

Academics

What You've Been Missing



by **RUTHMELIN**
Issues/Academics Reporter

Spell Bowl. Have you heard of it? It's not just another intramural. It's comprised of hard-working students. Their hard work has been paying off, and they deserve you to cheer them on.

Spell Bowl begins with a packet. This packet contains lists and lists of words (3500-3700 words) that require much attention. The team begins by going over the words to ensure that they are pronounced correctly. Then they copy every word out of the packet. This helps to imprint the words in their minds. Each test that the team completes consists of one hundred words. They complete seventeen tests in all. Harder words are re-tested later. For every word a team member missed, they have to write it five times. Of course, this isn't too many words, considering how well the team does. They generally get 85 to 95 percent at the beginning of the year. It gets better from there!

One sophomore member, Annastecia Spano, has just entered the program. "I'm a rookie!" Spano says cheerfully. She decided to participate because her friends were on the team. Though the team requires work and time, Spano says it is fun and enjoyable.

She also plans to be on the team her junior, and possibly senior, year. "Then I can be captain," she jokes. Spell Bowl has helped Spano in other areas of her life as well. "Papers in English class are much

easier to write. I also enjoy being able to help others if necessary."

Spano is one of about eleven to fourteen members. The teacher in charge of Spell Bowl, Mrs. Born, is satisfied with the number of members. Only ten are allowed on a team during competitions. Any others have to sit out and possibly serve as back-ups. Mrs. Born says that she regrets having to leave out dedicated students at crunch time, though the students themselves accept their removal with grace.

However, Spano wishes there were more members on the team. "A lot of people are in other organizations, and they can't always be at the meetings," she says. When asked about the support the school gives the team, Spano also admits that there really isn't any. "The only times I heard about it were when my friends on the team said something."

But we can correct this lack of encouragement! The public is always welcome at competitions, though it can get crowded. Come to regional competitions at John Glenn in mid-October, or state competitions in Indianapolis towards the end of November.

Need more persuasion? Would it help if I told you that last year our school's Spell Bowl team made state for only the second time ever? And that they received fourth place? The only other schools from our area that made state were Penn and Elkhart Christian Academy.

According to Mrs. Born, this sudden success can be attributed to the quality of the students. She describes their intense enthusiasm and repeatedly mentions dedication. Their goals this year are for their scores to be as close to perfect as possible at regionals and to win third place or higher at state. This is clearly a team of devoted students.

Media Center Gets New Look



by **DYLANGUZOWSKI**
Issues/Academics Reporter

MHS' new media center is almost ready for the students to use. Carpets and shelving have arrived and

are being placed. Mrs. Sommer estimates that the media center will hopefully be up and running by the end of October.

The new media center will boast many new technologies that students will appreciate. A major improvement in the media center is the new inventory system that the librarians will be using. They can now complete inventory in only a few hours and that means that the library can now be open to students for a much longer period during the year.

Besides aesthetic upgrades and new features, there are also new policies concerning the media center. Students now need to sign up in advance before using the media center's facilities during seminar. Unlike many computer labs and classrooms, you will be able to sign up for the media

center the same day you wish to use it, as long as you sign up before 9 a.m. In any one seminar block, 34 students will be allowed in the media center. This is the number of students that the media center staff feels is appropriate in order to provide adequate assistance to any who need help.



A new policy for fines is also going to be instituted. There will now be a two-day grace period given to all overdue items which students can take advantage of. If the overdue items aren't renewed or returned before this period runs out, students will have to pay the full fine for the items they checked out. It should not be a problem to return material to the media center, as there will now be a return box located outside the entrance that can be utilized any time during the school day.

The new Media Center should be a major improvement over the previous one and last year's auditorium set up. Everything should run more smoothly and efficiently, making it well worth the wait. We look forward to this great new addition to the school facility.

MHS Welcomes New Teacher

Do you know Mrs. Schonewill, eh?

Guest Writer

Ontario, Canada.

Year Born:

Schonewill: I'll plead the fifth on this one.

College:

Schonewill: Calvin College

High School:

Schonewill: Regiopolis - Notre Dame High School in Kingston,

What do you teach at MHS?

Schonewill: Grade 10, English.

Where were you before you came to



MHS?

Schonewill: South Bend School Corporation

Who are your inspirations?

Schonewill: My family - Mom, Dad, and 3 Sisters

What is your favorite part about MHS?

Schonewill: The Students.

What do you like to do outside of school?

Schonewill: Be active - play sports. Spend time with family and friends.

Favorite Quote:

Schonewill: "The effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me is half



owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs." George Eliot - Middlemarch

Favorite Food:

Schonewill: A frozen dessert called yogurt pie

Favorite Music:

Schonewill: I'll listen to just about anything. I don't have a favourite, but I really like a couple of Canadian folk bands.

Favorite Joke:

Schonewill: A blonde joke about confusing a blonde - someone tried it on me once, but it didn't work.

Anything else you wish to share?

Schonewill: I grew up Canadian - I have dual citizenship.



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