



SPORTS

It's time to hit the slopes. Some students favor snowboarding to skiing, while skiers remain faithful to their sport.

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WINTER BREAK
Begins Friday, Dec. 21. School resumes on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

BAND-O-RAMA
Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.

STRING EXTRAVAGANZA
Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.

GIRLS HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 9, vs. Cranbrook 7 p.m. at GPCR.

BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 10 vs. Ford home at 6 p.m.

WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 12 vs. Liggett, 9 a.m. home.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING
Wednesday, Jan. 16, figure meet vs. Troy at South.

IDEAS
“**PEOPLE OFTEN SMILE AT THIS COINCIDENCE BEFORE TELLING ME HOW AWFUL IT MUST BE TO BE FORGOTTEN YEAR AFTER YEAR.**”

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Out with the old, in with the new

Nineteen minute half-day periods switch to alternating block schedule

By Colleen Reveley
STAFF REPORTER

Junior Amanda Shenouda wants the 19-minute classes of the old half-day schedule.

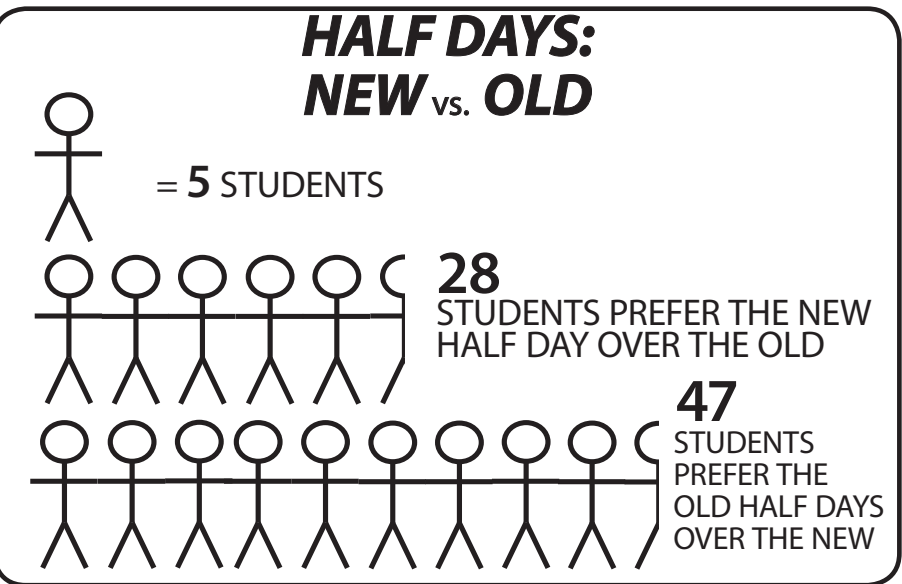
“When we don’t have all the classes together, I feel behind because I can’t touch base with all of my teachers,” Shenouda said.

Some teachers, especially those who have their classes in lockstep, feel as if they have one class ahead or that students will forget what was taught in the prior day.

“With the new half-day schedule, I was not able to see every class, and in math I find that daily reinforcement of concepts is crucial to a student’s understanding,” math teacher Jen Randall said.

With the new schedule, on the first half-day morning, classes one, two and three are taught for 54 minutes each. Then on the next half-day, classes four, five, six and seven are held for 39 minutes each.

For the last two half-days North has had, which were trial days, there was a duration of seven school



COLLEEN REVELEY

days separating the two.

Jon Dean, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services, created the new schedule. The school board considered each option and decided to try out the new half-day schedule with the longer classes, but separated dates.

“I do think any time we have students not coming to school, and we’re spending as much time in the hallways as we would a 42 minute class, that concerns me. Maybe it is the best schedule. We’ve used the data to figure that out,” Dean said. “When we announced this change, we had a couple complaints and concerns, a couple staff members and a couple students, but nothing

huge one way or the other. Sometimes the things that are popular with students might not be what’s best for students.”

Although the decision came from the school board members, administrators have talked about the change for years. Assistant Principal Tom Beach is in favor of the new schedule.

“On our half-days, we have a disproportional number of kids calling in absent because they convinced their parents that ‘Oh, we don’t do anything,’” Beach said. “In the new half-days, we get more kids in the school. Kids know that the classes are going to be important for an hour. It’s more time on task. It actu-

Student band gets jump start performing in Detroit

By Emma Ockerman
MANAGING EDITOR

Sophomore Kameryn Mathewson closes the gap that divides the floor and stage at U-Detroit, picking up the acoustic guitar she has been playing for a year. She positions herself in front of the venue’s microphone. Sophomore Devyn LaValley seats herself at the drums. Sophomore Will Lorenz picks up his mexican Fender jazz bass. Junior Easton Washburn wears his prized gold-top Epiphone Les Paul guitar.

Red, green and white lights flicker across the wood-paneled stage.

“We’re Michigan, and this first song’s called ‘Nobody’s Home,’” Mathewson says.

Michigan then launches into their set, Mathewson’s voice carrying across the room. The band members describe their sound as “brooding blues-rock,” playing songs that cater to an indie soul.

“Well, not indie by choice. Indie because nobody knows about us,” Washburn said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Michigan performed at U-Detroit Saturday, Dec. 15 in hopes that what they call their first “legitimate” show will entail future gigs at U-Detroit.

Graphic design student honored at auto show

By Kristen Kaled & Marie Bourke
ASSISTANT EDITORS

Most go to the Detroit Auto Show as observers, looking at the cars and designs of professionals. But this year, junior Tess Kolp will have her own work on display. Kolp takes Computer Graphics IV, and her design of a car made out of words won second place in a contest put on by the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS).

Kolp began designing when she entered Computer Graphics I her freshman year without a clue where it would lead.

“I actually decided to take Computer Graphics I because I dropped gym and needed an extra half-year class,” Kolp said. “It was one of the best decisions, considering I am now in Computer Graphics IV and hope to do an independent study with it next semester, where I hope to explore new methods of creating art.”

In September, Kolp entered a contest offered by the NAIAS, open to Michigan students. She spent the majority of her class periods working with a 3D design program called Blender, and an interest in typography formed the basis for her design.

“I always liked the look of typography and had wanted to do a typography work for quite a while, but didn’t really know where to get started,” Kolp said. “Last year a typography work won in a category and while it was great, it was in black and white, which I found to be rather lackluster. With the idea of color in mind, I thought, ‘Why not make a car out of words.’ Getting started took some trial and error, but in the end it turned out exactly how I envisioned it in my head.”

Kolp has been in contests in the school art show, but nothing statewide like the Detroit Auto Show.

“I think I captured the point of the Auto Show in more than one way,” Kolp said. “I made sure the main message of cars was presented loud and clear, but within that I tried to include little inspirational and meaningful sentences that went a little more in-depth with meaning.”

Art teacher Robert Thies only gave a viewer’s perspective for Kolp, who took initiative on the design right away.

“Tess had the idea to use the typographical approach, where the car was created out of the letters,” Thies said. “When Tess and I discussed the project, I would tell her what I was seeing and what I could not see. Occasionally, but she did all of the work.”

Marc Harlow, spokesperson for the NAIAS, said that judges were looking for original and creative designs that tied to the automotive theme and had good taste.

“They were looking for something that was a good representation of the Auto Show and had a grasp on what our auto show is about,” he said.

Out of the 645 entries from 69 high schools, Kolp’s design made an impression. Hundreds of words and short phrases were put together into the shape of a car. Each word had to be individually created and shaded a different color to make up the car’s body.

“The painstaking details put into this to make sentences turn into an automobile with depth, texture and features was surely noticed,” Kolp said. “If you stand back and look at it, it actually looks like something you would see driving down the street, something I think sets it aside from a lot of other works, even if it hadn’t won.”



ASHLEY BROWN

FIVE MINUTES WITH
Math teacher Julie Pappas

By Taylor White
STAFF REPORTER

This Christmas, 2-year-old Liam Pappas opened an early Christmas gift from his mom, math teacher Julie Pappas. The gift was an ornament. But it was also more: it signified a tradition of passing down Christmas ornaments through generations.

“My mom ... has over 20 large boxes of ornaments. The earliest I can remember is 1972, and that’s when my oldest brother was born,” Pappas said.

“I’ve collected all my life because my mom started buying me Christmas ornaments when I was a baby. I have one dated 1988, and it’s a little gingerbread girl holding a tray of cookies, and it says ‘daughter’ on it. That’s the first one I can really remember.”

Each year, Pappas and her two brothers received ornaments from their parents, and while they all have their own series, only Pappas and one of her brothers continued collecting.

“I like the tradition it set with my parents. Each year, my brothers and I would be excited to see our new ornament,” she said. “It was a small gift but one we always looked forward to.”

Collecting ornaments has kept Pappas and her mom close. She hopes it will do the same for her son as he grows up.

“Every year, my mom and I go through her ornaments to see the old ones and specifically pick which ones we want on her tree. We talk about when she got each ornament, or how one of us kids broke one or made one,” Pappas said.

“I hope Liam will enjoy collecting as much as I do. I know he likes putting them on the tree, and he loves to look at them. I’m hoping this is something we can share for many years.”



COURTESY OF THE PAPPAS FAMILY
Math teacher Julie Pappas has given her son, Liam, ornaments every Christmas as a tradition.

Do you collect Christmas ornaments in sets?

I have a Crayola set, I have my houses, I have a kitty-cat set, I have Barbie ornaments ... and then the ones I’ve collected are just random ones, like I started getting an ornament from each country I went to.

Are you going to pass them on to your son?

Of course I’m gonna pass them on. Now, he probably won’t like all my little houses because they’re kind of girly, so maybe someday I’ll have a daughter.

What’s your favorite ornament?

I really like the daughter one. I guess over the last two years Hallmark has come out with two remembrance ones. This year was a sand dollar one, and my dad loved to go sand dollaring.

Which ornaments have the best memories?

All of my houses. There’s not a specific one. I really, really like all of my houses and my cookie one, just because that was my series to collect, so just the fact that it’s been going on for almost 30 years, it’s really cool.

How many ornaments does your son have so far?

Liam probably has about 20 ornaments. The only series I’ve started him on is the “My first, second, third Christmas.” Unfortunately, I think he now has all of them ... because I don’t think they go to fourth.

Student band performs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Since Michigan formed nearly six months ago, they’ve only imagined this moment, performing their first legitimate show, opening for The Day’s Ride, another local band.

“It’s a gigantic deal for me. You could compare it to an all-star game if you’re an athlete,” Lorenz said. “This is the first time somebody asked us to do something where we didn’t have to sign up or pay.”

Before their show at U-Detroit, Michigan had more recently performed at the Rustic Cabin in Grosse Pointe Park.

“We played a bar gig that was probably illegal,” LaValley, sophomore, said, as the bar catered to virtually no minors.

Though the show was on a smaller scale than the one at U-Detroit, it was still a learning experience.

“Playing at the Rustic Cabin was pretty nice. It was not the most glorious thing ever like you’d expect it to be. It was a real working-class kind of bar. No one cared or really wanted to hear us play, and we kind of hustled our way into it. We really didn’t fit in with the middle-aged factory workers,” Lorenz said. “The band that was playing there (we played in their intermission) was playing 80s arena-rock covers like Tom Petty. Then we came in with our alternative rock music.”

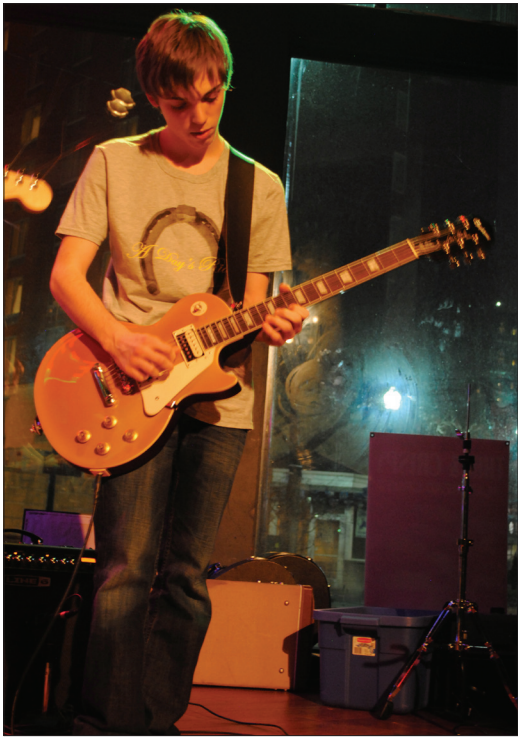
Michigan placed fourth in Battle of the Bands and also played a show in Kingston.

“We knew more people than we expected we did who are in the business and can help us out, and most of what we do is not people saying ‘We need a band to play, we like you guys, come do it’ because no one knows who we are. It’s us pulling favors and again, hustling our way into it,” Lorenz said.

Despite Michigan forming six months ago, the members of the band have musical ties with each other dating back to middle school

“Easton and me have been best friends since we were really little, and we started a band in sixth grade called ‘High Strung,’ and it was just me and Easton. Easton sang and played electric guitar, and I played my little electric drum set that I had back then,” La Valley said. “We kept playing in that band and kept adding people. All of the sudden, we picked up Kameryn, and that worked really well.”

Washburn remembers the days of “High Strung” with recognition of its small-scale demeanor.



“We were kinda serious about it, but overall it would be considered a joke. I was playing guitar and singing badly, and she was playing drums. We were writing crappy songs, but we had some parental support,” Washburn said.

Meeting Mathewson meant the addition of a vocalist and another guitar player to the band, as well as changing the name to Michigan.

“We met Will at school, and me and Kameryn met in 7th grade and have been best friends since,” LaValley said.

Michigan has received help from Grace Community Church, where they’ve been allowed to practice. Through a youth group there called Revolution, members of Michigan have played in the church’s band while receiving help getting gigs.

“They let us practice there, but mostly it’s Jon Jackson and Karl Messenger, who are the worship leader and the youth pastor, because they always scout places and find gigs for us,” Mathewson said. “They’re in a band, The Days Ride.”

Jon Jackson, youth worship leader for Revolution, has created a philosophy out of combining religion with music. He estimates around 35 North students attend Revolution.

“It’s an important part of what we do. We believe it’s important for young people to worship God through music,” Jackson said. “There’s a pretty decent crowd of musicians who play at Revolution. The cool thing ... that some people don’t even realize is that playing music is a great way to worship God.”

Senior Danielle Mays also attends Revolution, which meets every other Wednesday and has

H.U.M.A.N.

Helping Unite Man And Nutrition

By Sean O’Melia
STAFF REPORTER

Two new vending machines called H.U.M.A.N. have been installed in the cafeteria. Though the prices are higher, they’re out to make the student body a healthier place.

“It’s no secret that healthier is more expensive. We see that going into a Kroger or a Nino Salvaggio’s. So it’s not a surprise to me with that healthy stuff in that machine, that you’re going to pay more money for a healthy item than a not healthy item,” food service director, Michelle Knotts said.

“I don’t like them, and they don’t have food I eat in them. I only eat them when I’m trying to be healthy.”

Sarah Cherry

While Knotts has been positively behind this change, the student body, has differing perspectives. “Well I guess I don’t like the new vending machines because the prices are higher and I don’t like the new food selection.”

Michael Reith

SENIOR

“Down the road, we can partner with Health Vending to do advertising on the screen. So if North has got a dance coming up or a fundraiser, we can scroll it all over the screen. It’s another added bonus. It’s pretty much helping advertise anything we’re putting on there or a featured food lunch item.”

Michelle Knotts

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR

“It’s a good idea, because the food is healthier, and it tastes good.”

Maddie Gafa

JUNIOR



New H.U.M.A.N. options:

\$2: Beanitos black bean chips

\$1.75: Veggie Straws

\$1: Nature Valley Nutrition Bar

75 cents: Welch’s Fruit Snacks, Gummy Snacks



LEFT: Junior Easton Washburn plays guitar. ABOVE: Sophomore Devyn LaValley plays drums.

found solstice through worship there.

“The band is amazing and so talented. The worship leader Jon Jackson does such great job, and you can tell he’s very passionate about what he’s doing,” Mays said. “It has been a life-changing experience just being surrounded by people who love and want to live for the Lord.”

Revolution has provided Michigan valuable experiences they say they couldn’t have gotten elsewhere.

“I kind of got good at playing because of Revolution. It gave me experience with working with other musicians,” Washburn said.

However, Michigan prefers to consider themselves independent of Revolution. The band is working on getting recording time and have already done live recordings at U-Detroit. They have four original songs, all written by Mathewson.

The band’s rapid growth has left Lorenz’s father, Steve Lorenz, in awe of what music can do for youth.

“You have to learn for compromise, and you have to do what you do really, really well. It’s a great opportunity to work with other people. It’s a great experience. I don’t want him just sitting at home playing video games,” Steve said.

Michigan has no upcoming shows planned, but anticipates knowing that nothing but good can come from their U-Detroit show. Bringing an old-school sound to the table, Lorenz even muses over the prospect of making 45s later. But above all, a positive attitude has helped Michigan advance as quickly as it has.

“There’s a lot of stuff that if it goes right, we could be playing, and it could work out in our favor,” Lorenz said.



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