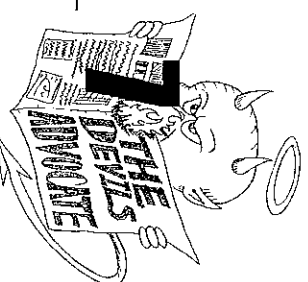


FEATURES



NEW YEAR, NEW CROWN

By: Sydney Black
Staff Writer

It's yet another year for the Miss Richmond Pageant, and Jessica Niebauer has taken home the crown.

The Miss Richmond Pageant is a pageant that chooses a girl and two court members to represent our little two mile town of Richmond. The pageant consisted of 15 girls, each girl was interviewed privately by five judges. The judges asked a series of questions that asked about their lives and common issues such as bullying and social media. The contestants had to also slip on an evening gown and walk out on stage in front of the audience and judges. After this portion, the contestants changed and then had to answer two questions on stage. Each girl was judged on their confidence and poise – the one with the most points is crowned Miss Richmond and the next two are the new members of the court.

“One [question] was about our life while the other was a random question,” said Niebauer. After the questions and interviews, the girls all went back into their evening gowns to begin the crowning of the next Miss Richmond. It's something to love and be proud of, and Niebauer is already excited to enjoy her experience. “I love being Miss Richmond!” Niebauer began.

“I have already done some amazing things and I can't wait to see what this year brings me.”

Being Miss Richmond doesn't require any talent but the talent of your mindset. Niebauer said she was not a talented dancer, however they had to dance a number for the opening of the pageant.

“I am not the best dancer,” Niebauer said. “But, it was extremely fun and not judged so there wasn't a worry.”

Being young adults, each girl is actually advancing for the future by participating in the pageant.

“During the pageant, you gain self-confidence as well as social skills,” began Niebauer. “The private interview will prepare us for job interviews in the future.” Something Niebauer enjoyed about the competition was how friendships were strengthened – as well as new friendships were made. Niebauer said that the way they helped each other out and encouraged each other through the whole process is how friendships were brought closer together.

When being involved in activities like Miss Richmond, bonds are brought together which makes it significant.

Preparing for the pageant was something Niebauer stressed in order to achieve.

“I prepared myself by going over possible questions. We also had a dance in the beginning of the pageant and I worked on practicing that too,” Niebauer said.

Inspiring young girls and being a figure to look up to is something that comes along with being Miss Richmond. Niebauer said she would love to represent the town of Richmond Niebauer said she would love to represent the town of Richmond and become that certain role model for young girls.

“I decided to do it [the pageant] because I did like Miss Richmond as a child and I always looked up to Miss Richmond,” said Niebauer. Niebauer wants to be that same role model from young girls; her hopes are to become someone that younger girls will look up to and admire for reasons other than being pretty.

“I hope to show young girls the importance of helping others. I hope to demonstrate confidence and leadership, all while keeping my well-rounded personality,” said Niebauer. A message that Niebauer wants to give to upcoming contestants or girls who are considering doing the pageant is that they should do it; the pageant is only going to help prepare for whatever life may toss at them.

“It helps you gain skills that are very beneficial for your future,” said Niebauer. “Break out of your comfort zone and show everyone who you really are!”

Due to the fact that she won this year, Niebauer cannot compete again. However she will be crowning the 2018 Miss Richmond next year and she highly looks forward to congratulating whomever it may be.

Courtesy for the Court

By: Sydney Black
Staff Writer

Participating in the Miss Richmond Pageant is more than just aiming to be queen. Being on Court is important as well. When on court, the members are still representing the town of Richmond. Hannah Kulman and Bailey White are the 2017 Miss Richmond Court Members.

“It feels really good that I'm able to represent my town,” said White.

Kulman feels that it's exciting to know that she will have many new adventures and experiences throughout this upcoming year. Both, White and Kulman are honored to be on court. They each had some kind of drive to participate in the pageant – which clearly lead them to success.

“I just wanted to step out of my comfort zone,” said White.

Getting out there and doing something different is what White wanted to do she said. So

Miss Richmond was perfect for her. Kulman, who attended the pageant last year to support a friend, decided that it was something she wished to do as well.

“I saw all the girls and they looked so happy,” said Kulman. “Also, my dance teacher, Mrs. Laura, encouraged me to do it.”

Both girls, are happy with their decisions and the overall outcomes. The pageant itself was a good experience as well for the two. Being with other girls and creating bonds was something that they both thought was the best about the pageant. They enjoyed the friendships that were made or the friendships that were made stronger throughout the process.

“I was able to hang out with other girls and bond with them,” said White.

However, being in the pageant was not as easy – it took dedication. Coming out of that comfort zone is something Kulman and White both had to overcome.

“I am not a big public speaker so getting on

stage and talking in front of everyone was challenging,” said Kulman.

As for next year, Kulman and White both feel that other girls should have a turn at being on court – or possibly Miss Richmond. So they are not going to participate in the 2018 Miss Richmond Pageant.

“I would rather let the other girls have their turn on being queen or court,” said White.

Joining the pageant is something that both Kulman and White recommend. This opportunity is something that would be good for most who enter.

“You can get out there and meet new people and it's just a fun experience,” said White.

Kulman refers to the pageant as a “wonderful” opportunity and encourages others to do the pageant next year. Both Kulman and White will be looking forward to meeting the new Court Members of 2018 when the time comes.

Come Have a Cookie, Old Sport

By: Haley Fortuna
Coordinating Editor

Flour, a couple eggs, a cup of butter, some sugar, put them in at 350 degrees for 15 minutes and voila! Sounds pretty simple right?

But it is going to take a little more than this to create the works of art that Mr. Ogilvy's wife, Melissa makes on a daily basis.

About a year ago, Melissa Ogilvy discovered she was a cookie-creating-mastermind.

“She has always been a baker and she does wedding planning on the side. One of her clients needed decorative cookies so that's how it all began,” said Mr. Ogilvy.

But these are no typical decorative cookies with sprinkles. These cookies are works of art. It wasn't until these treats made a debut in the classroom that the cookie craze began.

Mr. Ogilvy said, “My classes had essays on the Great Gatsby coming up, so I told them that the class with the highest average grade on the essay would get cookies.”

“What the students didn't know was just how creative the cookies

would be. What the students didn't know was just how creative the cookies would be.

The cookies created the cover of the novel when all laid out together. In addition to this, some cookies featured silhouettes of scenes from the book.

Mr. Ogilvy's first-hour English class met the challenge and had the highest essay scores out of all of the English classes.

Collin Germain, a senior, said, “It was really cool to see the story come to life through cookies. They were works of art.”

Students were blown away with these cookies that told a story. Emma Haack, a senior, said, “When laid out all together the cookies made the front cover of the book. Not only did they look great, but they tasted really good too.”

After observing student reactions, Mr. Ogilvy's cookie incentive proved to be highly effective.

“I just know that the classes who didn't get cookies were upset,” said Mr. Ogilvy.

RHS students hope to see more of Melissa's talents in the near future.

Features

March 31, 2017



Features

Biafore Leans Into the SAT

Christina Farkas
News Co-Editor

Days and days of reading excerpts. Weeks and weeks of taking practice tests. Months and months of understanding basic algebra. Years and years- prepping for a test that will prove you eligible. Into the school of your dreams. As you hold the perfect GPA, join every club you can. Do the little things to make you more and more recognizable to The school that'll give you a lead into the future life you perceive. It's a stress, and it may only last one day. Yet, all you can do is breathe - It's the SAT.

Emily Biafore, a junior, has the same set of emotions as she prepares for this journey; a journey many juniors before her have endured for the test in order to be set for their senior year.

In order to prepare, Biafore took a day-long SAT prep class. On March 11, Saturday morning, she woke up as if it was just another school day.

At Macomb Intermediate School District she checked in. Here, she was given a breakfast, and then watched a presentation of what would happen in the prep class.

"We had to provide our own calculators and pencils. But they gave us a folder with the worksheets we would be assessing on," said Biafore. "It was really organized just so the day would pass by smoothly."

Biafore was then split into two separate groups from last name ranging A-J, who went to an English class, and K-Z who went to a math class.

"We had to understand comprehension in reading, recognizing rhetorical devices, and other

basic devices I have seen in my English classes," said Biafore.

It was everything Biafore had reviewed in her English classes. But, with test taking, she wants to understand the placement with answers in order to get the correct answer.

Instructors seemed to have understood that, since they taught her pacing skills, management of the test and overall tips on the SAT.

"English was the easy part of the day," said Biafore. "I was definitely not excited for the math portion after lunch, but I had to go through it even if it was not my favorite part of the day."

In her math portion, students had gone through and had done basic algebra and common skill questions that are used every day, from simple multiplication, times tables, division, and such.

Biafore struggles in mathematics, and she wants to review her basic algebra which is very prominent within the SAT. "I can only have confidence with the math portion," said Biafore. "One of my friends let me use her SAT book so I can review easily because I don't have the accessibility to a prep class all the time."

The time eventually passed and it was time for lunch. "I was by myself, so I ate and reviewed over some of the papers I received. They are very similar to the SAT practice papers we have at Richmond," said Biafore. "I just had to think that this was a simple review, and that I'm going to be alright."

Biafore was then brought back to the English class, and her day ended. "I just took a breath, and I was relieved that the day had ended," said Biafore.

The whole day gave Biafore insight into the future that was to come. "I had taken the PSAT and was not pleased with the score," said Biafore.

"My parents and I have researched the score I should work for to be considered into a good business school."

Submitted Into a Winner

By: Elliott Johnson
Staff Writer

Many people have entered great art work into the Anton Art Show, but most gets shot down. One person, Ms. Veronica Belf, has entered some of her students work in, and some have been submitted into the show because they weren't great, they were fantastic.

One specific person that got submitted was Sydney Christiansen. Ms. Belf said, "We won 3rd place. Sydney Christiansen got a \$20 gift certificate."

To enter it also doesn't have to be a specific type of drawing. It can be anything like from paintings, animals, or even ceramics. The entry fee is about \$2 to enter, but the funds go for the show itself, it doesn't go to anything other than the show.

The art that gets submitted doesn't go up north or down south; it stays in range of all the schools that entered. Ms. Belf said, "All the art goes to downtown Mount Clemens."

Before the art is submitted, the art show judges all of Macomb county's art and it takes only some from the schools art that are good. A lot of students enter their art to this show. Many kids enter four different pieces and don't get submitted.

Ms. Belf said, "The way the art gets in is by the looks."

Sydney Christiansen submitted three pieces of art this year. She drew a self-portrait, roller skates and a goat. When Christiansen won she was happy and surprised because she didn't think she was the one who won out of all the other people that did the same amount of work

she did and didn't win.

Ms. Belf is the teacher of the class and she wants the students to submit their art and possibly win. She said, "Sometimes I encourage them, but it's up to the student."

Christiansen was one of those kids she encouraged, and she did a good thing for her because she was submitted. Christiansen said, "I didn't expect to win. I just put it in to see if I won."

This is Christiansen's second year winning. She won last year and this year. Last year she drew five pieces of shaded shapes and that was accepted.

A lot of kids submit their art expecting to win, but in the end they don't. Ms. Belf said, "About 30 different kids submit their art from each school."

There are about 22 pieces of art accepted, but if a student submits four drawings, there aren't a lot of winners.

This year the kids who were submitted didn't go to states. This show was just for Macomb County. Christiansen, sadly didn't go to states, but she won a \$20 gift certificate for an art store.

Christiansen said, "Not states, just walk up a stage and they give you your prize for winning." She took third place that time.

Christiansen won twice in a row, but she wasn't the only one. There were also others who got their submitted into the show. She was just one of the ones who did the work and deserved everything she got from that show; now she feels proud of herself.

Ms. Belf has influenced the students of her class that anything is possible. She influenced

Biafore is really reaching out, and working hard in order to get into Michigan State University or Western Michigan University.

"I'm thinking of going to Macomb for two years to get my basics out of the way," said Biafore. "But, getting into the best business school I can would make me feel so accomplished."

Biafore was interested in Business for a while since that is where she feels she would truly belong. "I am not certain of what profession I'd want to get into," said Biafore. "Yet, that's the whole point of going somewhere good- to find what I aspire to be."

Biafore is only praying that her hard work pays off after SAT. "I'm feeling a bit anxious but I know that taking the test to the best of my abilities is all I can do, and we'll see what happens."

After the SAT, Biafore can't wait to see what happens her senior year. "I'm very excited. So excited! Yet, I'm sad that it will be the last year with all my friends, attending the same school together after all these years together," said Biafore. "I'm seeing one of the seniors go off too, so I feel melancholy as well. I have mixed emotions for what lies ahead."

SAT will lead Emily Biafore to new experiences, new advantages, and will surprise her with opportunities through the hard work she's endeavored since she was a young student.

"I'm wishing myself luck, and everyone at that," said Biafore. "We [the juniors] are all in the same boat, and can get all the luck we can get."

Christiansen and many others. The special part of Christiansen's story is that Ms. Belf influenced her and she submitted and she won. She won because of Ms. Belf.

Christiansen won twice in a row and she deserved it because she did the work and got the prize. Christiansen won because she drew some good pieces of art. She drew a goat, roller skates, and a self-portrait.

For the drawings she had done the second time she got submitted, the colors were a peach color, whitish green, and also black and white.

Christiansen knew all about the show not by the teacher, but because she took classes there. Christiansen said, "I used to take classes there so I knew about the show."

At the start of her being submitted the first time last year, she drew 5 shaded shapes. These shapes were mainly sketched in pencil with no colors. Christiansen said, "The shaded shapes were black and white, no pen used."

Those 5 shaped were only shaded pencil shapes and there were no colors used other than black and white. It took her only a little while to complete it too.

No one can say that Ms. Belf didn't influence some of her students in submitting their art into the Anton Art Show. She played a big role in the encouragement part.