

Fun and Games



In March...



S P R I N G L Z L L B K C K F
 O O X C K Z G X E H A C Z Q Z
 C R I I L B G P I B S O L O L
 X H G G M O R T A B K R Z B A
 Y K A U N E V S M E E M I B H
 W K V M C I K E X A T A Y O Z
 W Z C H P E N T R S B H Z R L
 Z N A U T I O I P T A S L R O
 J U C E L W O G A E L F U S M
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| Basketball | Shamrock | Championship |
| Madness | Leprechaun | Easter |
| Baseball | Clover | Bunny |
| Spring training | Lucky | Eggs |
| Green | Irish | Basket |



Spring Break by Kaitlyn Milliken



Richmond DECA Makes a Name for Itself at State Finals

By **Brendan Hart**
 Sports Co-Editor \

For the first time in the seven years of existence, Richmond's DECA organization had four state qualifiers in the business competition. DECA is a business organization that has over two hundred thousand members. It helps students who wish to pursue business or entrepreneurship in the future learn about the business world. At the DECA competitions students can participate as individuals or teams of two.

Richmond's representation at this year's competition were seniors Brandon Kunce and Makenzy Gaigalas as a team and junior Eric Donato and sophomore Jackie Wilson participated as individuals with Mr. Brown as supervisor and or leader of the schools program. This year the competition was held at the Cobo Center in Detroit. It had to be moved from Grand Rapids, its previous spot, due to the increasing participation in the competition from past years.

"DECA is one of the big surprises of my senior year," said Kunce, "I am extremely happy I decided to do it this year; it was and has been a great experience both learning new things and meeting new people."

Kunce's teammate at the State Finals competition was fellow senior Makenzy Gaigalas who qualified for the State finals last year as an individual and missed making the National competition by 3 of the possible 300 points.

"This year was different from last year in many different ways. Being with a partner was something I hadn't done before, it was a seamless transition considering how much in synch Brandon and I are. Also there were a lot more people that we had to compete against so it was even more challenging than last year, but regardless of how we did I still had a great time," said Gaigalas.

As a team the two were each assigned roles and a scenario, business related of course, that they then had 30 minutes to plan their act of the scenario solving problems and finding solutions. Once the time is up they performed their skit in front of a judge.

The students are given a list of business related subjects like travel marketing, buying and merchandising and sport and entertainment marketing, the latter being what Kunce and Gaigalas took part in. Along with Kunce and Gaigalas, two other Richmond students qualified for states, junior Eric Donato and sophomore Jackie Wilson, both as individuals.

Wilson participated in the individual event Principals of Marketing, while Donato took part in the Marketing Management event. This was Wilson's first year participating in the competition, but he didn't feel nervous instead he was quite confident.

"It was a very competitive event but I feel I did good. It was an experience I will never forget," said Wilson a sophomore who plans on being part of DECA for his final two years of high school.

Mr. Brown is the director of the DECA group and has been for the last 6 years, he has seen many bright young students involved in DECA but this year was special in particular as they had 80 percent of the DECA team qualify for the state competition.



Robotics

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done in Newspaper. The goal is to have the team gain sponsors and spread the ideas of FIRST: Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM).

“The skills you can develop from this team can come in handy later in life. You can gain Business skills, like creating business style documents. Along with public speaking, writing, editing, interviewing, and leadership skills,” said Brinkey.

The Safety team is led by Junior Emma Kettle. The job of this team is to teach everyone safety steps and precautions while working with the robot. Kettle said, “While inspecting the robot, you should look for anything that can pretty much make a person go ‘ow’.”

The Build Team is all about the construction of the robot and the way that it is built. From the gears to the motor, all the customizations & additions come from this team.

But that’s not all that it takes for the team to be successful. Each member needs to donate their time, devotion, mind, and especially team working skills to the group. It can’t ever be one-sided. Like with any team, one person can’t do it all.

Robotics takes a lot of time out of a member’s day. They meet 7 days a week during the season. Almost every day they meet up at Mr. Potts’ house to work on the robot. The meetings last about 3+ hours, starting around 6 after school and ending at 9.

Westley Durkee, a member of the team, explains the full schedule: “Monday – Friday 6-9, Saturday 9 to whenever we finish, Sunday (not mandatory) 9 to whenever we finish. You can attend up to 75% of meetings,” he said.

With so much time spent together, the robotics team becomes like a family. “Most of the kids in Robotics are band kids. So they already spend a lot of time together at school,” said member Kayley Ter-nan.

It’s hard not to become close after spending almost every day with each other. Closeness is a necessary component of what makes the Robotics team function. “One of my favorite things about Robotics is all the friends I got to make,” said Yaek.

For the students who are considering joining the team, member Clayton Maksimuke has some advice. He said, “For people thinking of joining, it’s a great opportunity to apply what you will learn. Which could potentially help you in the future. After you join, try to get as involved as possible. It’s important because it will help you learn faster. Plus getting involved helps you have more fun.

Students who are considering joining Robotics will have many opportunities to make friends and learn important skills for later in life. Whether it be for a job or to have the general knowledge that can be attained from this sport.

Looking forward to more Yearbook awards!

By: Haley Reed
Staff Writer

Take a look at our smashing yearbook that was noticed for its utter excellence.

Every year the Yearbook students work diligently to make a quality, memorable yearbook for every student to enjoy.

Many months of precision, care, and timeless effort are needed to create an exceptional yearbook. All the time and effort for last year’s yearbook did not go unnoticed.

Mr. Murphy, the yearbook instructor, was very proud of the work accomplished by last year’s students.

“Our kids take really good pictures and our designs are clean and organized and we take good sport and play pictures. Some of our candid pictures could be better,” said Mr. Murphy.

All the designs and pictures, plus the hard work of the students got the yearbook noticed for an award.

“We got recognized for the National Yearbook Excellence award for Jostine’s. Our timeliness on our

page submissions [got us recognized],” said Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was excited for the whole class to achieve such excellence.

“I was excited for the kids that their work got recognized and excited for our school because there’s a lot of good stuff that happens in the school and it was good to be recognized for that,” said Mr. Murphy.

Grace Daniel, who is in the yearbook class again this year, was thrilled their work got noticed.

“Yes, very excited. All of our hard work finally payed off,” said Daniel.

Lauren Maksymiuk another yearbook returner, felt appreciated to be noticed.

“It’s nice to know that all the work we put into it got noticed. We got 70% of the kids in the yearbook it was nice that got noticed,” said Maksymiuk.

Mr. Murphy knows it’s important for all students to get pictured in the yearbook. It’s something many students can look back on in their futures.

“Great opportunity because they’re producing something they’ll

have for the rest of their lives, in twenty, thirty years, you’ll pull it out and blow off the dust and look through,” said Mr. Murphy.

The yearbook has a lot of great learning opportunities like gaining an eye for design and photo editing.

“Yearbook will help me in the future with the major I want to go into,” said Daniel.

Not only does it give photo skills, but it teaches a lot of camera skills.

“A lot of organization, have to show the kids how to use the software and the cameras. You have to anticipate the shot before it happens, you have to be in the right place in the right time, and you have to visualize what will happen. The camera set, ready to go. You have to have the right lens, and have the right settings, [and a] good angle,” said Mr. Murphy.

Those are all the qualities needed to be great in yearbook. That’s what got them noticed last year, and that’s what they’re working on for this year. More awards to look forward to.

Illuminating a Spark of life upon impoverished children

By: Cecily Mcpherson
Coordinating editor

Mikala Evans sees the hunger in their faces.

She experiences the empty gloom of a child stripped from contentment.

She strives to turn the frowns of these poverty stricken children into smiles.

How does she plan to do this?

Not with food, clothes, or other necessities, but with something extra.

A three letter word, one she claims to have brightened up her own world.

Art.

... Since she was four months old, Mikala has been visiting the country of Honduras. Her mom was raised there. Her grandparents currently reside there.

“Right next to the church where my grandparents attend, there is a cement volunteer building held up by columns.

Impoverished kids can get their breakfast and lunch here,” said Mikayla.

Growing up with these images of hungry children waiting for food sparked a part of Mikala that strived to help them.

“It is upsetting that we are given so much and them so little,” she said. “I wanted to change that.”

Mikala then decided to combine two of the things she loved most: art and helping others.

With the help of her family,

friends and teachers, she has created a significant movement throughout the school.

Mr. Murphy, director of Key Club, is who ultimately helped Mikala get this project running.

“If it wasn’t for him, not as many people would know about this. He helped me promote it across the whole school” Mikala said.

Another person who went the extra mile to help her friend was Sarah Budd. Sarah, being an active member of Key Club helped Mikala to make a video promoting her project as well. From there the video was distributed through social media for all to see.

Everyone in the school seemed to react positively to Mikala’s efforts.

“Many of my teachers have donated a lot of stuff directly to me. It is good to see that they are supporting me,” Mikala said.

In the media center there is a drop box where anyone can drop off art supplies.

“We are collecting anything from pencil cases, pencils, colored pencils, notebooks, coloring books and erasers” said Mikala.

For most of us, these inexpen-

sive, popular supplies are easy to come by. Many children own a vast amount of these supplies and take them for granted.

However, for the Honduran children, their perspective is vastly different. Some of these children go their whole lives with no opportunity to get involved with art.

“For me, art has helped me become a much more innovative, creative person. It has showed me how to channel my thoughts through a picture to help me express what I want to say,” Mikala said.

With this in mind, Mikala hopes to open a window for children who were never able to express themselves in this manner before.

“My ultimate goal,” said Mikala. “Is to donate these goods with the hope that these children will use them to be creative and have fun.”

Overall, Mikala is excited for her summer trip to Honduras this year. She can’t wait to see the faces of children light up as she delivers a gift to them that could possibly open up a brand new ray of sunshine onto their young lives.

“Many of my teachers have donated a lot of stuff directly to me. It is good to see that they are supporting me.”

- M. Evans