



The Colonial

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The Art Department: "Dovetailing" Into New Grounds

YaShekia and YaVonda Smalls
NEWS EDITORS

What do you think about when you hear the terms grammar skills, literary concepts, and language arts? You would probably connect each of these skills with an English class. What about scales, dimensions, geometric figures? You would probably associate these skills with a math class. But what about an art class? Believe it or not, literary and math skills are important in an art class too, and both are being significantly integrated into several art classes here at Clay. How? you might ask. Well, the art/photo department has a lot to tell you.

"Our students participate in a great variety of projects, including photography, advanced and basic art, 2-dimensional projects such as drawing, design, and color theory, and 3-dimensional projects such as sculptures and construction," said Ms. K. Stevenson. She became an art teacher last year in November, replacing Ms. Pam Bowers, and said that she enjoys art because, "I like the fact that in the world we live in, there is so much visual information. Students should become visually literate, and art enriches the

experience of the world."

Mr. Ray Stafford is the chairperson of the art department this year and has been here at Clay for about 30 years! "I don't have enough fingers and toes to count how many years I've been here," he says. "I enjoy art because it is not a subject in which you have to work out of a book. You can change from year to year with the projects you want to do and the media you have to work with. You're not stuck with certain time periods or certain projects as in another course." Mr. Stafford's students complete a number of projects using clay to produce ceramics. He said that in working with clay, he "plays in the mud," and it seems that he goes "back to [his] child-

Photo by: Jeni Carmichael



hood every day."

Mr. Max Baim, who teaches photography, and the new art instructor from Clay Middle, Mr. Steve Romans, both agree with Mr. Stafford and Ms. Stevenson that, with a block schedule this year, there has been a significant increase in the student enrollment in art. Because of this

increase, and because the art department has to work with the same budget and constantly juggle supplies, materials, and even classes, they have been scrambling this year. Their focus, nonetheless, lies on keeping things running smoothly even under pressure.

This year, there is a new system called the Indiana State Standards for Language Arts. You may have seen two large light-green posters in several of your classes. The purpose of the system is to increase literary skills and to build standards for Language Arts improvement. Mr. Stafford said, "The art department is dovetailing into Language Arts this year. Both Language Arts and art are like cogs on a wheel because they compliment each other and fit together to make a stronger art department and student."

Senior Heather Smith, who takes second-year photography, says that she enjoys art because, "It allows you to express yourself in different forms. It opens your mind to new ideas, thoughts, and views." She went on to say, "This year I would like

to enter some pictures into contests. Photography isn't as easy as one may think. I have one picture displayed in the main office already, and I'm applying to the Chicago Art Institute as well."

The art department indeed has much to look forward to, and many students are becoming involved in several projects. For example, many students participated in painting windows at the Civic Center in South Bend this year.

This is only the beginning, however. New opportunities await the department and new objectives are being established. In addition, art will be associated with more literary and math skills this year which will be significantly beneficial.

Ms. Stevenson concludes, "We're really excited about how we can implement the curriculum development. It's about everybody using certain methodologies regardless of the subject being taught. We've got great teachers and we all work well together."

Something New to "Buzz" About!

Mandi Hooley
STAFF WRITER

Ding-Dong! Clay recently had a new buzzer installed in front of the main doors, and a small camera is soon to follow. Most of you have probably already heard of this and know what it's all about, but for those of you who don't, here's the skinny.

Why was this new addition brought to Clay? In an interview with Mr. John Harris, Principal, he answered this question. Mr. Harris said, "[The buzzer] is another safety pre-

caution. Before, [Clay] had unrestricted access." It's true that many people will be prevented from simply entering the building during school hours, but many students, however, believe it to be another form of skipper prevention. "The buzzer is another attempt to stop skippers," said Senior Sarah Vice.

"The buzzer is just another sum of money dumped into the security issue, which is not, and has never been, a real issue. The money could have been used to pay teachers or buy new books. It could have been spent on our education," said Senior Kyle Burkett.

How does it work? Well here's the answer to that question. First the student or visitor must buzz in. Secondly, when the camera is installed, people in the main office will look at the person, check for an ID tag, and ask the person to state their business ("Why are you here?"). After a reasonable answer is given the person will be buzzed in and directed to the main office. Here, the person will sign in and be sent off to do whatever it is they are there to do.

The buzzer has been here for a couple of weeks, and many individuals have mixed feelings about it. Nonetheless, it is here to stay, whether you like it or not, the rules have been set. Is the buzzer really a good idea? Was the extra step for security necessary? Well, we've only had the device for a little while, but as the year progresses, we will be able to more accurately evaluate its effectiveness in preventing unauthorized people from entering the building, preventing students from skipping, and checking for name tags.



Photo by: Jeni Carmichael

This year, Clay High School has a new buzzer installed on the outside of the building. The buzzer is intended to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the building during school hours. It is operated by the staff members in the main office.



The Crier

Reminder:

The Holiday Assembly for students will be held during seminar in the auditorium on December 21st. You can see Ms. Nantkes for more information.

Yummy, yummy!

Market Day orders are due on January 8th. Also, there will be a candy sale in the computer lab from January 8th until February 2nd. See Ms. Maura Hayen for more information.

Remember:

December 22nd is the last day for the Basketball Scratch and Win fundraiser. See Mr. Kern or Mr. Huppenthal for more information.

Listen Up!

The Financial Aid Night will take place in the media center at 7:00 p.m. on January 10th. Don't miss it!

M.L.K Day!

School offices will be closed on January 15 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Hurray!

Winter Break will be held from December 23rd until January 7th. Classes will resume on January 8th.

Test time!

On January 16th, all purple and gold day classes will meet. Final exams will be held on January 17-18. The end of the grading period and semester will be on the 19th.



Happy
Holidays!





Waste of Space

"Waste of Space" expresses the opinion of students from Clay High School.

What's your favorite thing to do in the snow?



"I like to do doughnuts in St. Joe's parking lot."
Senior Kris Kloote



"I like to write my name in the snow."
Junior David Walker



"Go sledding"
Sophomore Jay Leatherman



"Shovel, it's all I have left to do in the snow."
Mr. Kingston



"I like to lay in it."

Quotes Taken By: Freshman Andrew Perkins
Adam Sheer
STAFF WRITER

Photos Taken By: Nate Ferrone
Art Director

The Colonial

19131 Darden Road
South Bend, IN, 46637

The Colonial is a biweekly newspaper written and designed by the publication class at Clay High School. It upholds all the ideals of the First Amendment of the Constitution, namely freedom of the press.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They may be submitted to Mrs. Cynthia Brosnan, the Publications advisor, or to a Colonial staff member. Names can be withheld upon request but the advisor and editor-in-chief must know who wrote it. In print we reserve the right to edit any part of the letter that may be considered slanderous towards any person or group. The length of the letter may be changed due to space limitations but the intention of the letter will remain the same.

Editorials represent the opinions of the editorial board. This issue's editorial was written by Marco Sandusky. The editorial does not necessarily represent the opinions of all of the administration, staff or students. The Colonial will not print obscenities or anything that invades the privacy of any group or individual.

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- Printers..... Mr. Frank Moriconi and Jim Day; LasSalle Printshop

Goodwill Hunting

Carrie Kush
STAFF WRITER

Everyone shops at the mall, but it's crowded, expensive, and the product selection rarely changes. What if there was a store completely different from all the stores in the mall?

The people are friendly, and the selection of inexpensive merchandise is always changing. You can find all these things and more at Goodwill. I know what you are thinking; you would never set foot in Goodwill. Do you know what you're missing?

You can find everything from vintage clothing to Nintendo

games; things you never even knew you wanted. Not only are you buying cool new stuff, but you are also supporting the community. Senior Heather Smith says that she enjoys finding "good stuff for cheap".

Many people have the misconception that if they shop at Goodwill they will be depriving disadvantaged people of the things they need. Not only

is this untrue, but it is the complete opposite of what Goodwill stands for.

Goodwill's mission is to employ people with disabilities and other barriers to employment, such as welfare dependency, illiteracy, criminal history or homelessness. To fund the payment of these employees Goodwill collects

donated items to sell in their over 1,700 stores across North America. About 84 cents of every dollar you spend at Goodwill goes directly into employment and training programs.

Junior Dean Heintzelman feels that "Goodwill is better than Ambercrombie and Fitch." By either shopping or donating to Goodwill you are contributing to the wellbeing of the people in our community.

Next time you are cleaning out your room and don't know what to do with your old stuff, drop it off at Goodwill. Remember: *One man's trash is another man's treasure.*



Crafton's View

Every year, my parents decide to go on a road trip to visit a few relatives' houses for the holidays. Of course, I'm forced to go along on these trips. Whenever I try to put up some kind of argument, the parents give me the same response: If they have to go on these stupid trips, so do I. Not one to dispute this kind of logic, I always bite the bullet and tag along. In need of a column idea, I've decided that a family outing of ours from about two years ago would make good subject matter.

New Year's Eve - Morning: At about 9:00 in the morning, my dad got me out of bed. Apparently, my parents had told me the night before that we were going to one of our relative's houses in Cincinnati and I should be packed and ready to go by about 8:30. I had no memory of this conversation, but having had gone to bed about two hours earlier, I didn't have a memory of much of anything. Being pressed for time, I quickly improvised by dumping out my backpack and tossing in some clothes. I got into the backseat of our car and immediately went back to sleep.

New Year's Eve - Afternoon: When I woke up,

we had arrived at our destination in Cincinnati. Half asleep, I got out of the car and followed my parents to the front door of an apartment. Two senior citizens I had never seen before answered the door, and, to my surprise, knew my name and gave me a hug. Later, I asked my dad who these people were, I was told that they were my step-grandparents (my dad had remarried a few months earlier). I was a bit worried if I had made a good first impression-I had not yet taken a shower, I was in the same clothes as I was the day before, and I had drooled on myself during the trip over.

New Year's Eve - Night: After making such a good impression on my new step-grandparents, I decided it would be wise to retreat to another room and watch football for the rest of the night, instead of meeting the other relatives. Right before midnight, there was so much noise outside the room that I decided it would be safe to venture out and grab some food without being noticed. Safely making it to the kitchen, I swiped a sandwich off the counter and started back. Just when I was about to duck back into my room, a group of granies noticed me and called out "You must be

Andy!" Dead tired, I wasn't in the mood to converse with a bunch of strangers, so I hastily replied "Yeah, I am." Giving them no chance to say anything else, I turned around, and went back into the other room to finish my sandwich in peace.

Jan. 1st - New Year's Day: Spending the night at a hotel, I was finally able to take a shower and get a good night's rest. When I woke up the next morning my parents were out to breakfast somewhere. The room was very dark.

I went to the window, pulled open the curtains, and literally saw nothing but white outside. Still half-asleep, I stood there looking out the window for like ten minutes trying to figure out what was going on. When my parents came back to the hotel room covered in snow it finally hit me: There was a blizzard outside, we were going to drive home in it, and I was going to die after our car Three-Sixty into a ditch.

I was ready to tie myself to a heating vent to prevent my removal from the hotel; then my dad pointed out that if we stayed in Cincinnati, we'd have to spend more time with our new relatives. That was enough to get

me in the spirit to walk home in the blizzard, let alone drive through it.

Jan. 1st - New Year's... Night: Coming home from Cincinnati, which is normally a four hour drive, took us about 12 hours. While cruising up the interstate at a break-neck speed of about 20mph, there were more than a few times when I thought it would be all over for us. At one point, I even threatened to sue my parents if I developed some kind of nervous twitch as an adult because of this trip. Finally rolling into our street at around 11:00 at night, the only thing on my mind was getting into the house and going to sleep in my bed. But, after driving through a huge blizzard that left our street covered with about three feet of snow, my dad decides that we should check our mail box before heading into the driveway.

The fact that we didn't have any mail just added insult to injury. The car got stuck in the snow inches from our driveway! The next couple of hours were "pleasantly" spent digging out our car. I even showed my gratitude by knocking our mailbox into a neighbor's yard with my shovel. Thus ended another Crafton holiday.

Clay Colonial Editorial

"This paper sucks." Criticism. We receive it, we accept it, and we build on it.

The Colonial is certainly not above criticism. We hear it all the time: nothing to read, it's stupid, sloppy, one-sided.

And they're right: there's a lot of room for improvement. So instead of giving excuses, or an elaborate defense, we want to hear suggestions. Feedback can improve

this newspaper.

Criticism is good. It's not just a judgment or an evaluation. Feedback, positive or negative, serves as motivation and facilitates improvement. In order to reach the next level we must be guided with criticism. Without that nudge, we would be a society of mediocrity.

Many people are accomplished critics, but can't handle being on the other end. It's difficult for

people to acknowledge their faults. There are writers on staff who write their opinions. Now, we are asking you to turn the tables.

Criticize us. If you're offended, upset, disgusted, or enlightened (we know, enlightenment is a stretch) by an article in The Colonial, write us.

Drop off your comments in the publications room located at the end of the English hall-

way.

We don't want to see the newspaper become just another contributor to the recycling program.

Instead, we hope that The Colonial will become something representing the entire school body in a way we can be proud of.

In the new year, expect to see some improvements made to your school newspaper.

Interview with the big man: Kurtis seeks out Santa

Kurtis Meijers
STAFF WRITER

I was lacking a little bit of the Christmas spirit this year, so I took a trip to UP mall to talk to the ultimate spirit giver himself, Santa Claus. I sat on his lap to ask a few questions concerning everyone's favorite holiday and all the hoopla that surrounds it.

KM: Mr. Claus, what's going on big guy?

SC: Hello Kurtis, have you been a good boy this year?

KM: Shouldn't you already know this, you know, with that list of yours and all?

SC: Umm...yeah...don't you have some questions you wanted to ask me?

KM: Yeah, way to change the subject, chief. First, how long have you had this position?

SC: Well, I was presented with this opportunity by the previous Santa Claus about 10,000 years ago. I was baby courier for the local adoption agency and this jolly fat man with a red suit showed up on my doorstep.

It was a bag of pixie dust, this lovely red suit, and here I am 10,000 years later, delivering toys to millions of little kids.

KM: Wow, that's a real treat. I noticed you driving a 95 Chrysler out of Meijer parking lot the other day. Is the sleigh in the shop?

SC: No, Santa can't be everywhere. So I have some of my little elves go out and report back to me with what the children want.

KM: I was watching TV the other day, and I saw this Circuit City commercial where you were staring into the store dreaming of all the electronic merchandise. If you wanted a Palm Pilot so bad, couldn't you just make it yourself?

SC: Yes, very easily. But at the time, Mrs. Claus made a bad investment on an automatic tie dispenser and we needed some cash...so I sold out a little by doing the commercial for them.



Lil' Kurt gets up-close and personal with the big-guy himself.

KM: Do you ever get any lawsuits when you make Panasonic DVD players or Sony televisions?

SC: What the American people don't know is that I own Panasonic. We bought the com-

pany a couple years ago. I created the name, you know. If you switch the P with a S and add a T between the N and the A, you get Santa.

KM: That spells Santasonic.

SC: You get the picture.

KM: Good one.

KM: How is Mrs. Claus doing? Is she really as good of a cook as everyone says she is?

SC: Mrs. Claus is doing fine. She only bakes cookies, though. That's why I like it when people leave me cookies by the fireplace. We've been together this long because of my addiction to cookies.

KM: Eating all those cookies is probably why you are so big boned, right?

SC: Back in the day I was 110 pounds, and was a distance runner from Jersey. I could lose these pounds if I really wanted to. However, I want to keep the tradition.

KM: How did you get so many nicknames?

SC: I can see where it can be confusing. Santa Claus, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle and of course all those other great nicknames that I have acquired through the years. Bing Crosby pronounced me as "the big fat man with the less than classic "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". When portrayed by Tim Allen in "The Santa Claus" he claims to have many foreign names for that I can't even spell.

KM: What is your favorite Christmas movie?

SC: Without a doubt, *Christmas Vacation* starring Chevy Chase. It was hilarious!

KM: Alright then Santa, I gotta go now.

SC: Wait, you didn't tell me what you wanted for Christmas.

KM: I want to have the hap hap happiest Christmas since Bing.

KM: If you run into the Easter Bunny, tell him that he still owes me 20 bucks.

Problem: Hunger Solution: Nick's Patio



Jamila McMorris
STAFF WRITER

Nick's Patio on or off the porch? I really have to say that Nick's Patio was awesome. I signed up to write this article because I thought what a wonderful way to spend some time. Kyle, Nate, and I hopped into the car and headed out to Nick's for some food. We horsed around, laughed, talked, and ate each other's food. It was wonderful. The service was impeccable, the meal savory, friendly waitresses, and great company.

The best thing about this restaurant is that it is open 24 hours, for those of you who are out on weekends until it's time to get dressed for church. How many places can you go at two a.m. and eat whatever you like? Personally, I like the idea of being able to eat whatever and whenever I want for a great price. How many places can you get 3 eggs, bacon,

toast, and orange juice for 5 bucks? Nowhere.

Also the atmosphere is very relaxed there is never a rush to move you out to fit more people in. Honestly, it had been so long since I had fun eating breakfast, that I didn't even remember how much fun sitting and eating with friends could be. Nick's was the perfect place to get back to the sweeter things in life. Nick's is a place for everyone.

People with really cool parents often times meet their parents for breakfast after they have come in after a full night of partying. Nick's is also a place you can take your grandparents after church on Sunday mornings. I also decided to try the service at different times of the day. The food and service just got better. Even at 3 a.m. the food was great. I have got to say that I love this job. So, if you're ever out late or very early in the morning and find yourself consumed with the munchies try Nick's Patio. I've given it 4 stars.

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Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!
-The Colonial Staff

Boy's Basketball Is On The Rebound

Julie Kselman
STAFF WRITER

Title by Shaun Palus
SPORTS EDITOR

The boy's basketball season is in full swing. The boys expect to rebuild this season, after a tough last season

ers on the team from last year including starting point guard Sophomore Sylvester Mayes, who started last year as a



Photo by Shaun Palus

Clay's finest, Seniors Phil Kestermeier (#40) and Tim Hudnall (#14), Junior Drew Dixon (#30), and Sophomore Ryan Mann (#34), await to rebound their opponent's free throw shot.

where they finished off with a 5-7 record. Sophomore Marcus Polluck said, "We're doing a lot better. We're improving."

last year and averages 8-10 points a game.

The weekend of December 8th was a successful one for the boys. On Friday they beat Adams 71-60, and

on Saturday they beat Kokomo 72-66. Tonight the boys take on East Chicago



Central. Senior Phil Kestermeier said, "They have some good athletes on that team. Rebounding is going to be key". Sophomore Drew Dixon said, "I feel we're on a winning streak. They're another team we're gonna conquer." Positive attitudes help keep spirits up. Sophomore Jeff Davis said, "Its cool being with a bunch of guys that are real down to Earth. No one lets their ego get too big." With the IHSAA Sectionals in March, the boys have a long way to go. Hopefully the support of fans and hard work will pay off, so be sure to get out and support our boys.



Photo by Shaun Palus

Sophomore Jeff Davis (#20) displays his awesome defensive skills against an Adams opponent. Jeff is vital part of Clay's defense.

Fun In The Snow

Shaun Palus
SPORTS EDITOR

As winter approaches, it may seem as though there is a limited number of activities a person can do. If you can't get out to the slopes, don't worry there are other things you can do. Snowball fights, sledging, tubing, and winter football are some of many popular activities among Clay students. Senior Aboloa Herreman says, "Sledging rocks! It's my all-time favorite thing. It's the bomb-digity!"

For those of you who like to stay warm inside the presence of your own home, there are many things you can do. Going to a friend's house, hanging out, playing games, or watching movies can be a source of entertainment. Senior John Lehman says, "The best things to do are hang out with friends and stay up late playing Ping-Pong and darts."



As always, a popular place to go sledging is where there

is snow.

Many students prefer to go sledging at Knollwood or Erskine Golf Course. Along with sledging, a similar activity, tubing is just as popular. Saint Patrick's Park and Wilson Park are the places to go for tubing. Senior Mike Stefaniuk, who works at St. Pat's Park says, "Saint Pat's is the place to go." Going tubing is highly recommended among many students.



No matter what you decide to do during this winter, make sure that it will be fun and safe.

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Mike Brzezinski
STAFF WRITER

Featured Athletes Jessica Aldridge and Ryan Rafferty

Nickname(s) : Jessica: none.
Ryan: Raff and Dub'R.

Who do you look up to : Jessica: Parents.
Ryan: Ian Thorpe.

Pre-game meal : Jessica: Quiznos.
Ryan: Macaroni and Cheese.

Favorite band or singer : Jessica: Shaggy.
Ryan: Guster and David Gray.

Favorite restaurant : Jessica: Wings Etc.
Ryan: K's Pub & Grill.

Favorite teachers: Jessica : Mr. Kasper and Mr. Radecki.
Ryan: Mr. Radecki and Mr. Morrival.

Favorite class : Jessica: I.O.L.
Ryan: Latin.



Who would you want to be stuck on a deserted island with: Jessica: Brad Pitt.
Ryan: Lyndsey Benko or her 3rd cousin.

What college do you plan on attending : Jessica: Ball State.
Ryan: Minnesota or Indiana.

Favorite movie(s) : Jessica: *Dumb and Dumber*.
Ryan: *Rain Man* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

Favorite thing to do in your free time : Jessica: Hang out with friends and sleep.
Ryan: Ummm....free time? What's that?

Most memorable moment of your career: Jessica: Beating Penn twice last year.
Ryan: When we beat St. Joe at the Rock.

In twenty years, you will be: Jessica : On top of the world.
Ryan: Lost in paradise and swimming.