

Richmond students rock

By: Peter Owen
Advertising/News Editor

Musicians from throughout the world all have the same dream: to make it big and have people listening to their music everywhere. It all starts with the same thing: love for an instrument and love for music.

Musicians have multiple ways of achieving their dreams. Some just play for the fun of making music and others work non-stop to make an album.

Richmond students Nick Daniel and AJ Verschaeve both make music not only for personal pleasure, but for the enjoyment of friends and fans.

Senior Nick Daniel plays a wide variety of instruments. He plays the drums, guitar, bass and he even sings his own lyrics. "Music helps me to express myself," said Daniel.

He is inspired by Kurt Cobain and enjoys listening to his music. Another band Daniel really enjoys is Blink-182. Blink-182 is a rock band that has had a lot of success the past 15 years.

Daniel has been playing these instruments for eight years now. In this time, he has learned multiple instruments and how to play them fluently.

Daniel said, "Currently I am a solo artist, but I have played in bands before which was a lot of fun."

His favorite song to play is one that he made

himself "Young and Reckless." Just ask him to play it for you and he will.

The song is about youth and how they act. When asked about what he plans for the future, Daniel said, "I plan on recording a solo album before senior year is over and dropping it for the school."

Daniel plans to practice a lot and eventually record something that is very high quality. He likes to spend a lot of his time doing jam sessions, which is just him practicing for the fun of it.

Daniel is a committed musician with a great amount of skill. He will continue playing music because it is what he loves.

Junior AJ Verschaeve has been playing the bass for 11 years. He has joined forces with Michael Hiltendorf and Ethan Martel to create a band named Soon2b. They were gathered from Southern Thumb, a music store in town, but now they are off on their own, doing their own thing.

Hiltendorf plays the guitar and sings, Martel plays the drums, and AJ plays bass.

Soon2b plays originals but their style is fusion rock, which is rock with a twist of jazz or classic to create a deeper meaning of lyrics and sound.

Soon2b has been very successful with their music. Verschaeve said, "We went to America's Got Talent, we are meeting with Kid Rock, we played in multiple different contests such as Battle of the Bands and even placed in them."

America's Got Talent was very exciting for Soon2b. Verschaeve said, "We drove down to Chicago; we got in early so we hung out for a bit.

We went into the judges and they liked us so they sent us to the executive round. After that, they sent us away to wait to get called but we never did. Even though we didn't make it, the experience was very exciting."

Some places they have performed are Pro Foot in Pontiac, McMorrان Music Theatre, Art on the River festival, Air Time Days festival and many more.

McMorrان Music Theatre was his favorite place to play because it was a big arena.

Around 50-100 people usually come to the shows but the largest performance they had gathered around 600-700 people.

"It was cool to feel the energy from the people in the audience," said Verschaeve.

Soon2b gets a lot of good feedback and people say that they enjoy it.

Soon2b has dreams of making it big but Verschaeve also has dreams of his own.

"We are meeting with Kid Rock so hopefully we can go somewhere with that. Also, being a session artist with studio sessions would satisfy me," said Verschaeve.

Verschaeve has made a great start to accomplishing these dreams.

"We have already been through a lot of situations so I have experience. I have given lessons to others as well. I also plan on getting a degree in music so for now, I am going to keep doing what I'm doing and hopefully get somewhere with that," said Vershaeve.

Verschaeve wants to go to the University of Toledo to further his music ability and wants to continue playing because it is his passion.

Both Daniel and Verschaeve share the passion of playing music. Music helps them feel unique and express themselves.

"You can always build up on music and never run out of ideas," said Verschaeve.

The Stock Marketing Game: The new craze at RHS Mr. Brown provides students with online game that helps kids understand The Market

By: Beth Beindit
Staff Writer

On your mark. Get ready. Get set. Go. Start markin' up those stocks. You could be the next winner of \$5,000.

Students are constantly checking their phones and computers—talking about how much money they made or lost.

The new online Stock Market Game (www.stockmarketgame.org) forces students to challenge themselves in places they've never been challenged before.

Players start the game with \$100,000 in virtual money, which players can spend on stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The goal is to invest in any stocks that the players think will be successful so they can earn the most money.

The game runs for two months and the winner is determined by whoever makes the most money in the given time frame. The top three win monetary scholarships. First place wins \$5,000; second place wins \$3,000; and third place wins \$1,000.

Mr. Brown, business teacher, longs to expose students to the ins and outs of marketing, and he hopes this game does so.

Mr. Brown said, "The purpose is to expose students to the stock market and how it works—the positive and negatives of it. Many students hear about the stock market on a daily basis be it in the classroom or on the news but few actually know how it works."

By using the mentality of a game as well as technology, it encourages students to actually play it.

Having a more interactive way of learning causes the whole experience to be more intriguing for the student.

Mr. Brown wants students to realize how volatile stocks are.

Look at the recent movie The Wolf of Wall Street. It sets the tone that amateurs can easily make money. "They may see a movie and think it's easy to make money with stocks, but in reality it's not that easy."

This is the first time Mr. Brown has used this game as a learning exercise. After the game ends, he hopes to get some feedback from students about what they like and what could be done differently. He believes he will do it again if the opportunity presents itself.

Nearly 500 students from all around participate in the game.

Richmond High School has two students in the top three right now. So if the competition ended right now, Richmond High School would have two students that would win scholarships. Mr. Brown said, "[It is] probably the easiest money they have ever made and will ever make."

It must be something about the Browns because Emily Brown loves playing the game, too.

Emily Brown, senior, is one of the students involved in the game.

She said, "This game teaches you the basic concepts of the stock and shares and trading." Brown likes the fact that the game creates a

realistic setting.

According to Brown, this game is important because many people invest money and they need to learn how to do so correctly.

Austin Vannatter, junior, also partakes in the game. He feels this experience helps sprout his knowledge on stocks.

Vannatter said, "I've always wanted to learn about managing and controlling stocks."

"RHS has two students in the top three right now. So if the competition ended right now, Richmond High School would have two students that would win scholarships."

Mr. Brown stresses that stocks are important to learn about because at some point people will have to fund their own retirement and their primary tool to help the retirement funding is through mutual funds which are primarily stocks.

"Everything about the game is real besides the fact of you actually making real money," said Vannatter. He said you buy real life stocks in the game. Players can actually buy a Nike or Under Armor stock. If the stock goes up, they make money and the opposite occurs if it goes down.

The bad news is this: Players have to wait 24 hours to review the stocks you purchased. So, it can often be difficult to keep track of stocks.

Although the game can be a challenge, it offers real value to students.

Vannatter said, "It's important to make the student want to learn about it rather than feeling like they have to."

Features and Games



WORD SEARCH

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HOROSCOPES

Pisces- February 19- March 2

Your communication skills are a very important skill to have in school, in relationships, and in life.

Must Read: "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

Cancer- June 21- July 22

The only time you run out of chances is when you stop taking them.

Must Read: "The Host" by Stephenie Meyer

Scorpio- October 23- November 21

Following a schedule helps keep things on track and helps you to feel better about your life. Make up a routine and stick to it.

Must Read: "Ella Enchanted" by Gail Carson Levine

Aries March 21-April 19

Worrying is a waste of imagination. Take your fears and put them to good use.

Must Read: "It's Kind of a Funny Story" by Ned Vizzini

Leo- July 23- August 22

Don't quit on something you just started. You never know where it will lead you

Must Read: "The Golden Compass" by Philip Pullman

Sagittarius - November 22- December 21

All the things you've ever wanted to do, but haven't because of fears or limitations, should be done as soon as possible.

Must Read: "Matilda" by Roald Dahl

Taurus- April 20-May 20

You will find conflict where you least expect it today. So, be on guard. It is likely just intellectual, but you could slip down toward some mucky emotional business if you're not careful.

Must Read: "Speak" by Laurie Anderson

Virgo- August 23-September 22

The perfect time for something to happen might not come. Take a leap of faith and do it.

Must Read: "Alice in Zombieland" by Gena Showalter

Capricorn- December 22- January 19

Take a step back from everything and see the happiness around you. You'll be surprised what you find.

Must Read: "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Gemini- May 21- June 20

Everything happens for a reason. Don't get too hung up on the latest thing to happen in your life.

Must Read: "High Dive" by Tammar Stein

Libra- September 23- October 21

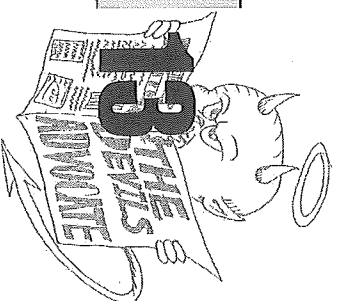
Taking the easy way out is, well, easy, but not always the best option. Sometimes struggling will help you to become a stronger person.

Must Read: "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle

Aquarius- January 20- February 18

Don't compare yourself to others. Focus on yourself and you'll be as happy as ever.

Must Read: "The City of Ember" by Jeanne DuPrau



Pageant Galore:

Senior Leya Gonzalez is new Miss Richmond

By: Amanda Vinson
Features Editor

"There is no feeling like representing your hometown in such a positive way," said Anna Fraser, senior. Fraser has experienced this first hand, along with Colleen Gaffney, as they were Miss Richmond Court members for the 2013 season.

"Through the experience we were able to participate in so many cool events. A lot of them took place during Good Old Days Weekend, like being in a dunk tank and judging a dog show. But we also were a part of parades all around the area. I have met some pretty awesome people from being on court," said Fraser.

Because of this, it is no surprise that many students wanted to follow in their footsteps. Seniors who competed in the pageant include Brianna Robertson, Krystal Nowak, Mary Kazmierczak and Leya Gonzales, while Juniors include Haley Nicolopolous, Kaela Renner and Beth Beindit.

Leya Gonzales was crowned Richmond for the 2014 year. Her court members are Brianna Robertson and Beth Beindit.

The process of choosing Miss Richmond involved three steps. Each competitor wrote a personal bio, attended a private interview with three judges and participated in the actual pageant, which was held on March 16 at 2pm right in town at Maniaci's Banquet Center.

The competitors attended four rehearsals the week of the pageant, where they learned how everything would be run. "We got to practice answering questions and walking, too," said Beth Beindit.

The pageant opened with a dance routine by all competitors. Since the dance was learned at rehearsals, contestants had been practicing for about a week. "No one was judged on their dancing skills, though—it was just for fun," said Fraser.

The dance was performed to the new hit song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams.

"I was excited about the dance because I knew it wasn't really a big deal if I messed up...because I knew I probably would," Gonzales said.

Then the girls were asked two questions on stage. The first was a question planned in advance, so they were already prepared on what to say.

The second question was a "fishbowl question". Fraser said, "A question was pulled out of a fishbowl. These questions were fun like 'What color crayon would you be?'"

These lighthearted questions are what most girls were nervous about. "It's scary because the fishbowl questions are a surprise; you don't know what's coming," Gonzales said. Brianna Robertson agreed. "I didn't want to get nervous and say something stupid, but it ended up going really well" she said.

Regardless of nerves, everyone was very eager to get on stage.

"I was so excited to get to know all of the girls more—talk to them and have a good time. I just wanted everyone to try their best and have fun, which we all definitely did," said Robertson. "It was nice to show people that Richmond has kind, young women."

In her personal bio, Kaela Renner wrote about how she wants to be a leader for the volleyball team next year. She also wrote

about her future dreams of attending Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology. In her writing about why she wanted to be Miss Richmond, she said she wanted to be a role model for the young kids in Richmond.

She took about two weeks to write her responses. But she was more nervous about talking and performing on Sunday than what she wrote about.

"I was nervous but excited. I wanted to feel comfortable talking in front of crowds. I hoped to gain an overall positive experience out of the pageant, and I did," said Renner.

Even though the event caused the girls some nerves, there are many benefits out of participating in an event like this.

"The pageant was a lot of fun and I enjoyed spending time with the other competitors. Everyone gave very good answers and looked beautiful on stage," said Gonzales.

"I'm happy I was able to be a part of this prestigious program with my classmates. It was truly a great experience. Getting up in front of everyone really helped me gain confidence in myself," Beindit said.

The girls had to learn to overcome their fears of performing. "I was so nervous to perform in front of everyone, especially my friends and family. Performing is never an easy thing to do, it takes a lot of nerve to get up in front of people and do something outside of your comfort zone," Nicolopolous said.

However, Nicolopolous is very proud of her accomplishments this weekend. "I'm very happy with how it went. My nerves went away as soon as I hit the stage," she said.

Along with friends and family, the audience was made up of Richmond citizens, former Miss Richmonds and, of course, the judges.

There was no talent portion in the event; everyone was judged solely on their personality and stage presence.

"It was impopt for everyone to enjoy themselves at the pageant. They just needed to have fun. The audience loved when the girls let their true personality shine through," said Fraser.

The judges paid close attention to the competitors and really tried to get to know each and every one of them. Miss Richmond and her court are a true reflection of Richmond as a town.

"The qualities that I feel Miss Richmond should have are being a good role model to young girls, because they will look up to her. She

needs to be a positive person with a good attitude," said Nicolopolous. She said that she was always looked up to girls who have held the Miss Richmond title in the past, and she believes every young Richmond girl has as well.

There are also other qualities that Miss Richmond should have. "I believe that Miss Richmond should be an articulate, hardworking girl who doesn't place judgment on

others and knows how to represent Richmond well," said Renner.

Gonzales, who was crowned Miss Richmond, gave her opinion on the qualities Miss Richmond should have. "Miss Richmond should definitely be someone who is active and involved in the community," she said.

Gonzales explained that being constructively involved in the community makes Richmond a better place and that Miss Richmond should definitely be a positive contribution to the town.

Although giving up their positions was sad for Fraser and Gaffney, it was more of a bittersweet moment. "I'm so happy for the next girls coming up. I hope they get the same out of it that I did—a really moving and humbling experience that I will carry with me for years to come," said Fraser.

"I was very surprised to be crowned Miss Richmond. I'm so happy and honored to represent my town, especially with such great girls," said Gonzales.

The moment of being crowned was a surreal moment that none of the girls will forget. "Being crowned felt great. It was so relieving to know all of the hard work I put into the pageant paid off," said Robertson.

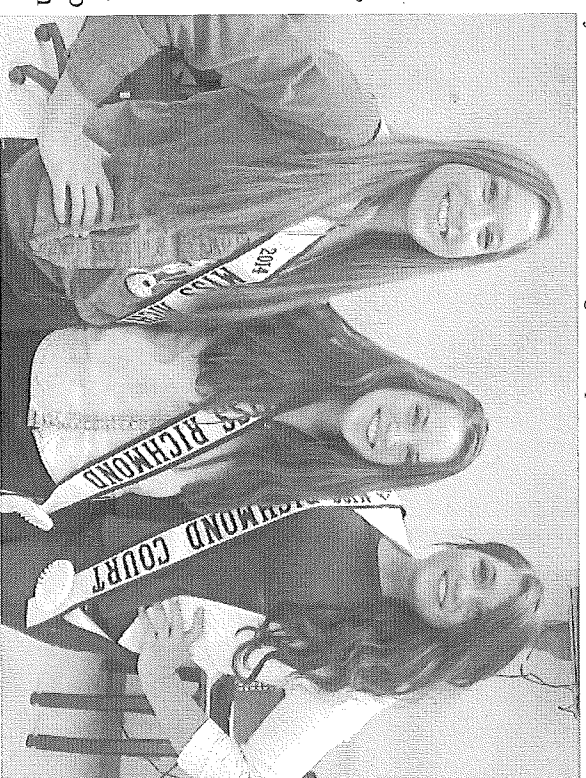
Robertson is eager to begin her duties as Miss Richmond. "I'm really looking forward to all of the parades and getting to know more people in the city. I'm also looking forward to making new memories and just having fun," she said.

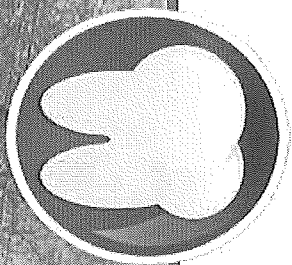
After the pageant, Beindit got a taste of what lies in the year ahead of them. One of the little misses came up to her and gave her a huge hug. "She had the biggest, brightest smile on her face. It was the cutest thing and it made my day. Just knowing that there are girls who will look up to me now just made my heart melt," she said.

The girls are really looking forward to learning how to be a leader and a role model for young girls. "I think Richmond is going to be really well represented. I hope to be a girl that people can look up to," Beindit said. This next year holds a lot of hard work and memories for the new Miss Richmond and her court.

Throughout it all, there is no doubt that the girls will never let their smiles fade. Beindit said, "I'm blessed to be representing Richmond with Leya and Brianna. I think we're going to have a great year together."

Beth Beindit and Brianna Robertson surround Miss Richmond, Leya Gonzalez the day after the Miss Richmond 2014 Pageant took place.





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The Blue Devil's Advocate

March 18, 2014