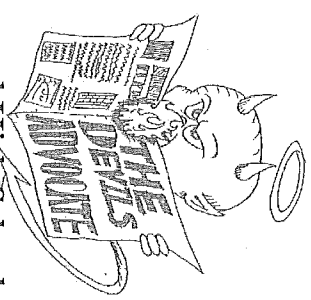


BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate

Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062



Volume 9, Issue 5

March 1, 2013

Getting into ACTION

Juniors prep, aim to do well on upcoming ACT test

By: Olivia Kesler
Features Editor

Time is running out for juniors! Next week each junior will be taking the ACT, a curriculum test that assesses students' academic readiness for college. For three days, juniors will be filling out bubble sheets and answering questions in Math, Science, English and Reading.

After 11 years of academic preparation, the pressure is on.
"I am extremely nervous," said junior Colleen Gaffney. "The grade I get basically decides my future."

The ACT is graded on a scale of 1 to 36—a 36 being a perfect score. A low score can be a deciding factor in whether a student is accepted into a certain college.

"I'm aiming for 25 to 28, but I hope to get a 31," said Gaffney. "Unless I get a 35, I'll retake it no matter how I do."

She is not the only junior making plans for their score.

"I expect it to be higher than the national average," said Mike Justice. "But I'll retake it if I don't do well."

Prepping for the Exam

Teachers of junior classes have been having students practice for the tests throughout the year.

"They help us prepare for the test," said Gaffney. "They definitely help."

Continued on Page 3

Golden keys unlock Oddo's success

Senior student shines at art awards; takes home great accomplishments

By: Lizzie Urban
News Editor

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of success."

That quote, by George Washington Carver, rang true for RHS senior Gabby Oddo when she was able to use an education in art to gain a good amount of positive feedback surrounding her photography work.

After submitting her creations to the 2013 Scholastic Art Awards, she was awarded many times.

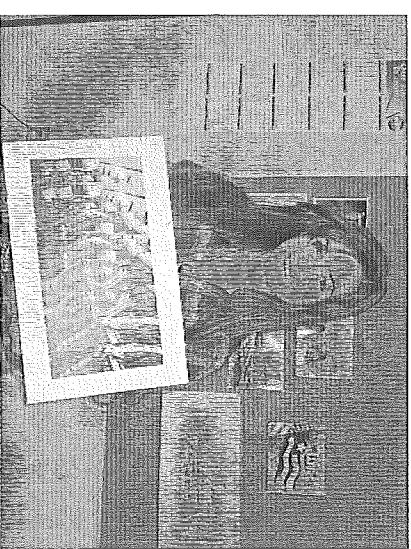
Officially called "The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards," it is a prestigious competition, where high school-level artists submit their work and are graded upon the quality. From there, they can win a variety of awards.

Oddo did just that.
Overall, she won two individual Gold Keys, one Silver Key, one Honorable Mention, a Gold Key portfolio, one Best in Show, and one Best in Category.

A Gold Key is like an Olympic gold medal in the art community. Oddo really accomplished a lot, when she received a Gold Key Portfolio, meaning every piece in the group was deemed Gold Key worthy.

After taking art classes for years, Oddo was thrilled upon finding out she had won these awards.

"I was happy and surprised. Ecstatic, to find-



Gabby Oddo shows off one of her photography projects.

ing out I had won. I worked really hard, and it was nice to see that other people thought so too," she said.

The reward of her accomplishments doesn't just include the physical awards. She attended an awards banquet and was given the chance to receive a scholarship.

Working towards this goal for many weeks, Oddo submitted some of her best work.

"I was proud of the things I turned in. I worked so hard on them," she said.

After taking pictures for years at local Horse showings and competitions, Oddo saw taking photography in high school as an obvious way to keep the work up.

"I've always loved using my photographic eye for taking pictures. It's a lot of fun, and it adds to the experience," she said.

Continued on Page 3

Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol(o) and Ensemble

Choir and band students use major event to improve

By: Shelby Stewart
News Editor

Singers and Musicians alike flock to District Solo and Ensemble for a self-betterment competition.

On January 26, six students from the Women's Chorus went to a competition called Solo and Ensemble.

Solo and Ensemble is a competition in which individuals or small groups sing for a judge and are given a rating on their singing. The judge judges a performer on tone, diction, pitch, facial expressions and the style of music.

If a student is given a rating of excellent or superior, they are invited to go to State Solo and Ensemble. One RHS Senior got a perfect score in the superior category.

For Solo and Ensemble, McCuiston sang two songs, one called "Take, oh Take, Those Lips Away," and the other was an Italian piece called "Odel Miosa Mario Ben."

"I got a Division One rating, or Superior. The judge gave me a perfect score," said senior Julie McCuiston.

McCuiston enjoys that it isn't as competitive because it is for the performer's benefit alone, and anyone can succeed. She plans on going to State Solo and Ensemble.

"At States, I get to replace one song I sang at Festival, so I still sing two it's just not the same as Solo and Ensemble. And then I have to do sight singing, which is singing a piece of music I've never seen before in front of a judge," said McCuiston. "I like to see what other

people think of my singing. And it feels nice to accomplish my goals and go to States. I know how hard I worked for it."

For States, McCuiston has replaced her original English song for a song called "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel."

"I was really excited when I got a perfect score. I think my mom was more excited than I was," said McCuiston.

There are three girls going to States, and three who didn't quite make it. One of these students was Amanda Vinson, sophomore.

Vinson sang a song called "Christopher Robin is Saving his Prayers," and a foreign piece called "Nel Core Punon Me Sento."

"I got a good, which is like a three. I had a really tough judge and

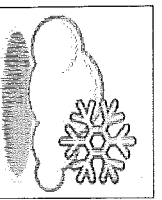
I did good but not good enough to go to States," said Vinson.

Vinson enjoys the challenge of learning a new song and getting a chance to perform it in front of people.

"I like learning the classical songs because I don't sing those a lot and it's different and it sounds really good," said Vinson. "I wanted to go to States, but I didn't want to learn another song and I'm less stressed out now that I don't have States to worry about."

Out of the six girls who performed, Julie McCuiston, Alexandra Newman and Stephanie Graham are going on to State Solo and Ensemble in the next few months.

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Today's Forecast
Mostly Cloudy
High: 28°
Low: 20°

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Festivals all around

RHS choir and band prepare for upcoming festivals in the coming weeks

By: Kyle Soldan
News Editor

It is early morning before school and voices are heard singing down by the empty band room. But by the last hour, the band room is loud with music. During this time of year, the choir and band are preparing for their upcoming festivals in March.

Mrs. May and Mr. Osadchuk are readying their respective groups for the festivals taking place in mid-March. Both are preparing to achieve top scores for their groups.

On March 13, only a few days before St. Patrick's Day, the choir students will head out and perform with several other schools at Stony Creek. Once they perform, judges will provide a score based on their performance. The band will head out three days later to Anchor Bay on March 16 for their performance.

This one time at band festival...

Mrs. May, the band instructor, and her band will be heading to Anchor Bay for their annual festival. She said her group of performers is capable of doing well this year.

"The band has a lot of talent this year," she said. "With some targeted work we should have a fantastic performance."

Senior Caitlee Hawley, who plays a baritone saxophone for the band, understands the importance of festival to her and the rest of the class. This upcoming performance takes everything they have learned into account.

"It's the culmination of everything we've worked towards in the festival season," Hawley said. She added that in order to pre-

pare, the group rehearses specific measures and on certain areas – tone, rhythm, intonation, pitch, style, and overall effect – where the band is graded when they go and perform for the judges.

But sophomore Jacob Matthes, who uses a tuba for his class, finds that the goal of festival is not to just perform and be scored. Rather, he sees it as an opportunity for the band to grow.

"It helps us figure out where our strong points are and go from there," Matthes said.

Like other performances, however, there are requirements. The band must play three songs: an overture, a march, and then a formal piece of their choice.

Matthes said that the songs they will be playing have been already decided.

They include "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine," "Incantations," and "Mountain Dance."

The song "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" is upbeat and has a proud tone within. "Incantations" plays at a very fast pace, feels involved, but remains intense and energetic. "Mountain Dance" is played with a sense of urgency while having a western feel.

Besides the three songs they have already planned on playing, the band will then receive a piece they have never seen before. This is what is known as the sight reading portion of their performance.

Once they get their new piece, the band takes two minutes to look it over and then perform for the judges. Matthes said this is the

most intense part of the whole event.

Of all the schools that will attend the event, Richmond's band is looking to achieve another high score. But more importantly, the group wants to get better.

"It's where we can learn how to grow and where we are told of our strengths and weaknesses," said Hawley.

Singing for the score

Just before St. Patrick's Day on March 13, singers from several schools will make their way to Stony Creek. Richmond's choir will

travel and try hard to receive a top score to make States.

Choir instructor Mr. Osadchuk and his group of singers will be performing in hopes of making it past districts and reach

the state performances. Chorale made it to States last year.

Much like the band's festival, the choir is graded on several categories: tone, diction, sight reading, presentation, and pitch. Both the chorale and the concert choirs will represent the school at the festival.

Senior chorale singer Kelsey Williams will be heading out to Stony Creek High School with her chorale choir so they can get a high enough score to qualify for states again. She said there is not just one single part that is hard in festival.

"Everything is difficult this year," Williams said.

Williams adds that like the band, the choirs receive a piece of sight reading. What makes this part difficult is that it is hard to prepare for. "We get a piece of music that we

*"It's where we can learn how to grow and where we are told of our strengths and weaknesses."
- C. Hawley*

On This Day

March 1, 1993—

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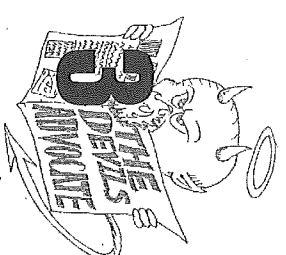
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Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Harpelin for details on upcoming classes.



Ensemble

Continued from Page 1

Freshman Stephanie Graham said, "I am excited to be able to have the privilege to go to State Solo and Ensemble my freshman year. I'm looking forward to performing."

On the same day, January 26, one band student, Kyle Donato, went to band Solo and Ensemble.

Donato plays flute in the Richmond High School band and is in 11th grade. The rating system for band Solo and Ensemble is similar to Choir's, which is a 1-5 rating, one being the highest.

Donato got a One. "I had to perform a song for the judges and it was good enough for me to get a one and go on to States," said Donato, "I was overjoyed when I found out I had gotten a one."

He played a song called "Sweet in A Minor" and he plans on going to State Solo and Ensemble.

Donato said that the judges rate them on things like interpretation, tone, rhythm, intonation and style. Then at the state level, a sight reading example, similar to the on for choir, is given to them for them to play on the spot for a judge.

"I like to perform. I'd really like to have a career in performance. Solo and Ensemble is an output for my desire to perform," said Donato.

Oddo

Continued from Page 1

During her sophomore year, Oddo began her journey with art classes, starting with Basic Design. From there she has taken Photo 1, Photo 2, and Digital Photography.

A major inspiration for continuing these art classes has been Mrs. Cole,

RHS's art teacher.

"She really helped me discover my strengths and weaknesses. I owe a lot of my success to her. She taught me everything I know," said Oddo.

Planning on taking this into a career, Oddo wants to continue taking pictures at the horse shows she attends.

Oddo said that it combines two things that she loves. This career

path seems like it would be a good choice for her to choose.

The art of photography is what drew her into the class in the first place.

She said, "Capturing an expression in a moment of time with a picture is such a unique way to look at something. It's always there."

Students Get Organized for Snowcoming

By: Kelsey Williams
Business Manager

On February 9, RHS students danced the night away at the 2013 Snowcoming dance held at the AUD. Many people helped to set up the yearly event and this year things turned out a little different.

Because of the snow day that occurred the day of the Snowcoming game, students were unsure if the dance was still going to happen.

Students, like senior Jordan Vandenburg, were upset that all of the planned events of Friday were cancelled.

Jordan is a Student Government class leader who was in charge of planning the pep assembly.

In total, about \$70 was spent on the event. Vandenburg and others planned many tasks for the court members to complete. Some of the events included putting gel in the boy's hair, eating ice cream and

Jello, and snapping enough pictures of students to use an entire roll of film in a disposable camera.

"I was very upset; a lot of the time, money, and planning went to waste. It was a disappointment being that so much work was done," said Vandenburg.

Vandenburg, along with other Student Government members, spent over a week getting all aspects of spirit week, Snowcoming nominees, and student activities together for Friday and Saturday.

Junior Katie Szczesniak was one of the students who also helped plan.

"I helped make programs for the game and come up with ideas for the pep assembly," said Szczesniak.

"I like being involved because I get to be with all of the other Student Government members. It's a lot of fun."

Senior Student Government members Victoria Breiling, Elisa Piceci,

very important in order to get a good score, as some seniors remember as the exam day approaches. The juniors nervous about the ACT remind them of what they would have done differently last year.

"I would have probably taken the practice tests more seriously and been more confident going into it," said McCuiston. "I'm not a very good test taker, and confidence probably would have helped."

She wishes the juniors luck during their exams next week.

Her advice: "Don't freak out about it because you'll get confused. Just take your best guess and read through the questions."

ACT

Continued from Page 1

Another way to prepare for the ACT is to take an ACT prep class.

"It helps them understand what they're capable of when they're taking the test," said Mr. Rineer, the teacher of the ACT prep class this year.

"They learn what the test involves and its format."

Students from previous years have taken this class and possibly improved their scores as a result.

"I went to an ACT prep class in Mrs. Germain's room for two hours," said senior Julie McCuiston. The class gave her insight on what would and would not be on the test. "We also got tips to help us when we took the exam."

The prep class is designed to show the students examples of what the ACT will be like so they know what to expect. "The students took practice

*"It helps them understand what they're capable of when they're taking the test."
-Mr. Rineer*

The significance of the test frustrates some students.

"You're set up to fail," said Justice. "I'm stressed, but I'm trying to prepare."

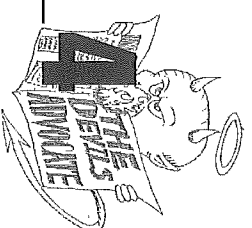
Mr. Rineer also noticed the nervous energy surrounding

juniors when it came to the ACT, especially in his prep class for the exam.

He said, "After the class ended, some were still frustrated, but the people who wanted to be there were more confident and know how they wanted to approach the test." Being ready for the exam is

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Tips & Toes Nail Spa



Ravens put the lights out on the 49ers

By: Jacob Thomas
Sports Editor

“That’s holding,” yelled San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh on a 4th and goal to go play with less than 30 seconds in the game. It was one of only a few questionable calls of a well-umpired game that featured a bizarre half hour delay just after the halftime show.

San Francisco made an attempting comeback from a 22-point deficit, but failed to score on their final drive losing 34-31 to the Baltimore Ravens.

The victory sent Ray Lewis out a winner, cemented Joe Flacco as an elite quarterback and proved that John Harbaugh is better than his brother, at least for now.

The 2013 Super Bowl featured as much drama, if not more, than any other Super Bowl. After a halftime show that featured Beyonce, a power outage occurred in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome putting the lights out which caused for a half hour delay.

Jacoby Jones started off the second half with a Super Bowl record 108-yard touchdown return giving the Ravens a significant momentum builder. During the beginning of the 49ers next possession, the power outage occurred. The half hour delay helped San Francisco get back into the game, but overall was not enough.

Ray Lewis’s retirement was one of the biggest headlines of the Super Bowl. What was looked to be a great retirement party with a Super Bowl win turned into a week of questions

about Lewis having taken performance enhancing drugs to heal his triceps tear.

RHS football player Nick Ottenbacher said, “I wanted Baltimore to win because Ray Lewis was retiring. Ray has always been an inspiration to me with his intensity on the field.”

Another headline of the Super Bowl was the coaching matchup. It was the first time in NFL history that two brothers coached against each other in the Super Bowl. It became a popular topic on radio and television stations about the public opinion

“I wanted Baltimore to win because Ray Lewis was retiring. Ray has always been an inspiration to me with his intensity on the field.”

- Nick Ottenbacher

towards the Harbaugh brothers.

“I wanted San Francisco to win because Collin Kaepernick was a rookie sensation, but I don’t like Jim Harbaugh because he started a fight between himself and Lions coach Jim Schwartz,” said senior Keenan McCloskey.

RHS students enjoyed a number of different activities to go along with the Super Bowl as well.

“It was a good game. My favorite part was the bright lights on the playing field, even though they went

out,” joked RHS football player Dustin Leach.

David Stafford started a super bowl square that various students participated in. Some parents and even students from other schools participated in the square as well.

“I did squares because it is a fun way to interact with your friends. It makes competition between friends for the super bowl. It is fun to argue back and forth about who has the best numbers and who thinks they are going to win,” said Stafford. Unfortunately, nobody from RHS won the square.

There were few parties among RHS students for the Super Bowl. Sophomore Hunter Barjaktarovich was part of a family Super Bowl party.

“We went to my uncle’s house for the Super Bowl. It’s something we usually do every year,” said Barjaktarovich.

The Super Bowl commercials also caused for usual excitement.

“Overall I thought the Super Bowl was good, but I really liked the commercials,” said Alexa Perry.

“My favorite commercial was the Taco Bell commercial with the old people going to Taco Bell. I also liked the Dodge commercial with the farmers,” said Perry.

Colleen Gaffney enjoyed the halftime show that featured Beyonce, a 17 time Grammy award winner.

“Beyonce was really great and I really enjoyed the halftime show,” said Gaffney.

Next year’s Super Bowl will be held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Waiting for Snowcoming

By: Adam Boyd
Sports Editor

“Snowcoming was a lot of fun. It was the first one I’d been to since freshman year,” said senior Caitlyn Gordon.

Gordon liked the DJ because she felt that he played a lot of good music. There was one drawback, however: “I didn’t like how a lot of people just stood around instead of danced,” said Gordon.

Gordon liked the dance being at The AUD because it gave students more options. “If you didn’t want to be on the dance floor then you could either be up stairs hanging with your friends, or playing a game of ping pong. And if you didn’t want to do that then you could have gone downstairs in the café for refreshments,” she said.

Although the dance was memorable, she was disappointed that some Snowcoming festivities were canceled because of bad weather.

“I was so mad that they canceled school on the day of the basketball Snowcoming game. I was really excited for it because it was senior Snowcoming and I was pumped for blue and white day. It would have been a lot better if the game had been played because the crowd would have been full of seniors that would have gone crazy, because we’re like that, and a lot of people would have painted their faces and it would have been a good time,” she said.

Gordon continued on to say, “I’m split between the two dances with which one is better. The decorations and the atmosphere at Snowcoming were better but I had more fun at Homecoming. The spirit days for Homecoming were better, all of them happened, and there was a Homecoming game. However the days for Snowcoming were good too, but I had an all-around better time at Homecoming. But the decorations were definitely better at Snowcoming than Homecoming.”

Either way, she enjoyed both events.

Instead of going to the game, Gordon got to spend time with her friends Lexy Verstraete and Summer Teeters. The snow day also resulted in the cheer competition scheduled to be in Grand Rapids to also be canceled.

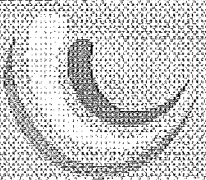
For others, however, they had a rather surprised outcome. Senior Lexy Verstraete had a lot of fun at the snowcoming dance.

“I liked the music the DJ played and that I got to go to my senior Snowcoming, which was nice,” said Verstraete.

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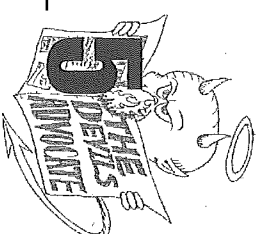
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A day in the life of a coach

Mr. Pearson coaches three varsity sports (Boys and Girls Tennis and Girls Basketball). He's been coaching for several years. Despite being so busy, he sat down with The Blue Devil's Advocate and answered a few questions about coaching.

What do you have to do plan practices?

You have to think about what are the strengths and weaknesses of your team, what skills you need to work on consistently on a daily basis. Fundamental skills that you would use in a game or a match (like shooting in basketball or serving in tennis) have to be worked on. Game strategies and preparing for any upcoming opponents have to be worked. For example, zone or man defense and what kind of offense they run and how you're going to guard it.

What do you do for game planning?

If I was game planning for basketball, I'd look at the other team's defense. Do they full court press? Are there any type of specials they run like trapping action? You have to examine who their best players are, like who can shoot a three pointer, who's going to drive, who's the best rebounders to keep off the boards, and who's bad at foul shooting so you can foul them and put them on the line.

What do you do to build the team's camaraderie?

They do team dinners before all of the home games at one of the play-

er's houses. We stress communication with communication all of the time during practice. During time

tournament. And just the competitiveness of the game. Even though I'm not playing competitively, I can



Coach Pearson intensely watches the game. (Picture courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

outs, teammates on the bench get water for the players. Communicating in general like "Nice job" helps as well. Putting them with different partners during practice to work on different skills is also helpful.

still make an impact and get back to the game.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?
Working with the kids outside of the classroom setting. You get to see them in a different environment. You get to see them grow as a player. You get to see them win awards or a

Who do you model your coaching after?
I learned a ton from Coach Barnes in general in how to run a program. I've attended coaching clinics to learn different drills and team strategies and team-building things. Any good coach - I like Coach K from Duke. I've read books by John Wooden and Rick Pitino and I've learned tips from them on how to build a good program.

How many hours do you put in a day during the season?
Game days, obviously, there's scouting. That's an hour or two prior to the game. Fifteen minutes of prep work (getting boards together and supplies). Usually a typical game takes three to four hours. Plus there's calling both newspapers, which is about 15 minutes. Total time on a game day is five to six hours. For practice days, there's two hours for practices, and a half-hour to plan practice. Paperwork, ordering gear, collecting money, emailing also take time.

Do you enjoy coaching?
Of course! If I didn't enjoy coaching, I wouldn't coach.

Have you improved as a coach?
I feel I've learned something new most every year. You learn things. You learn how to deal with running a program. Our teams consistently do well, especially with tennis.

What prepared you the most for coaching?
When I got to work with little kids when I was on my high school's (Cros-Lex) team. I learned that I liked coaching. My Dad coached too for a little while.

What will you be happy with as a coach?
I'd like to win a District or League Championship for the Girls. It would be nice to win a Regional Championship for Girls Tennis. To continually make the State Finals and build strong teams.

What are you most proud of?
Making the tennis teams successful.

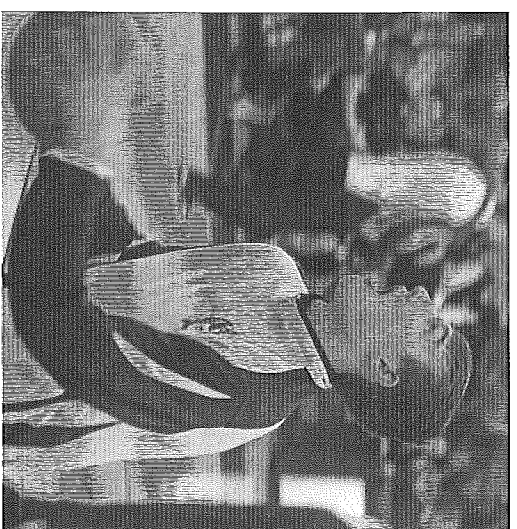
How has coaching helped you grow as a person?
You get to see a lot of situations. You get to make an impact on someone's life. It's always nice when one of your former players comes back and says, "Hi." It's nice to see them continue forward and still play the game.



Tyler Queen

Nickname: TQ
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Soccer and Basketball
Favorite pump up song: Cocky By: Kid Rock
Favorite Food: Lasagna
Favorite Movie: The Hannah Montana Movie
Favorite Class: Yearbook
Future Goals: To become a chemist.

Senior Athletes



Alex Leduc

Nickname: Leduc
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Tennis and Basketball
Favorite pump up song: Here Comes The Boom By: POD
Favorite food: Pizza
Favorite Movie: The Avengers
Favorite Class: Accounting
Future Goals: Graduate from a university and get a bachelors degree in engineering.