has been your all-time best match?

**A:** My best previous match was last year at Rockford; I had 433 (224, 219).

**H:** Did you ever think you would ever get a perfect 300 that night?

**A:** I thought I was good enough to throw a perfect game, I just didn't know if I ever would.

**H:** Can you summarize *that* night of the match?

**A:** When I was throwing my 300, I wasn't thinking too much about it. I wasn't nervous until the 12<sup>th</sup> and final shot; but once I started my approach, I was fine.

### Squeaky Clean and Shining Like the Sun

Although this varsity bowling team hasn't won a game yet, there are a lot more matches to come and get to the top. Just like their bowling balls, the sun is shining on these young men and women this season. For those who feel down "in the gutter," Antsey has a little advice for all, "Do not give up and keep practicing." Good luck Falcons on this season of 2014!

## At EK, Hard Work is Taught Young

### East Kentwood Boys Varsity Basketball Team

By Megan Hippe (16)  
Photo by Mr. Swoboda

The East Kentwood boy's varsity basketball team has started off strong in the 2013-2014 season. The team is coached by Jeff Anama and Marty Martins. This year the team consists of only two seniors, Benjamin Hester and Jeffery Drake-Todd. That doesn't slow these boys down, though. With a great record of 5-2 in conference and 10-4 overall, they continue to work hard to take down their competitors. At each practice and game they work hard to improve themselves and make their coaches, parents, and fans proud.

We got the perspective of underclassman, Micah Rosser (a sophomore on the team) and Benjamin Hester (a senior on the team) of how they think the team is doing this season. Rosser says, "I feel that this year's team is a very talented group. Even though we may be young, I feel like our athletic ability gives

us the chance to have a great season." Rosser feels that their team isn't at a disadvantage by only having two seniors he replies with confidence, that having younger players isn't a problem for them and it allows them to really step up as leaders and play to their highest potential.

Hester agrees with Rosser, and thinks that having a lot of younger players will benefit them in the long run because they will have greater potential to get better. Hester says, "Having only two seniors does affect team chemistry but mostly in a positive way. The guys are all easy going and just want to play hard and win."

The team's main goals this season are to be in the Breslin Center holding up the state championship trophy this March and to win the OK Red Conference. Their hard work, dedication, and true love for the sport all will help them to not only defeat who they believe are their biggest

competitors, Hudsonville and West Ottawa, but also to achieve their season goals.

Rosser doesn't think that the variety of age groups effects how they work as a team and bond he says that, "the guys on the team all know each other well and I feel like as the season continues to go on we will grow closer to each other and be a great team." Hester also says, "We have a fantastic group of players and a great group of guys. I love being with my teammates off the court, and I couldn't imagine a better team to go to battle with."

The guys all support and push each other to improve. They look upon each other as equals and their age differences won't change that. With these traits the East Kentwood boy's varsity basketball team is headed towards a fun and successful season, don't miss the excitement.



EK team lines up to hear the national anthem before a game

## Hard Work Pays Off East Kentwood Varsity Wrestling

By Teiah Faulk (15)  
Photo by Mr. Swoboda

Freshman wrestler, Austin Wieczorek can attest to that. Wieczorek placed first in conference and is now on his way to states. Wieczorek is a first year wrestler and owes his victory to his vigorous conditioning. When speaking to him about his win he stated, "It was a shocked feeling, but I was also proud of myself because I knew that all my hard work and dedication paid off. I also know that it is

not the end of the season, so I have to continue to work hard to state." Along with working hard he also had to stay fit and in shape. Wieczorek also added that, "Making sure my body was conditioned along with eating right and healthy, while getting the right amount of sleep. It is important to have a good amount of rest." Well this surely paid off for him. Wieczorek has a total of five wins and one loss granting him

number one in conference and a place at states. Make sure you wish your fellow falcon luck and go cheer him on at Rockford on February 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Cheering Champions

### East Kentwood Varsity Competitive Cheer

By Kamden Hafke (15)  
Photos by Mr. Swoboda



The varsity competitive cheer team doing a backflip in perfect synchronization for the win.

As of February first, East Kentwood's Varsity Cheer team is conference champions! They left all their opponents in the dust, including Grandville, Hudsonville, West Ottawa, and Rockford. Even previously, the lady Falcons have been truly successful this season. Working up to their major win, they won first place Division 1 at West Ottawa Invitational. They rose above the home team and won by 0.1 points. Furthering their success, the ladies earned second place at OK Red Mid-season meet, losing to their previously defeated opponents, West Ottawa won by .62 points.

With only five underclassmen, the team is extremely experienced. Katie Cooper (15) explains, "We are a super experienced and talented team. It's been great teaching the younger ones, but

even they are naturals." Each team member is crucial in a team sport like competitive cheer, and every single person must be on point. With their success this year, it is obvious everyone from freshmen to seniors have been on their "A" game. This perfection does not come easily though, Cooper shares that the ladies even work outside of scheduled practices to refine their moves. During their practices though, "Every single thing we do during practice we really take to heart and execute with precision," says Cooper.

The relationships throughout the team are very important, just as important as the physical aspect. Tyra Hunt (17) expresses, "Being an underclassman on the team has been a lot of fun! I learn a lot from the upperclassmen. I look up to the upperclassmen because they have a lot of experience with cheer."

Clearly, this team chemistry is not lacking through the varsity competitive cheer team. Cooper elaborates, "We are all like best friends and get along really well. We have a bunch of great seniors that have really led the team in a great direction."

Goals set by the team have already been accomplished, but there is one main goal lingering in the hearts of the ladies on the team. "Our team's goals for this season were/are to win conference, do well at districts and regional's, and go to state finals!" Hunt shares. Already being conference champions, their goals are just in reach. East Kentwood's varsity competitive cheer team has been to the state competition for the past thirteen years, and are hoping to keep the tradition going, this time taking it all, and becoming state champions.





# Diverge Yourself into the Wonderful World of Reading

A Review of the New York Time's Bestseller *Divergent*

All Images on Page 5 Courtesy of Google By Kamden Hafke (15)



*Divergent* is the first book in a trilogy of dystopian books by Veronica Roth. Set in future Chicago, 16 year old Beatrice "Tris" Prior lives in a world where factions separate the population by personality.

She is faced with a choice to stay loyal to her family, or be in the faction where she feels that she belongs. This first person novel is on my list of favorite books. Roth packs action, romance, and suspense all into one well rounded novel. It is not overwhelming, nor is it an "I was supposed to

read this for school... but I didn't" book. Cliffhangers at the end of every chapter kept me intrigued throughout the entirety of the story. As much as I say "I hate reading!" I genuinely enjoyed getting lost in this page-turning book. It made me rethink my past complaints about reading. A film based off *Divergent* is coming out this March on the 21st. Tris is being portrayed by Shailene Woodley, famous for her role in *The Secret Life of the*

*American Teenager*. Although the excitement surrounding this future film is not nearly as high as it should be, I am sure that once people give it a chance, they will enjoy getting lost in Tris's world. *Divergent* is often compared to the other popular dystopian trilogy *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Although they both have a strong female character lead, and are in a dystopian world, the two could not be further apart. *Divergent* has quite a

variety of different scenarios throughout the trilogy, while *The Hunger Games* seems to repeat itself. Also, unlike *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* does not have a sappy love triangle between main characters. While reading *Divergent*, there are no torn feelings between Girl A and Boy A, or Girl A and Boy B, allowing the reader to enjoy the entirety of the novel. Both series are amazing in their own ways, but judging simply on the books, I prefer *Divergent*.

Overall, I would recommend *Divergent* to readers of all ages, and even non-readers. The action packed novel has an element everyone can enjoy. It has action for those who need excitement, romance for the hopeless romantics, and suspense for the mystery lovers. So, if you are looking for an entertaining novel for yourself, or a friend, satisfy your need with *Divergent*.



## 3 out of 5 Stars A Movie Review on *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*

By Megan Hippe (16)

*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* was released this past holiday season, on December 25, 2013. This movie, a remake from the original (released in 1947), is based off of the short story by James Thurber. The 2013 version was produced by Samuel Goldwyn Jr., whose father produced the 1947 version. This film stars and is directed by Ben Stiller. Other cast members include: Kristen Wiig, Shirley MacLaine, Adam Scott, and Sean Penn. It is rated PG.

*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* in my opinion isn't fantastic. It's not a "sit on the edge of your seat" action movie, or an endlessly funny comedy. It's not a hopeless romance and it won't take your emotions on a ride. However, if you're looking for an all-around okay movie, I think this one is a good choice.

The movie's storyline is based on a normal middle-

aged man, named Walter Mitty. Walter is a negative assets manager for LIFE Magazine. Nothing special has ever occurred in his life, except in his frequent adventurous daydreams. The most these daydreams had ever led to are about twenty seconds of him zoning out. Until one day, Walter decides to stop living his life through his fantasies and actually go on the adventure that will change his life forever.

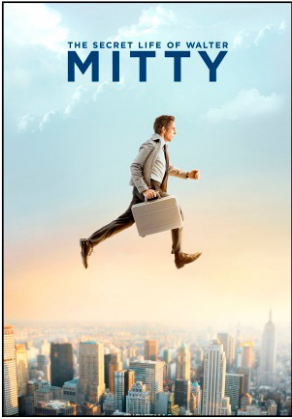
It all starts when Walter is told that LIFE will be producing their final cover, due to their decision to transfer to an online magazine. This leaves Walter and his fellow co-workers nervous for future cuts and downsizing in staff, one person particularly nervous is Walter's crush Cheryl, played by Kristen Wiig. However, Walter soon realizes that being cut is sure his

future if he is unable to find an important negative sent to him from famous photographer, Sean O'Connell, played by Sean Penn.

After looking "everywhere" Walter comes to the conclusion that Sean has forgotten to send the negative he asked to be on the cover. Walter must stall his boss with lies and gets on a plane to Greenland to find Sean. On his adventure Walter gets in a fight with a big, drunken pilot, jumps off a plane into freezing water with sharks in it, rides a bike a hundred miles to a volcano that erupts before he can reach Sean. Walter must then return home and tell his boss he couldn't find the photo, and is fired.

This is where the story seems to end, but Walter's Mom has one last clue for where Sean is, the Himalayas. Walter must then befriend angry warriors, and trek up the freezing mountains with natives. Finally, he finds Sean and discovers that Sean hid the photo in the wallet that he gave him. Walter flies home and finds the picture. He then delivers the picture to his old boss to succeed at the last job Sean trusted him with, but he never looks at it. Until one day Cheryl and him (now dating) are walking down the street and see that the final cover has been released. Sean dedicated the final cover "to all the people who worked hard to make LIFE what it was" and pictured Walter Mitty sitting on a bench observing negatives.

I would rate this movie 3 out of 5 stars because it was a good all around movie that made me smile. I enjoyed the characters and the storyline was enjoyable. Even though this movie isn't on my top ten movie list, I would still recommend seeing *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.



## "Best Five Dollar Burger" ...or nah?

### Five Guys Restaurant Review

By Katherine Durston (14)

#### First Impression 1.5/5

Before I walked into Five Guys I had high hopes for the restaurant. I heard it being raved about and was excited to eat a good hamburger. The outside looked fine, it seemed like a normal burger joint. Five Guys is located by Rivertown Mall in Grandville. It was not extremely busy but there were a few customers. Right when you walk in the smell of grease hits you, and hard. It was a restaurant where you order your food then sit down and wait for it to be done.

#### Setting 1.5/5

The setting was one of the worst restaurants I have ever been to. There were stacks of potatoes all along the right side that seemed pointless and messy. The air reeked of grease and old potatoes. The floors were covered with water, dirt, and nut shells. They keep their music extremely loud and I could barely hear the person sitting right next to me. The chairs were hard and awkwardly placed. The setting just screamed dirty burger joint and I was not expecting that at all.

#### Prices 2/5

A regular hamburger is five dollars and some change and a cheeseburger is six dollars and change. In order to get fries you are required to



buy them separately. Any toppings on the burgers are free and you also pay for the drink separately. In my opinion, the place was much overpriced. The total for two people added up being close to \$25 which seems like too much for a burger joint. I could easily go to Applebees and spend that much on a good, quality meal. The money might not have been a problem if the food wasn't so greasy, but I will get into details about that in a minute. If you are looking for a good, cheap burger I do not believe this is the place to go. They claim to have the "best five dollar burger" which would be fine if the burger was actually worth five dollars. I believe they should at least have some sort of basket deal if you buy a drink and fries because buying all that extra adds up quickly.

#### Service 3.5/5

The service is hard to talk about since there was not much of it. After you order your food you sit down

and wait for them to call your number. It took a good fifteen minutes for them to make two burgers and fries which I think is a little on the long side. None of the employees seemed to get up to clean or do anything of that nature. They kept the music extremely loud and would talk loud to one another. I could hear all of their conversations sitting from my seat, but I could hardly hear the person next to me. I do not think they have very good service; however, the employees were well-mannered.

#### Food 1/5

Let me begin by saying I will never buy this food again. When we got handed our paper bag we could see grease leaking out from the bag. The burgers were big, which was nice, and they didn't taste too bad. However, they were definitely not worth the price. They gave you a lot of fries in a large which would be a good thing if they didn't look so salty and greasy.

## I Don't Want Any Moe Review of Moe's Southwestern Grill

By Isabel Meier (15)

The size or set up of any restaurant does not matter nearly as much as the service and food. Opening the front door for the first time, I noticed that the setup was very similar in style to sandwich shops like Subway or Quiznos. Walking into any new restaurant can be overwhelming in general, but with an unorganized menu and unhelpful staff, my first impression of Moe's Southwestern Grill was not great.

Looking at the menu, my mind was moving at an uncharted pace. The baffling arrangement of words made it nearly impossible to figure out what to order. Being that the place was rather slow, it should have been easy for an employee to help out a new and confused customer, but going without a greeting or even a friendly look, asking a question seemed quite inappropriate.

I continued on in the line to find the vexed employee waiting for me to cough up my request. Her

facial expression successfully represented her bored attitude as well as her overwhelming readiness to end the night. I put in my order, noticing her stinginess per each ingredient along the food line. Moving along, I made my way down to the cash register. Finally I was greeted with some well-mannered customer service.

After grabbing some drinks and taking seats, the people in my company and I began grubbing. The first thing I noticed was the thickness of the Queso. Coming in three sizes, the white creamy Queso seemed to seriously lack in taste. Its substandard aftertaste seemingly made it even worse.

Disappointed, I moved on to my burrito bowl, complete with chicken, cheese, Pico de Gallo, guacamole, rice and lettuce. The dry tortilla was not favorable, but the fresh ingredients, chips, and myriad

of salsas were satisfying enough to compensate. Not overly content with my meal choice, I finished off the bowl and left the joint.

Overall, I'd say the experience was fairly short of fantastic. The dry attitude of most of the employees, as well as the dissatisfying taste of the queso was memorable, but definitely not in a good way. On the positive side, the Burrito Bowl portion of the meal along with the chips and salsa somewhat made up for the losses. Therefore, being that my first experience was so obviously not fantastic, I cannot say Moe's Southwestern Grill would be a top choice for my next dine-out meal.





## Bearing The Cold Hats for students

By Teiah Faulk (15)

With the harsh cold from this freezing winter season, you'll need proper protection. Winter hats normally range from \$10- \$30 dollars, but seriously, "Ain't nobody got time for that!"

Mrs. Dorothy Schuman, 79 year old mother of Mrs. Stakenas, (the English and Latin teacher) has just the solution! Schuman has made at least fifty hats for East Kentwood students for over a year now. Schuman has been making hats and donating them for students in colder climates and Florida locals through the National Airstream Trailer

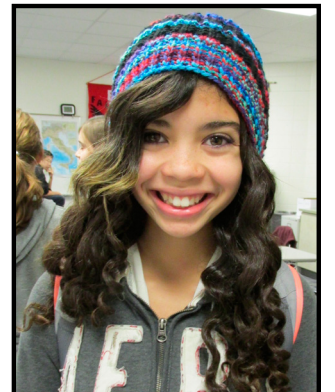
Organization.

She no longer is a member of the National organization, but still continues to make hats. She pays for the materials and postal fare with her own money -bless her soul-, but on occasion has received donated yarn for her hats. Originally she sent the hats through the National Airstream group during summer conferences and had never seen any students receive or sport her hats until now.

Since she has provided them for our students- who are seen proudly sporting these creative crafts-she has now

seen her hats in use. These hats can be customized in any colors requested, with stripes and other customizations. Schuman hopes that students will appreciate her hats and take care of them and put them to use in this chilling weather. Schuman also has hoped in doing this she will spur others to do things for other people.

She is currently not taking any requests due to a blister developing on her finger and is taking this time to rest, but will continue to make them in the future.



## "WE" THE FALCONS

EK's We The People competes at  
the state level competition

Gabriela Mayorga (14)

Constitutional and current issues are the basis of We The People. Taking second in the state in their competition, there is no doubt the team has made their way to the top. Preparing for this competition took a lot of time and hard work. East Kentwood's team is the longest standing team in the state, for a consecutive 27 years. With a bit of a smaller team of 13 people, it made it a bit harder to compete against other teams, but that surely did not stop them. Lots of constant practice and determination is what helped the team get the high placement they did.

The actual competition consists of a panel of prestigious people who are very knowledgeable of the subject. Students are expected to make a response to the question that is asked with a one page paper that is strictly four minutes long. Now the tough part is that the students

have to answer the prompt with no notes or preparation. So with that they have to practice for hours, even on Sundays for three hours in a court house.

What really helped the team win this year was the effort put in by the students. After constant drafts of response and countless hours of practicing it all paid off in the end. Even though they only had 13 people on the team that was no barrier to them. Competing against other teams with 30-40 students still didn't knock them down. Coming really short from first place will give them the initiative to go even further next year.

As said by the We The People coach Mrs. Baker, "I've had students come back and tell me that this class taught me how to teach myself," shows what kind of impact this group really

makes. Being a part of this group gives people multiple skills to further their education and develops them as a more educated person. So if this sounds like it is interesting to you, Mrs. Baker is more than welcoming to new students for the next year. Also make sure to congratulate the team members on their big win!

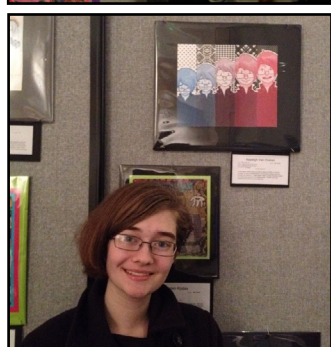


## Award Winning Art Students

The following students won awards for their art that was displayed at the MAEA regional art show:

- Kane Koning (17)
- Jessica McTheeney (17)
- Kayleigh Van Overen (14)
- Brandon Welch (14)
- Sarah Dennis (15)
- Amanda Klaasen (15)
- Oo Reh (15)
- Laura Wilcox (14)

Photos by Mrs. Tran and Mrs. Van Overen



## SENIOR ALL NIGHT PARTY

Theme: Throw Back to the 90's

When: Saturday, May 17th  
10 PM to 4 AM

Where: EKHS

Tickets go on sale December 16th

Ticket forms are in the main office

Ticket price is \$65 if paid by April 3rd, \$75

Thereafter

*Due to the nature of this event*

**TICKETS ARE NONREFUNDABLE**