



THE LEXINGTON CONCORD

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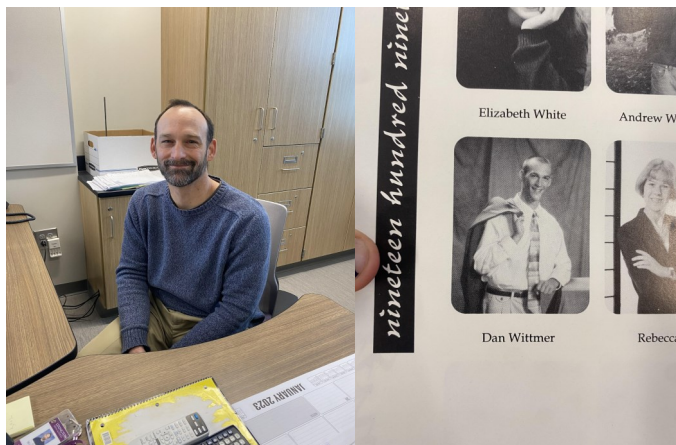
The Return of Lexington Graduates

By Darcie R.

Lexington has a rich and fascinating past, and many teachers at Lexington were a part of this history as graduates of Lexington High School. Time spent in high school is usually time spent desiring to be somewhere else. However, a recent study through the U.S Census Bureau and Harvard University found almost 60% of young adults live within 10 miles, and 80% of young adults live within 100 miles of where they grew up. Lexington is in a great location and has many amenities to offer. Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Snow Trails, Kingwood, the Ohio Bird Sanctuary are just a few of the recreational activities located within Richland County. After graduating from college, several Lexington graduates came back to teach at their alma mater. These teachers include Mrs. Eifrid, Mr. Wittmer, Mrs. Drueschler, Mr. Javurek, Mr. Kathrein, and Mr. Eichorn. It is an incredibly unique experience to come back to the high school one graduated from. Thank you to these teachers for coming back and sharing their Lexington High School experiences with the students.



Mrs. Eifrid was a 1989 Graduate



Mr. Wittmer was a 1998 Graduate



Mrs. Drueschler was a 2002 Graduate



Mr. Javurek was a 2004 Graduate



Mr. Kathrein received his honorary diploma in 2002, but graduated in 1989.



Mr. Eichorn was a 1999 Graduate



Note from the IT editor

Federal law says that schools can only use first names when referring to minors on the internet. So you will see the authors and anyone else mentioned by first name only, sorry for any confusion this might cause.

Watch the scenic routes of Richland County:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9uJs7xezjw>

Learn more about the demographics of Lexington, Ohio:

<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/lexington-oh>

Other videos about Lexington, Ohio:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PGUf_skIDA



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Lex Art Club

By Owen G.



Art Club is a creative environment that anyone may join. This is the inaugural year for the Art Club at Lexington High School. Ruby B., is the creator and the leader of the club. Ruby has aspirations of bringing art into the lives of others by becoming an art teacher. She started Art Club because it was something that she had been wanting for a long time. She says that she has loved art ever since she was a young kid. She would look at things around her and find character and feelings within inanimate objects. These creative outlooks on life are what she wants to share with others. Ruby has big plans for the Art Club in the future. One thing she would like to accomplish is to help create the sets for the upcoming high school musical, *Into the Woods*. Other possibilities are having an art gallery full of the work created in Art Club. The club has already helped make decorations for the Winter Formal. There are many opportunities to explore a student's creativity. You can contact Ruby or Mr. Hamman if there are any questions pertaining to the art club.

Meet the Clubs at LHS

By: Amelia H. and Emma W.

Student Council:

Student Council is a student-run organization where Lexington scholars run, elect, and perform as a government. They all collaborate and join in the process of putting together school related events. Recently, the Student Council has been planning and organizing a winter formal. This dance was held February 4th. The tickets were just five dollars and the proceeds went to various charities. The advisor, Mrs. Bigley has gone above and beyond to put this dance together and oversee the whole process, while the students have been working on the finishing touches.

National Honors Society:

Students in the National Honor Society are the leaders in the school. Currently, NHS is doing a catalyst fundraiser for mental health, and they are competing against our rival, Ontario High School. The advisor, Ms. Giefer, has organized the events and enjoys coaching these special kids. The senior officers include: Garrett M., Chloe D., Neveah F., and Natalie Q.

Key Club:

The Lexington Key Club is a community service based club. Recently, the members and the advisor, Mrs. McCready, put together "Breakfast with Santa". This was held in the high school cafeteria and children and their families could come and eat breakfast, while Santa Claus visited. Members of Key Club volunteered to come and serve the people that joined. The president of Lexington Key Club is senior, Nevaeh F.

LEOs Club

By Darcie R.

Advisor: Mr. Knuckles
Instagram: lexington_leo



LEOs is an acronym for Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity. They strive to help the local community in any way necessary while gaining leadership experience and having fun. LEOs club had a busy holiday season serving their community by wrapping presents at Crossroads Church, creating goodie bags for impoverished children who attend Western Elementary, helping with the Mighty Micah Benefit, and making a holiday ornament for the Lexington tree at Kingwood Gardens. The club will have a meeting in the near future to discuss upcoming events after giving everyone a little break to finish the grading period and recuperate after the holidays. Future events include creating Easter goodie bags for impoverished children who attend Western, having a fun night, and several other community service projects.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc4KhGgmKxk>

Bio Club

Advisor: Mrs. Conover

Bio Club aims to protect the environment, spread awareness, and encourage others to be activists. Recently, Bio Club attended the Christmas Bird Count at Gorman Nature Center. Members went out on the snowy property of Gorman and went birding with trained birders. The different types of birds spotted were reported back to the visitor center. The information was used for gathering an accurate account of the birds on the property. Members were able to gain valuable skills associated with birding, and learned how to identify several different species of birds. One morning, a traditional Bio Club Breakfast occurred. Mrs. Conover made pancakes and students brought in side dishes. They shared in fellowship and fun. Looking towards the future, Bio Club has been tasked with creating a greenhouse for the courtyard. They are currently researching the best way to achieve this and how to fund-raise. Additionally, they are looking to attend the Warren Rupp Observatory and organize their annual Bee Awareness project. Want to learn more about birding?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3zv80_0EfY

Want to learn more about the Gorman Nature Center?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrVU-mZJ5pY

destinationmansfield.com/venue/gorman-nature-center-2/



Mock Trial

By Olivia W.

The Lexington Mock Trial Team is a great way for students to learn about the law, trial process, and the justice system. Recently, the team went to the Richland County Courthouse. The team has also competed against teams from Danville High School and Cloverleaf High School. In the four month season, the teams consisted of attorneys, witnesses, and timekeepers. The attorneys on the mock trial are Wesley H., Lydia S., Scott B., Jenna L., Kaya T., Ben W., Addy V., and Gabby W. The trial attorneys learn legal procedures, argumentative tactics, and questioning techniques. Additionally, the mock trial has Anna M., Jacob M., Natalie B., Vynce H., Ellie H., Alex T., Grant M., and Brandon W. as their witnesses. Darcy R., Natalie L., and Emma T. are Lexington's mock trial timekeepers. Mrs. Olecki has run the mock trial team for many years now and is just starting the club up again. The trial team did not go to any tournaments this year as this was the first team to be assembled post-COVID. However, the team's goal for the coming years is to repeat as state champions.

More on page 10



Checkmate

By Anna G., Maja S., and Andrea R.



Checkmate and chess mates. The Chess Club meets every Wednesday during Advisory in Mr. Davis' classroom to challenge each other in this entertaining game. Students don't only learn expert moves, they develop their ability to focus and encourage higher level thinking. The club is open to any student and any level of play.

We wanted to know the thoughts of some of the members about this club, as well as their opinions about the game in particular. We asked Mr. Davis, who stated, "one thing I really like about chess is that it improves students'

ability to focus, concentrate, strategize, problem solving and spatial thinking. Promoting the chess club helps students to develop those important skills and transfer them to every area of life, not only academics".

Adison D., one of their frequent members said, "I've been in the chess club for four years now and I still really enjoy it. I like the game because there is no luck involved and the person with the better strategy wins. I can learn a lot from Mr. Davis so I really enjoy playing against him. I like to play against other students as well because my chance of winning against them is greater than winning against Mr. Davis."

Olivia P. describes, "I think it is a fun activity. It is an educational and fun way to learn chess and open to anyone. Even if you don't know how to play, you'll learn. I joined this year, and it's been a good experience so far. Everyone is super nice and guiding even if I've made really stupid mistakes."

Finally, club member Cora P. said, "Chess Club is an enjoyable environment where students can not only improve their chess skills, but also chat and compete against friends!"

There is no doubt that Chess Club is a great opportunity not only to learn about chess but also to spend time with friends!



Youth and Government

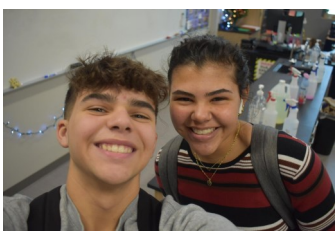
By: Audrey N. and Troy K.

Youth and Government is a school club made up of some of the most intelligent and hard working leaders of Lexington. The advisor is Mr. Kathrein. In this club, students want to make a difference in the state by creating laws to change society for the better. The group breaks into partners and uses a mock legislative process where they introduce bills to the Ohio Youth Assembly. The bill is read and debated in committee. If the bill is passed, then it is taken to the assembly floor for consideration. Any bill that is passed in the Youth Assembly is introduced to the Ohio General Assembly. Lexington has had students who have successfully passed bills and put into effect at the state level. This is a great opportunity for students to get political experience doing something important and making changes.



Valentine's Day

By Ashley C. and Eva M.



Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world and is a celebration of love and romance. Valentine's Day is not only for people who are in relationships but is a day to show who you love and care about on February 14th. Whether you are out with your loved one or staying at home with your friends, you will always be eating an obscene amount of chocolate. During the month of February special treats and candies are sold.

Candy hearts, chocolate roses, and definitely heart shaped boxes of chocolates are big sellers. People also buy flowers. The red rose is a symbol of love. Students often buy flowers for their parents and teachers. Valentine's day can be celebrated with a significant other, but it can also be a good day to spend time with friends and family. At school siblings often show their love for each other like Jaybyx M. and Jazbee M. Couples spend more time together in and out of school on Valentine's day. Rylee F. and Cole E. are looking forward to spending their first Valentine's day together.



How I Have Changed

By Lyla D, Cadie H., and Emily S.



People are always changing throughout the many phases of life. High school is an important phase with many changes. Many of the students that were interviewed said that they have changed more during high school than any other phase. They have changed in their looks and mind. Nevaeh F., stated, "some advice I would give, is to stay focused on your work, but prioritize time for yourself and try to make the best of your high school experience." Overall High school is about change, and new experiences.

Attention Seniors

Turn in your senior pictures to the yearbook by April 3rd!!!!

Email them to Mr. Kathrein

kathrein.michael@cloud.lexington.k12.oh.us

If your family is interested in purchasing a senior ad for the yearbook, reach out to Mr. Kathrein before April 3rd.

Grapplers Take the Mat

By: Emily S., Cadie H., and Lyla D.



Each phase of life brings great changes. Some could argue the high school brings about the biggest of life changes. Students change in size, strength, and skill. High School is a vital phase of person's life. Many life-long lessons are learned in high school. Being a high school wrestler enhances the growth of the individual. Wrestling requires a great work ethic, determination, and grit. This year the wrestlers have done so well. The program has been transformed. Last season the team finished with just four wrestlers competing. This season they have over 20 student-athletes

in competition. Coach John Watkins, has the team headed in the right direction. Coach Watkins was asked about the season and he replied "last week we wrestled at Fredericktown. Our team consisted of all Freshmen and one junior and we were a match from being a runner-up. It's very exciting watching them get better! They're all playing very well and trying their best." Coach Watkins, has years of experience to share with the young group. He adds, "I began coaching in 1989, and I have enjoyed the experiences." Coach Watkins is very proud of his young charges and is excited to see their growth.



Live To Spin

By: Kailee R.

Winter Guard is a sport that not everyone knows. However, if you have watched the marching band at halftime or after a football game, then you have seen something similar. Most marching bands will have a color guard which is a section in that band that only does visual performance rather than musical performance. They use equipment such as flags, rifles, and sabers to visualize the show. Now take that group, put it in a gym with a tarp, with recorded music, and that is the winter guard. Our Lexington High School Winter Guard travels around the state on weekends to compete in Ohio Indoor Performing Arts (OIPA) competitions.

Their show this year is titled "King Of Your Heart" and the show consists of performances with flags and wooden rifles. The show begins with a duet between Sylvia M. and Ava R. on flag and the rest of the group jazz running their way to their flag to get ready for the opening number. Throughout the show you experience the emotions of falling in love and being truly happy while they toss their flags and use intricate techniques to display their rifle skills. The show ends with a flag feature that displays everyone's level of skill from rookie to 7th season guard members.

The winter guard is committed to making the best out every season and making sure everyone in the audience experiences some sort of emotion. At winter guard competitions you will find multiple guards from around the state, along with world class guards such as Onyx and independent groups such as Phoenix and Collage Winter Guard. Some winter guards even have what are called, "Guard Clinics," which is basically when a professional group hosts a day where people can sign up to spend a day with them in training and learn technique skills and sometimes even portions of the show.

All of these winter guards come together at competition and cheer each other on. Sometimes you will even hear other guards yelling at other guards saying "I love you..." Upcoming events for the winter guard are on February 18th at Firestone High School, and March 19th, at Hilliard Darby.



Cagers Improving

By Rylee F. and Katie C.



This season, the girls varsity team had a bit of a rocky start with injuries, overtime losses, and many close games. The record shows wins and losses but not effort. Both teams gave 100% and showed how much they want to improve. The JV team finished with a winning season while beating some of the top teams in the league like Clyde, Shelby, and West Holmes. The varsity team starts tournament play against the fourth seed, Shelby Whippets. Everyone is cheering on the girls this year and we're hoping to see them go far in the tournament. Good luck Lady Lex!



A Perfect Game

By Carter W. and Jacob B.



Bowling, in comparison, is similar to Transformer's, as there is more than meets the eye. Most people do not realize the intricacies that take place when a bowler takes to the lane. It takes extreme concentration, tons of practice, and lots of patience. These athletes are the few that are willing to take this challenge.

During this season, the girls' bowling team was dominating the competition. Their team stands strong through all of the matches, and work perfectly together when it comes time for baker games. Cheering each other on, keeping old traditions, and starting new

ones are the aspects of this team that make them separate from the rest.

For the boys, this year has been a year of new beginnings. Jacob B. and Bailey C., who were fighting for a varsity spot last year, are now both at the top of the varsity team. With four of the five varsity players graduating last year, almost all of the team is going through a whole new experience. Along with the new team comes new traditions and values, starting off with more teamwork. By cheering each other on and lifting each other up, the team will have a bond they will never forget.

Dunk, Dunk, Win

By Ruthie T. and Aubrey C.



The 2022-2023 boys' basketball season is in the middle of an amazing season. Their record is 16-2, and their conference record being 10-1. Their first game was against West Holmes, a big conference game! They were able to put down 73 points that night, which led to a 20 point win. The boys work hard every practice and every game. They have five seniors who are a big part of the team's success. Baden F., is the team's leading scorer . In addition to the senior class the program is loaded with talented underclassmen. This talent includes Brayden F. and Gavin H. The team is looking forward to

starting tournament play with aspirations of a deep run.

Making a Splash

By Ella D. and Mollie W.



The Girls' Swim Team is in full splash mode. The Lexington swimmers are taking on hours of practice and hard work. Most of the meets take a few hours, but it is the dedication that keeps them coming back and keeping them positive during it all. This year's team consists of a few strong and confident seniors to lead the underclassmen. After swimming all four years they know a thing or two about how to train for certain competition. The girls have taken the younger swimmers under their wings and are guiding them through this four month season. Senior Natalie Q. states, "my favorite thing about swimming is how close we are as a team. Everyone is always so supportive of each other to try and be the best that they can be, that's what makes the hard practices fun, and the competition part so rewarding." The bond between the girls will continue to thrive because of the rivalry coming up. The team is preparing for the Sectional Meet, and hopefully the District Meet, and even get the opportunity to race at the State competition.

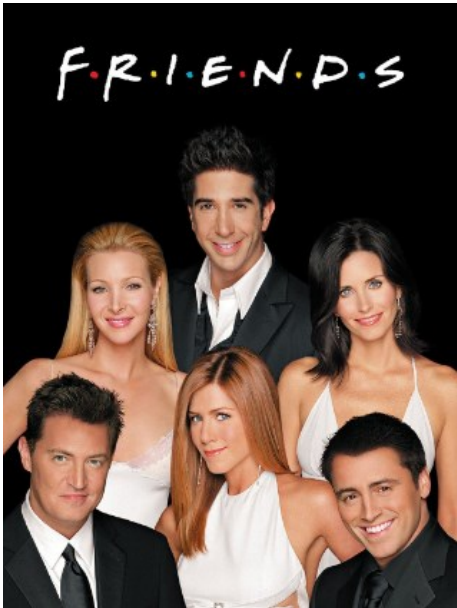
Lexington's dive team is having a good season. The girls' and boys' dive team have held the reputation of doing good every season for many years, this year they have kept the winning tradition. Sadly since the season is coming to an end, we have to say goodbye to many amazing seniors, we wish them the best and to keep up the wonderful work.

Watch on TV 2023

By: Emily W.



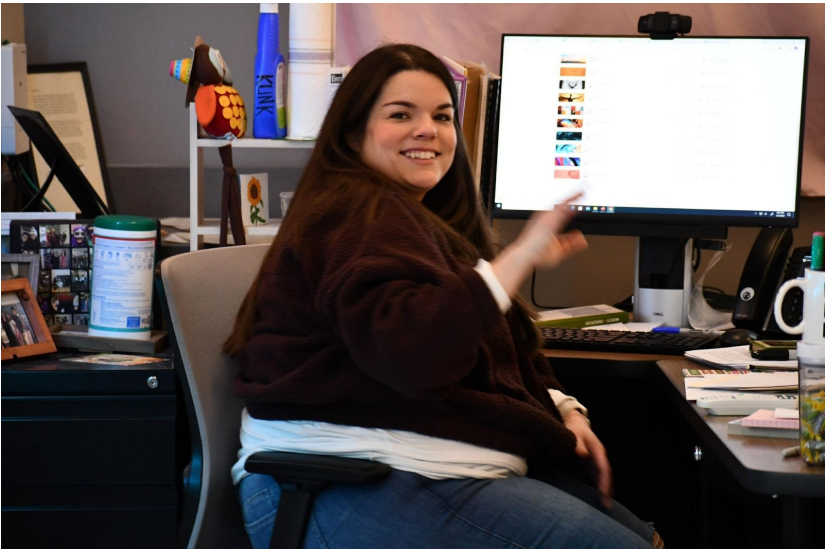
Determining what to watch on the television can be a daunting task because there are so many networks scattered over hundreds of channels. Once your favorite series is over, you're most likely thinking, well what should I watch now? The most popular streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, HBO and Apple TV offer a wide variety of different shows for different ages. A classic, but still popular show for high school students is Gilmore Girls (Netflix, rated ages 11 plus). Gilmore Girls portrays a happy small-town life very similar to Lexington, Ohio. Everyone knows each other and the town is close knit as a community. Rory Gilmore and her mother Lorelai Gilmore are best friends and do almost everything together. They overcome their small battles daily alongside the comfort of each other. This show is seven seasons long and binge worthy. Another classic but still popular TV show is FRIENDS. This show is another comfort show that has the overall theme of friendship. Set in Manhattan, Rachel, Ross, Monica, Chandler, Joey, and Phoebe depend on each other daily during their twenties and early thirties. They are all best friends and have so much fun along the whopping 10 seasons of the show! Not to mention the show FRIENDS aired in 1994 so it takes you back to a different era than today. Both these shows are heartwarming classics that are worth checking out!



Welcome Mrs. Klink

By Addison N.

This year at Lexington High School we have a couple new teachers, and one of those teachers is Ms. Klink. She is one of our very kind and hardworking English teachers. This year will be her 10th year teaching, and what better way to celebrate a decade of teaching than coming to a new school. Ms. Klink previously taught at Madison for seven years and a school in West Virginia for her first two years. She did grow up in Medina, Ohio, so not far from here. Ms Klink also said in her free time she enjoys reading, playing board games, and hanging out with her friends. A quote from her is, “advice I would give to high school students is enjoy the time while you're here because you will miss it when you're gone, even if you don't believe you will. I have so many kids who tell me, you were right, I do miss high school. And people never regret working hard in high school, they regret not working hard.” She was also giving advice to new teachers and she would tell them to not to sweat the small stuff and get to know your students. Lexington is very blessed to have a new English teacher who is as kind-hearted as Ms. Klink.



Purple Pride

Maggie	A
Alexa	B
Natalie	B
Chloe	B
Kaitlyn	B
Isaiah	C
Kate	C
Cam	C
Darius	D
Levi	D
Miles	E
Tyler	G
Luci	G
David	G
Hannah	G
Jesse	H
Jacob	H
Megan	H
Abby	H
DJ	J
Callie	K
Kennedy	L
Paige	L
Trevor	M
Rael	M
Conner	N
Reese	N
Kayla	P
Cameron	S
Abby	S
Aidan	S
Michael	S
Lilly	T
Kylie	T
Chris	W

Lexington High School has started a new program to encourage positivity. Teachers can issue a Purple Pride Award to any student they see practicing positivity and doing things to make the high school a better place. The list to the left are the students who have already earned a Purple Pride Award.



The Cowboy Award



Each issue we will pass out the Cowboy Award in honor of John Wayne. The Hollywood vision of the cowboy here is one of selflessness. The cowboy helps others at a great personal sacrifice. The Journalism Club is constantly on the lookout for those students who display the Cowboy spirit.

January Winner: Garret M.

A Bit More on Mock Trial

By Addison V.

This years' case was *In Re. S. Khan*. The case, a motion to suppress, followed school misconduct and criminal implications after a fictional school fundraiser was sabotaged by an exploding candy prank. Fictional character, Stevie Khan, was suspected of being behind the incident and then made incriminating statements while being questioned by the dean of students and school resource officer. Ohio mock trial teams were tasked with formulating arguments for both defense, arguing that the motion to suppress be granted, and State, arguing the motion to suppress be denied. Each team includes attorneys and witnesses. The teams then conduct trials against other schools before real judges!



The LHS Mock Trial team consists of 19 total students who were split into four smaller teams. Out of the 19 total students 8 are freshmen, 2 are sophomores, and 8 are juniors. Jacob M., a witness, as the only senior. Team Advisor Michelle Olecki is assisted by attorney Joe Olecki, magistrate Kristen Pscholka-Gartner, and Christy Ellis-Trolan, a Tiffin University Professor.

One team consisted of state attorneys Scott B. and Jenna L., along with their witnesses Ellison H., who portrayed SRO Ari Nowak, and Grant M., who portrayed Dean Remi Silva. Their defense counterpart consisted of witnesses Alex T., portraying Stevie Khan, and Brandon W., portraying Administrative Assistant Rowan Tesfaye. Along with their attorneys Addison V. and Gabrielle W.

Attorneys Wesley H. and Lydia S. headed the other defense team with their witnesses, siblings Anna and Jacob M. Anna portrayed Rowan Tesfaye and Jacob portrayed Stevie Khan. Scarlet's state attorneys were Kaya T. and Ben W. Kaya and Ben appeared alongside witnesses Natalie B., and Vynce H., There are also three timekeepers on the team, Darcie R., Emma T., and alternate Natalie L.

Lexington's team, despite having a diversity in grade levels, consisted of all first year mock trial members none of whom really knew what to expect going into team. However, their hard work and determination allowed them to go toe to toe with some of the best teams in the state. Lexington competed at a mock trial competition January 27, 2023, at the Richland County Court House. The other schools at Friday's competition were Danville and Cloverleaf, two of the top teams in the state. Ashland, a usual mock trial machine, was also scheduled to attend but was prevented from competing due to the weather. Several trials were conducted over the course of the day with Lexington competing in four of them, once against Cloverleaf and three against Danville. By the end of the competition Danville and Lexington were the final two teams standing.

In one of the morning trials, with Judge Naumoff presiding, the judges stated that everyone did great and that all four attorneys did amazing in their direct examinations and really knew their stuff. The judges also gave two awards at the end of the trial, including the Outstanding Attorney award.

"This was a hard choice to make and was very close," said Naumoff referring to how close it was between Danville's Isabella H. and Lex's Addison V., with Isabella ultimately winning the award.

The team's other morning trial against Cloverleaf brought proud moments. In fact, one of the judges, magistrate Mackenzi Mayer, said that Kaya T.'s closing statement was very well done. The three judges also awarded sophomore Natalie B. with the Outstanding Witness award. "You held your ground. I liked how you talked (directly) to the judges," Mayer said.

Natalie wasn't the only Lex member to take the award. In three out of the team's four trials Lex took the Outstanding Witness award. In one of the team's afternoon trials Ellie H. was also given the accolade. "You were so believable, I would have thought you were an SRO for a living," remarked the presiding judge, who also praised Jenna L. for her cross examination and Scott B. on his rebuttal to the other team's closing argument. The last team member who was titled best witness was Anna M. The judges loved her portrayal of Rowan Tesfaye as she, and her teammates, held their own against Danville's Varsity team.

The long day of competing ended with an award ceremony where it was announced that Danville would be the team moving on to Regionals. Still the whole day was a triumph for the LHS team. The LHS mock trial team had a wonderful first year back and each member showed lots of personal growth! They stated that together they became a true team and despite not walking away as official champs, they couldn't have been happier with their performances.

My Sweet Betty

By Addison V.

Quickly, oh so quickly I run as fast as my feet can take me. My bare feet gliding on the grass through the shadows of the great oak trees. It was as if I were a lioness chasing a gazelle through the African planes. The bright yellow daisies swayed in the wind almost as if they were waving at me. My favorite sundress's dim orange skirt gracefully followed me through the tall grass. Then, oh, oh I could see it, the water flowing in such harmony like a thousand synchronized swimmers. The bright blue water shone like diamonds under the moonlight. My knees hit the ground as soon as I reached its magnificent beauty.

I looked down at my disfigured reflection when I heard a voice. It started off quiet but grew and grew, getting louder with every passing second. It whispered as if it knew *me but, still even with its growing volume I could not make out what it was saying.*

"Hello, hello! Is someone there?" I asked but, with no reply. The voice kept talking but my ears could not seem to translate. Was it a warning or a friend saying hello? Was it the voice of someone I knew or a total stranger? Or maybe it was just my conscience. Then, just as I started to think my mind was playing tricks on me, I managed to make out what the voice was saying.

"Oh, my child, it is time to head off. Now my dear child you must get up!" it said. It continued to repeat this in a soft and peaceful tone. I then realized it is not only a girl's voice, but it is also a familiar voice. One of warmth and comfort like a fire burning in the hearth late into the evening. It was the calming voice of my Aunt Rosalie. So, I began to shout for her but she never responded. I then could only assume she was hiding beneath the lily pads. My eyes slowly closed, my mouth locked, and my fingers pinched my nose preparing for an embrace. I carefully began to inch towards the water. I felt the cold, wetness on the tip of my face until my entire head was submerged under the surface.

I slowly opened my eyes, to see my Auntie staring at me. However, she was staring down at me, not up at me. She was bone dry and I was bone dry! I was not wearing my favorite sundress anymore and I was no longer surrounded by the yellow daisies. Instead I was wrapped in my grandmother's quilt, a pillowy cloud below my head, and my aunt sitting at the foot of my bed. A dream! It was all just a dream!

I cracked my eyes to put Rosalie under the illusion that I was still sleeping, as I pondered over my very realistic dream. My *very realistic dream that did so well to capture my happy place. The pond, the flowers, the moon. Rosalie continued to shake me and tell me to get up, but I lay still motionless.*

I could see she was dressed in a navy-blue gown with a long lace trimmed skirt that fell to her ankles. She wore brown buckle sandals. Her long dark hair trailed down her back in perfect curls, all the way to her hip.

Then, before I could say a word, she threw off the covers and yanked me out of bed. There was then a loud creak as I landed flat on my back on the pine flooring. She bent down to the ground and kissed me on the forehead. She then left, closing the door behind her. With a tired struggle, I got up and opened my wardrobe. I stared intensely at each outfit, trying to picture myself in them. Eventually I decided on a green dress my mother had made for me. It had a knee length skirt and little white flowers on the collar. There was a small tear on the hem and a missing button.

We then spent the slowest six hours of my life in a hot, cramped chapel learning about the gospel. The pastor then gave a sermon on how the lord himself will be the savior of us all. Afterwards we attended a small gathering in the church's basement. There we feasted on fruit, tea, fig pudding, and freshly baked yule bread. Rosalie and I then walked home, only stopping once so Rosalie could listen to a street performer playing the bagpipes. There were many street performers near our home. We lived in one of the poorest villages in Scotland. All though, these would be my last few days in Scotland.

Continued on page 12

Since my mother joined the angels above, Rosalie has had to raise me on her own. So, she decided we would travel to a far away land called America, in order to live with my grandparents in Long Island. That night we ate pork loins with sweet peas and cabbage. We then began preparing ourselves for the long and grand endeavor ahead. The next three days we spent packing the very little belongings we could take with us on the ship.

Aunt Rosalie studied the journey. She carefully planned what we would do once we reached America. How we would find my Grandmother and Grandfather's house, where she would find work, and where I would receive a proper education.

I spent my time reading an American novel my Granny had sent me, called "A Tale of Two Cities" by a guy named Charles Dickens. I always chuckle at the name, Dickens. The novel was very wonderful at painting beautiful pictures of London and Paris. Only if it could tell me what New York was like. I also tried to practice my American accent so that I could fit in when we arrived.

Finally, it was our last night in Scotland. I knelt at the side of my bed and prayed to God that he would watch over me and Rosalie, guide us on our journey. Then I crawled under my Granny's quilt since it was the lone cover I had left. For most of the night I laid restless staring at nothing but the bare ceiling in a bare room. Eventually, I must have fallen asleep since when I awoke the sun was smiling in on me.

The house had risen into utter chaos as Rosalie and I got ready and headed for the docks at the edge of the village. Our ship was scheduled to set sail at early noon thus we did not have much time. We walked in a long and unwavering silence. When we finally arrived at the docks my feet were sore and my throat was dry and clenched of thirst. We passed through two men, one took our tickets and gave us tags to wear, and another who took our luggage. An old, tattered, medium sized bag and a few parcels that held my most beloved possessions. My novel, Granny's quilt, and my two favorite dresses, all neatly wrapped and tied with string.

It was not until we boarded that I realized how crowded it was. We took our seats on the floor next to an elderly couple in the far corner. Our trip was long, tiring and it lasted eight whole days. I think it was about the third day that I had a panic attack and started crying. I just felt scared and somber about leaving my home, my country, my childhood bedroom, and how hard it'll be to make friends and feel at home in this whole new world. In order to calm me down, Rosalie kissed me on the cheek and took off her cross necklace and hooked it around my own. The silver chain felt cold against my skin. Then she said,

"Oh, my sweet little Betty, the journey is almost over, and God will never let anything happen to us." This brought me much comfort. However, despite my content, the journey filled the air with a melancholy atmosphere. The sounds of crying children could be heard from every direction. On the sixth day Rosalie got sea sick and began to get very ill from the heavy waves that rocked us. The ship cradled all of its passengers like a mother would her child. We held each other close and made pleasant conversation with the couple next us. They were going over to reunite with their children and grandchildren who live in some place called Queens.

When we arrived in America, we were taken to a place called Ellis Island. I was nervous, anxious, and excited all at the same time. My body was shaking and my palms were sweating. They lined us up and slowly marched us off the ship. However, everyone began to rush off in a race of freedom from the crowded ship of immigrants and amidst the anarchy I was cut off, pushed through the crowd, and separated from Aunt Rosalie. I began to panic as I clutched her necklace in my hand. Sour tears rolled down my cheeks to the tip of my chin like a waterfall. I spent minutes shouting her name but there was no answer. Wandering for what could've been miles, I saw nothing but unfamiliar faces. I prayed for God to return me to the comfort and safety of my Aunt's arms.

My heart was aching, I felt scared and alone once again. I grasped my chest, as I could barely breathe. I fell to the ground as the dark curtains of the night closed in all around me. I cried and cried in sorrow, tears pouring out uncontrollably. But, then in a ray of hope I heard a soft, calming voice say my name. It was her voice, Rosalie's voice!

I saw her in her bright yellow dress waving back at me, through the cool night breeze. Quickly I ran to her, I leaped into her arms, we locked in an everlasting embrace, and fell to our knees by the sea's edge. Rays of moonlight showering over us. Then I heard her soft voice whisper,

"My sweet Betty, I promise you we will never be apart again."