

GOING GREEN

SENECA HIGH SCHOOL

THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

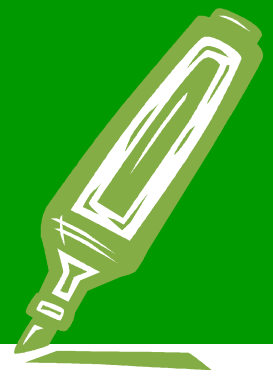
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SECOND SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS



THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Board of Education



GOING GREEN

The theme of this semester's newsletter "Going Green" is applicable to our building project as well. Many different sustainable or green options were researched and evaluated during the design process. The main facility addition will be submitted to the US Green Building Council in order to obtain the LEED certification.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized mark of excellence in identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, and operations and maintenance solutions. To obtain the LEED certification, independent, third party verification is needed to substantiate high performance in key areas of energy efficiency.

The Building Project will be completed and ready for student occupation by the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. I would like to thank the students, faculty, staff, and community for their cooperation as we move through the final phases of our building project.

Robert Lee, Board President

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NEWSLETTER FORMAT

The Irish Highlighter Newsletter recaps the second semester at Seneca High School. Many student accomplishments, both inside and outside of the classroom, are highlighted. I am proud of our students, faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to the educational process. The second semester of the 2011-12 school year has been successful!

A new format for the newsletter will be implemented this semester. In an effort to "Go Green", a post card will be sent to all community members directing them to the school's web site to view the newsletter: www.senecahs.org. If a resident would like a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to them, a quick call to the school will add their name to a direct mail database: (815) 357-5080. If you know of someone outside of the area such as a relative who would like a newsletter mailed to them feel free to include their name and address as well.

Mark Thurwanger, Superintendent



Highlighting the Classroom

Student Poem

April is National Poetry Month. This year, in order to encourage students at SHS to celebrate it, the Drama Club sponsored a poetry contest. Students were asked to enter a poem of ten to fifteen lines and follow a spring theme. Eight students entered the contest, but it was junior, Jana Berryman who won with her poem (below),

“Losing Memories.”
Every day, another petal
falls,
slowly and softly, onto the sweet earth.
She sways back and forth,
keeping time with the wind.
The brightly colored petals that once kept her radiant,
are now around her, giving memories of the warmth.
Her last petal is dangling,
holding on.
A gentle rain begins to fall.
dripping softly off that last little memory,
hanging,
by a thread.
The last little drop rolls down like a tear,
and the last petal falls.

Poster Contest

The Science Club held their annual Environmental Science Poster contest recently. Melissa Smrz, pictured below, was the overall winner. This year’s theme was “Endangered Species”. The Science Club encourages students to expand their knowledge base by choosing an area of concern related to the environment. Other science related activities held throughout the year include “The Science Question of the Week” and a recycling program.



Contest Winners

- Overall Winner:
Melissa Smrz
- Most Informative:
Jacquelyn Newberry
- Most Creative:
Kenzie St. George
- Most Artistic:
Erin Tezak

Seneca High School's Holocaust Hallway of Remembrance

For the last 8 years, Seneca High School's Holocaust Hallway of Remembrance has been paying tribute to the millions of victims lost during the reign of the Third Reich. We create this memorial in conjunction with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., that establishes one week each April/May as Holocaust Remembrance Week. Each year, students in AP English, and this year in the Holocaust class, have been creating posters and displays on the many and diverse topics relating to the Holocaust. Some research the camps, some look into the lives of the rescuers, some study the art or music of the ghettos, and some delve into the dark world of the Nazi beliefs. We then create a mini-museum of exhibits for all SHS students to learn from, including a Hall of Nations that displays the flags from all the countries who lost citizens and informational posters on the specific events and places in those countries. When it is all ready, we invite local junior high schools to view our Hallway and complete a scavenger hunt for information in the displays. Many local junior high schools study the literature and history of the Holocaust in the spring so a visit to our hallway reinforces the information and stories they've learned about in their classes. The goal has always been: Never Forget. Never Again.

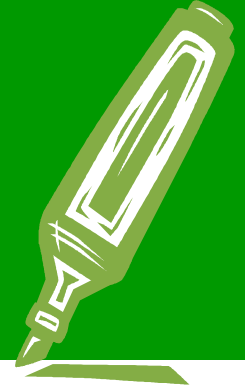
Though the Holocaust is now 65-70 years in our past, the lessons of the Holocaust are still very relevant today: the dangers of intolerance and indifference, the importance of acceptance, standing up for your rights and freedoms, and fighting against the injustices done to your fellow man.

Seneca High School now offers a class on the History, Literature, and Film of the Holocaust. It is a semester class open to juniors and seniors and fulfills a 1/2 year English credit. The class also includes a trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL, which offers world-class audio/visual displays for students of all ages and interest levels.

iPads in the Classroom

During the fall semester, Mr. Stecken’s senior level Current Issues classes got the unique opportunity to become a “pilot program” for Seneca High School with a cart of 30 iPads to enhance discussion. With technology literally at their fingertips, the students were excited about the level of direct insight to our national news coverage. As a collective group, Mr. Stecken and the students brainstormed strategies to fully implement this new technology into the curriculum and classroom. This opportunity gave the students a chance to offer a new perspective on how to make their education meaningful. Overall, the iPads greatly enhanced class discussion while offering differentiated instructional techniques to enhance student learning.

THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



Honoring Students

National Honor Society

On Wednesday, March 21st, twenty three new members were inducted into the Seneca High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students are required to have a minimum grade point average of 3.5, complete community service requirements, and write an essay describing their character and leadership attributes. Over 500 service hours were completed this year.

New members:

Corinne Armbrust, Jana Berryman, Erin Clark, Jessica Elliott, Erika Grossi, Erin Hovious, Nicholas Kirkton, Jonah Lambole, Chelsie McCormick, Hannah Mehochko, Molly Novotney, Trenton Nugent, Nicole Pihl, Lindsey Ramirez, Shelby Savoree, Peyton Schrag, Ryan Schuetz, Maddison Steep, Samantha Stuedemann, Justin Walsh, Cameron Ward, and Madisen Warning.

Senior members :

Kelly Adams, Jaclyn Andreatta, Alyssa Applebee, Tyson Ashbaugh, Coley Baker, Allison Blalock, Nick Briscoe, Sarah Briscoe, Brandon Cook, Allison Coughlin, Jake Ferguson, Austin Granby, Perry Harlow, Brittney Madison, Sarah Marconi, Keegan Murray, Matt Sapyta, Madison Shanks, Ashley Terry, and Luran Widman.

Graduating Class of 2012

Valedictorians

Jaclyn Andreatta
Brandon Cook
Brittney Madison

Salutatorian

Sarah Briscoe

Percentage of Students Continuing Education

70%

Total Dollars Earned Towards Continuing Education

\$481,700.00

Illinois State Scholars

Hannah Alley
Jaclyn Andreatta
Sarah Briscoe
Matthew Sapyta

Brandon Cook
Austin Granby
Brittney Madison



Irish Wish:

May there always be work for your hands to do



Award Winning Students

BASS FISHING

Yes, you read that correctly, bass fishing has been an “official” high school activity since 2009. In Illinois there are approximately 235 teams with 13 sectional competition sites. There are a total of 8 Seneca High School students on the competition team. The Bass Fishing Club has 25 students who are instructed in the art of fishing. LaSalle Lake is the location of the state sectional. Our Bass Fishing Team placed first at the sectional and participated in the State Tournament held at Carlyle Lake. Jimmy David had the biggest bass for our team with a 3 lb 6 oz large mouth.

A special thank you to Mr. Ogden, Mr. Polcyn, and Mr. Doug Stuedemann for donating their time and their boats for tournaments.



FFA BANQUET

The FFA Banquet was held April 21st, The following winners received awards and financial grants from the FFA Alumni.

Star Farmer: Reiley Sanders, Star Placement: Nick Briscoe, Star Agribusiness: Austin Granby, DeKalb Award: Brandon Cook, Robert Johnson Award: Sarah Briscoe, Star Greenhand: Grant Hacker and Brant Baudino,

Scholarships:

Verne Reifsteck Award \$500: Austin Granby, Don Baker Agriculture Memorial Award \$500: Perry Harlow, Brian and Brenda McCloskey Beck’s Hybrid Scholarship \$1,000, Austin Granby and Perry Harlow, State Proficiency Award Winners \$2,500: Austin Granby and Nick Briscoe, National FFA Foundation Cargill \$1,000: Brandon Cook and Perry Harlow, Wilbur Ellis Company \$1,000: Austin Granby, Grundy County Farm Bureau Foundation \$1,000: Perry Harlow and Austin Granby, LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District \$500, Mackenzie Granby.

Seneca FFA Alumni Awards:

Courtney Bays, Luke Halterman, Alyssa Irvin, Jacob Klepk, Brittany Madison, Hannah May, Keegan Murray, Ryan Odum, Brady Pool, Matt Sapayta, Josh Smith, Nick Stuedemann, Davin Wethington, Matt Wilson

TEAM SENECA RACING

It has been a great year for TEAM SENECA RACING!



Logan Smith (pictured below) won a 2nd place trophy at the Byron Dragway. Darren Baker finished 2nd at the Cordova Dragway High School Shootout. Logan Smith then finished the season at Byron Dragway with a first place trophy. Team Seneca ended the season with a first place trophy for the season.



Irish Wish:

May your purse always hold a coin or two

THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



Spring Events



ONCE UPON A PROM

Eighty couples attended Prom on Saturday, April 28th. Dinner was served at the school with a menu of prime rib or chicken. The Grand March allowed parents and friends to view students dressed in their best attire. Post Prom was held at Echo Lanes from Midnight to 3:00 a.m. Fifty couples were in attendance at Post Prom to partake in games, bowling, and socialization in a safe, fun atmosphere.

Thanks to the following who donated prizes for the Post Prom. Your participation in assisting the school in providing a safe, fun evening for our students is greatly appreciated.

Al's Body Shop
Bonnie Jeans Hair and More
Costco
D Construction
Fat Daddyz
Grundy County Sherriff's Office
J & A Transmission

Jimmy John's Ottawa
Kroger
Laborers Local 393
Leake Excavating
McDonalds Ottawa
Morris Hospital
Mr. Penguin

Skluts
Terry Bentz Buick
Walmart Morris
Wendy's Peru
YMCA Ottawa



SPRING FLING



The Spring Fling Dance was held at the Seneca High School Commons on May 12, 2012

The students in attendance enjoyed dinner, photographs, music and dancing.



Irish Wish:

May the sun always shine on your window pane



GOING GREEN

Musical Events



BAND RETIREMENT CONCERT

Mr. Victor was honored at the Spring Band concert for his upcoming retirement. Mr. Victor joined the ranks of Seneca High School in August of 1993. Seneca High School has been privileged to have his expertise and energy for the last 19 years. He has had a positive influence on the lives of many students throughout his tenure and we will miss him immensely.

In honor of his retirement, a dinner was held prior to the concert. An Alumni/Friends Band also performed at the Concert. Thirty of his musical friends, three former U-High students and forty Seneca High School alumni played in the band. A great time was had by all!

Members of the Interstate Honor Band include:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Dakota Applebee | Jana Berrymann |
| Cassie Clemmons | Jessica Elliott |
| Cortney Helms | Daniel Niswonger |
| Rielly Sanders | Aaron Victor |
| Dylan Yost | Sarah Ziegler |

CHORAL CONCERT

The Seneca High School Chorus performed at the Spring Concert. The Chorus acquired new uniforms this year. This has given a more professional look to our chorus and has been a great addition to our program. Pictured to the right are the 1B Chorus Students with Mr. Hardin, Choral Director

Recently, the Seneca High School choral students participated in the Six Flags Trills and Thrills Festival at Gurnee, IL. They received a Superior rating. The students also had fun in the park and returned home with tons of great memories.

Construction of the new music rehearsal area is coming to a close and the students are excited for the 2012-13 school year. A new music library is also in the works.



Irish Wish:

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain

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Student of the Month



JANUARY

Role Model: Jacob Klepk; Most Improved: Brittani Dahlman; Student of the Month: Matthew Sapyta; Rookie: Mathew Houchin



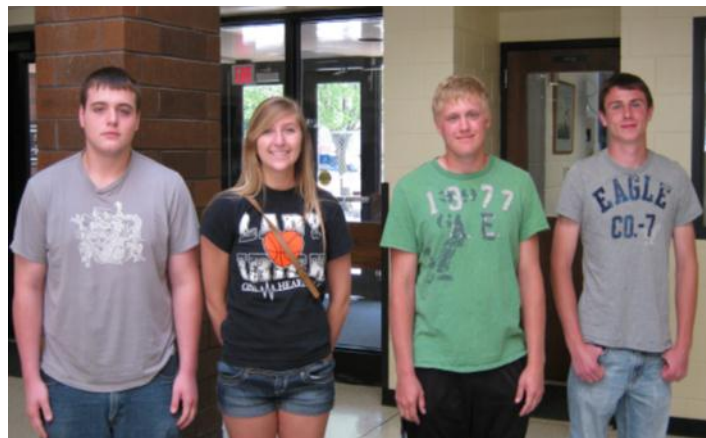
MARCH:

Role Model: Miranda Hougas; Student of the Month: Allison Coughlin; Most Improved: Alyssia Irvin; Rookie of the Month: Sage Friese



FEBRUARY

Student of the Month: Sarah Marconi; Role Model: Lindsay Bleifield; Rookie: Brandon Viken; Most Improved: Joey Marshall



APRIL

Most Improved: Ed Lowers; Student of the Month: Ashley Terry; Role Model: Ryan Odum; Rookie: Lucas Ward



Irish Wish:

May the hand of a friend always be near you



GOING GREEN

Award Winners



MAY:

Role Model: Jena Culbreth; Student of the Month: Nicholas Briscoe; Most Improved: Donald Rich; Rookie of the Month: Jennifer Nugent



STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Most Improved: Brittani Dahlman; Student of the Year: Brandon Cook; Role Model: Nicole Baker; Rookie: Lars Pihl

IRISH PRIDE HALL OF FAME

Principal Voiles has implemented the Irish Pride Awards. Peers nominate peers who have gone beyond the call of regular duty and are making an outstanding effort for the students of Seneca Township High School. Each month the award is passed to another staff member to display in their area. This years winners to date are:

May— Mr. Coughlin and Mrs. Lockridge

April – Mrs. Marilee Applebee and Mr. Houchin

March – Mr. Andy Jackson and Mr. Kluzek

February – Mrs. Maierhofer and Mr. Applebee

January – Mr. Brown and Mr. Victor

December – Mrs. Bergstrom and Mrs. Ogden

November – Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Read

October – Mrs. Payne and Mr. Decker

September – Mr. Stecken and Mr. Hardin

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WINNERS

Each year the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education recognizes educators for their outstanding service to schools.

AWARD WINNERS:

Dan Stecken, Teacher

Erica Read, Teacher

Dee Marik, Secretary

RETIREEES:

Dan Manullang, Assistant Principal

Mark Victor, Teacher

Tommy Koger, Building Services

Peggy Partak, Teacher Aide

Pattie Fosen: Cafeteria



Irish Wish:

May your heart be filled with gladness to cheer you

THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Spring Play



Seneca High School Spring Play



The highlight of Seneca High School theater this spring was the performance of the play based on E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. From Wednesday, February 29 through Saturday, March 3, the cast performed six shows.

Two of the shows were for around 300 students, grades two through six, who came from Milton Pope, MVK, and Seneca Grade School to see Charlotte, Wilbur, Goose, Gander, Sheep, Lamb, and Templeton come to life. Seneca High School was also honored to host seventy-five local senior citizens for a dinner and show.

Notice the great make-up work done by SHS junior, Mariah Bright and the costumes, some of which were made by Seneca's Glenda Edwards.



BELLE OF THE BALL

For about an hour on Tuesday, May 15, many SHS students and faculty were transported back to the Old West as they watched Mrs. Machetta's Drama Class perform the one-act play, *Belle of the Ball*. This play is a melodrama with references to the fairy tales of Cinderella and Snow White woven into the comedy set at Fort Martucky during the days of the Gold Rush.

Every year, students in this semester class study the history of theatre, read famous plays, and study acting techniques among other aspects

of drama and the theatre. By the time Spring Break arrives, these students audition for a one-act play, which is usually performed toward the end of the semester. Mrs. Machetta issues the scripts, gives line assignments for the students to make sure that they learn their lines on time, and rehearsals begin.

The Drama Class students did a great job in this play and Mrs. Machetta thanks for their hard work.



Irish Wish

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow



GOING GREEN

Spring Sports



On Saturday, May 19th the varsity softball team defeated Wilmington 2-1 in a hard fought Regional Championship game. The Lady Irish were able to manufacture two runs in the first inning off a nice drag bunt single by Madi Shanks and aggressive base running by Madi and Miranda Hougas. Nicole Pihl was dominant in the circle. This is the second straight season that the Lady Irish have won the Regional championship.

Irish Track state qualifiers are:

Alyssa Applebee in pole vault (placed 1st) (two time state champ),

100m hurdles (placed 3rd), 300m hurdles

Madisen Warning in pole vault (placed 9th)

Rylee Anderson in 3200m relay, 800m run, High Jump (placed 12th)

Cortney Helms in long jump

Lexi Wilkinson in triple jump

Rebecca Henry in discus

Savannah Baldauf in 3200m run

3200 m relay includes the students listed below:

Rylee Anderson, Olivia Vangelisti, Jessica Sapyta, and Caroline Collet. Alternate: Micky Juricic

Tommy Lovett in 110m hurdles

Ben Barnett in 800m run

Cameron Ward in pole vault



Seneca Irish Baseball players discuss strategy with Coach Houchin. Representing Seneca on the I-8 All Conference team was Brian Bergeson. Three seniors will represent Seneca at the I-8 All-Star Game: Matt Wilson, Ryan Odum, and Nick Stuedemann. Congratulations to these student athletes and all players representing the Irish.



Irish Wish

And may trouble avoid you wherever you go



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Seneca Township High School
307 East Scott Street
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