

The

Cougar's Tale

Vol. 3 Issue 3

Cougar Volleyball:

Helping Hands

by Andrew Hansen

Helping people, filing papers, going places that you never thought that you would go. What do all these things have in common? Most of the juniors are doing experiential learning projects that involve helping people and volunteering.

Two of the juniors, Molly Barry and Katlyn Lessner are working together at Stevenson Elementary school. "I really like to work [there] because I might be working at an elementary school as a career someday," said Molly. "Every Tuesday we go to Stevenson Elementary School to help the kids that have disabilities, like stug-

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What are YOU doing???

By Jordan Severin

I know many students who would say that their lives are always busy. They never have any down time, they always have plans. But other times, when we ask people what they do outside of school, all they say is "nothing". Now, how can that be?

How are we busy while doing nothing? So, the journalism class decided to take a poll to see how the students here at Calvin like to spend their time outside of school. We came to the conclusion that they did a lot more than just "nothing". I received results from the majority of the student body and found some of them to be very interesting. So what do we do in our leisure time?

On average the students here at CCHS spend about seven and a half hours sleeping. That sounds pretty normal, right?

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Get to know your fellow classmates on pg. 4



Should our school participate in homecoming activities? Turn to page 4 to find out!

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The Cougar's Tale is a publication of Calvin Christian High School's journalism class. Students get the experience of interviewing people and writing articles for viewing by others.

Questions or comments should be emailed to thecougarstale@gmail.com.

By Rachel Mulder

And shouting there was indeed! No one left the gym Saturday evening without a sore throat; it was a day full of cheering on the Calvin volleyball team as they advanced to the tournaments on Saturday, October 24. At 8:30 a.m. I arrived at the gym just in time to see the first of many warm-ups. The tournament was in Eden Prairie so not many fans, except parents, showed up. I was the only student, but it was a good time. The first game was at 9:15 am and the referees made sure that we started precisely at that time. We were a little nervous for the first game, against the International School of Minnesota, because no one knew much about them. It was the first year they had a volleyball team and we hadn't played them at all during the regular season. Not to worry though, we soon realized that this was a good warm up game for Calvin.

After playing International, Calvin didn't play again until

1:15 p.m. We played the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and lost 24-26 in the last set, but no one would expect we would still have about three more games to play. Because it was double elimination, many of the parents assumed we would be home at the time our last game was to take



place. We played a tough game against Hmong Academy, but the next game, against Shattuck-St. Mary, was even tougher.

Calvin had been the number two seed going into the tournament and they proved, through their games, that they deserved it. The girls worked well together and played their hardest. Lindsey had a string of about eleven serves during the first game against ISM; Hanna, Dani, and Kerri all had awesome blocks; Katelyn hit the ground going after a ball in order to return it back over the net, and we did not sustain any injuries. Those are just a few highlights of the long and action-packed day.



Hanna going up for a block.

To the surprise of many, Calvin was able to beat Shattuck-St. Mary by winning the first game, losing the second and coming back in the third game to stay in the tournament. Fans poured onto the court after the amazing win against Shattuck. Moms came and hugged their girls and the Calvin fans stood up and screamed. Almost everyone was at a loss for a voice at the end of the day when we enjoyed pizza and Chinese food at the Koppendrayer's. With these awesome fifteen volleyball players and new freshmen coming next year, we can look forward to another great season of volleyball at CCHS!



NEWS: WORLD, COUNTRY, CALVIN

By Vito Sauro & Eleanor Staricka

World

Scientology Mishap

Some may remember Alli Livingston's Independent Project on Scientology. A recent development in this area is crippling the religion. On October 27, 2009, a French court convicted the top six scientology officials of fraud, fining them a whopping \$595,000 each. As part of the verdict, the Church of Scientology has to publish the findings of the trial in several national and international magazines. As the final result, the court said the Church of Scientology will still be allowed to operate in France, as long as their operations remain "on the correct side of the law."

Bear Attack

An ice skating bear attacked two people, killing one of them, on October 22, 2009. The bear was part of a Russian traveling circus troupe "Bears on Ice." The trainer was running through his maneuvers with the bear when it suddenly struck out at the circus administrator, Dmitry Potapov, killing him and seriously injuring the trainer, Yevgeny Popov. Russia has a history of training bears to perform tricks, but fatal attacks like this are rare.

Country

Seventy-Eight Minute Silence

Seventy-eight minutes are an awful long time for a lack of communication between a plane in flight and the control tower, but that's just what happened with Northwest Flight 188. The pilots flew one hundred and fifty miles past their Minneapolis-St. Paul destination and Federal Aviation Administration officials have investigated the cause of this error. The investigation proved they were using their laptops and

discussing the Delta-Northwest merger, thus losing track of time. Using laptops is against the airline's flight deck policies (unless pertaining to the pilot's command of the aircraft) and has resulted in the suspension of these two pilots until the investigation has been completed.



Mr. Schaap puts the finishing touches on our sign.

Honor Thy Father and Mother

Chloe and Jesse Strong are only eleven and ten years old, but they have learned what it means to honor their mother. In 2003, Lisa Strong lost both her arms and legs due to kidney stone complications. After her husband divorced her, her kids took over her care. It's a hard job to do, and Chloe says, "Sometimes, I want to break down and fall 'cause I'm tired of helping her. But you have to do it." Lisa has remained strong and she says, "I just realized that God saved my life. And it's probably for a particular reason, for a purpose. And so, it was my faith that got me through."

Calvin


The Cougar's Tale Goes Electronic!

The CCHS newspaper can be viewed online at calvinchristian.org, but that's not what I'm talking about. *The Cougar's Tale* now has an easily accessible email and we hope you will use it to connect with us. If you have a question or comment, email us! If you want something published (poem, article, comic strip), email us! If you need advice and want to help out our new advice column, email us! If you just want to take part in the continuing transformation of *The Cougar's Tale*, send us an email at thecougarstale@gmail.com!

The Creative Writing Club has some words to share...

Attention all writers! Do you have any writing that you would like to be proof read? In an effort to reach out to the Calvin community, the Creative Writing Club has extended an offer to anyone that would like their work read, proofread, or critiqued. If you do decide to turn in some writing we may not get to it immediately, but at least once a month the submissions will be reviewed. So if you've got any writing that's just sitting back in the archival database of your computer, or in the pages of an earmarked notebook, we want to hear about it.

A Personal Touch

The transformations going on at CCHS are definitely giving the third floor a bit of personality. We have the "Calvin Christian High School" sign proudly displayed as you walk through the door, and the student pictures on the wall that show what Calvin is really all about. A big thank you goes out to Mr. Schaap for taking the time to paint and hang the letters, and to Mrs. Abbring for her selection of pictures, some of which were taken by CCHS students! 


Service Learning for Juniors

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gling with reading or doing homework. To help us really understand what these people are feeling, we are reading a book that describes some of these kinds of people. Katlyn said, "I am really excited because this might be my future life." "I think that the purpose of this project is to find better ways to teach children with disabilities and to be able to understand them and to teach them. To see that they are like other children and that they should be treated like all other children."

Miranda Akins is also doing a project that is similar to that of Molly and Katlyn's. "It brings meaning; I am [making] connections between man and man because I want to help them in a way that does not require medications, but I can get God to them," commented Miranda.

Alex is doing a project on the homeless. "This is a way for me to help the community so that it brings hope to other people." Alex commented. "I was looking through the Internet and I came across a thing on homeless people. That is what helped me to decide to do this." This is one of the projects where someone is going out to a place that they never thought they would go.

Mattie Koppen-drayer and Hannah DeVries go to Bethany Christian Services once a week to help out the people that work there. "I actually get to go outside of school and work with a community. It is different than working in the class because you get to learn how to work within the community," said Hannah. 

"You get to learn how to work within the community."

What are you doing?

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Throughout the day we spend around one and a half hours eating. (Although there were a few students who said they spend about five hours of their day eating!) I also found that most students spend about one hour and forty-five minutes doing homework each night. The majority of students spend about two and a half hours doing sports and/or other activities.



There were a few results that I found a bit more interesting. It seems like students really like Facebook. The average student here at Calvin spends a little over an hour on Facebook

"The average student here at Calvin spends a little over an hour on Facebook every single day."

every single day, and there are even some people who spend up to four hours on it! What are we doing on there?! Both the time spent on TV, and also doing computer/videogames averaged out to about an hour and a half. I find it shocking how much of our lives are being consumed by electronics.

Think about this as you go home. Are you just going to go do "nothing"? Maybe try doing something productive today. 

Student Activities

New Season, New Coach

By Liz Johnson

This basketball season is going to be a season of new. New coaches, new captains, and new philosophies. The guys' basketball team will be coached by Coach Glenn Stewart. He grew up in Columbia Heights, MN and began coaching boys there for nine seasons. He then coached seven seasons for the Mounds View High School's girls team. He went to Bethel College (now University). He has been married to his wife, Lorien, for "ten great years" and has three children: Ellie (age 7, 2nd grade at Blaine Campus), Brody (5), and Cameron (1). They attend GracePoint Church in New Brighton.

So, for his basketball team? He is a strong believer in "building a team by the fundamentals and working together as a team." That may not sound like an astonishing philosophy, but fundamentals build the game. Practices will consist mainly of perfecting the basics: dribbling, passing, shooting etc... "By repetition we get better; if we do it together, we'll grow as a team."

I don't know about you guys, but I am very excited for the season to start and see where it takes us. Set goals early and "have a great time working together, learning the game of basketball." 🐾



Celebrate Good Times!

By Josiah Wicklund

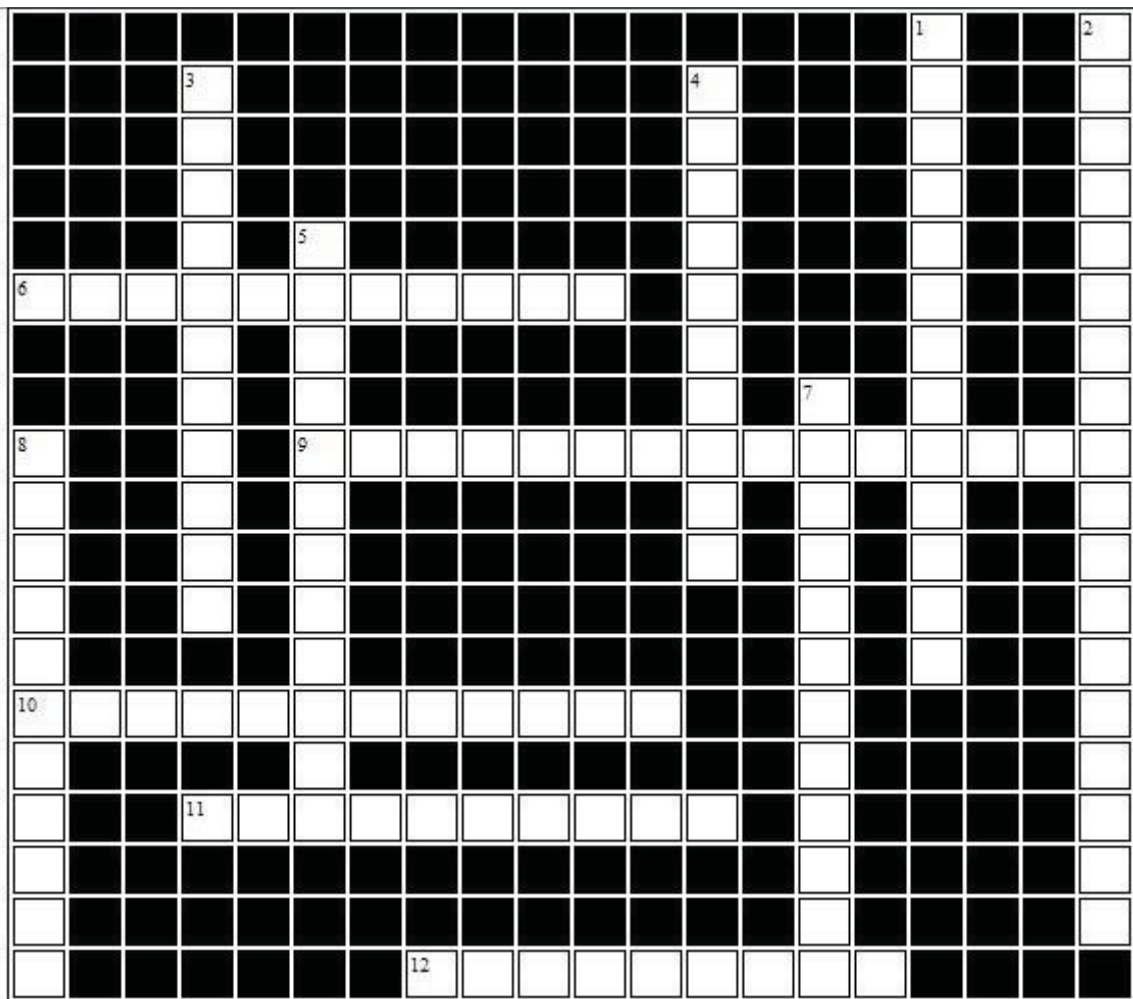
The Fall Sports Awards Night this year was on Thursday, October 29. It started at seven p.m. and was held in the upper room of the high school. The soccer team awards were first, and Mr. Ahrenholz helped hand out letters and special awards. Ashley Berkenpas was also recognized for her outstanding contributions to the guy's soccer team. Each player received either a letter or a certificate of participation, and then the students who were chosen, received their special awards. Mr. Ter Haar gave Ben Silker the "Most Inspirational" award and the "Most Improved Player" was awarded to Jim Kao. Mattie Koppendrayer was given "Most Improved" and Katlyn Lessner was given "Most Inspirational." The four special awards are 4" by 6" plaques with the athletes' name and the title of the award.

Usually the players give their coach a small gift to show their appreciation for the work done over the season. The Sports Awards Night has been going on for years. The volleyball team was recognized for receiving the "sportsmanship" award last year, but the coaches have yet to vote for the team that will receive it this year.

One addition to this years ceremony was, the awarding of a 2nd place trophy to the girls volleyball team. Although the GMAC conference doesn't formally recognize second place finishes, Mr. Ahrenholz took it upon himself to help us commemerate a stellar season for the Calvin volleyball team.

After both teams received their certificates or special awards and gave their coaches a gift, there was a nice social and dessert time. It all was very fun and we can look forward to the winter sports award night for basketball. 🐾

Calvin Crossword



Down

1. Leads media club
2. New teacher
3. Plays football
4. Student council president
5. New sophomore guy
7. This issues editor
8. Volleyball co-captain

Across

6. Raises chickens
9. Media studies PSEO
10. Auditions for commercials
11. Goes to Ukraine
12. Leads creative writing club

STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER

By Liz Johnson

Student Council has been very busy this year trying to make decisions that impact the student body as well as plan events that people will enjoy. It's a big task, but we are ready to move forward.

Student Council has many fun ideas planned, but you will have to wait in eager anticipation for them to be revealed. We do depend on input from the student body, so please talk to a Student Council member, Mr. Ahrenholz, or send us an e-mail at cchscouncil@gmail.com! We are excited to see where this year takes us! 🐾

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words...



EXTRAS

Homecoming Court: Is it worth it?

By Eleanor Staricka

This year my sister entered the world of high school and experienced her first homecoming...as a homecoming princess nominee, no less. It was a thorough process to achieve the homecoming look, and watching her prepare for the dance made me think: why don't we have a homecoming or prom court? Choosing the homecoming royalty or being crowned Prom Queen seems to be a memorable high school experience, so shouldn't we have one?

Actually, I like our school the way it is, without the homecoming and prom, without the

royalty. We're all friends, and in such a small school I think it would be hard to select two people who are "most popular." And besides, how is that popularity determined? How many friends a person has? How "hot" they are? I don't see these as determining factors of a person's worth, but from what I hear about these contests, that's all it is.

Being crowned homecoming queen actually sounds pretty exciting to me, but what if you're nominated and don't make the final cut? Imagine that you're standing nervously on stage, in front of your whole

school; you get out of class early so you can get dressed up. The homecoming queen is about to be announced and you're crossing your fingers, hoping that it will be you. But as you hear the name called out, you realize that it's the girl standing next to you; the one you've been competing against for the past week. As she is crowned, you have to stand there in the background, smiling, and pretending it doesn't hurt that you aren't the one receiving the crown. Out of the many students in a school, only one can be homecoming queen.

"Why are we worrying about the world and its glamorous surface...?"

To lose is never fun, but to lose and have to put on a smile for everyone is even worse. I can't imagine going through all the work to win a title based on something other than the real you. A contest like this doesn't involve your heart; it is based solely on the outside veneer. It's all for popularity, but really, what is popularity in God's sight? None of it matters to Him. God will judge you on what's in your heart, not how many votes you got for homecoming queen. So is being crowned homecoming queen really worth it? Why are we worrying about the world and its glamorous surface when we could be striving to love like Christ, with acceptance of all people, both "popular" and "unpopular"?



Advice Column

by Marissa Barry

How should we hold each other accountable when we make inappropriate jokes?

As Christians we are called to be ambassadors of God. So if you hear one of your friends say something that's not appropriate, simply mention something to them like, "Please don't say things like that. It's not polite, or honoring to God." Don't feel stupid for speaking up, because people need someone who will.

My parents want me to spend more time with other kids but they live so far away. What should I do?

Who you hang out with is more important than the inconvenience of driving so far. Try to take turns driving or meet half way. In the long run you're going to be much happier that you chose to hang out with the friends that have the better influence on you.

Should I date someone I would probably never marry?

The idea of having a boyfriend or girlfriend might be flattering, but I think the answer to this question is no. If you date someone that you know is not right for you, or isn't a believer, you're just lowering the bar for the next person you date. Don't settle for anything less than the perfect someone that God has for you. There are a lot of people you can live with but very few you can't live without. You will regret dating a lot of people in high school when it comes to the time of marrying someone.



Tyler Fate

Birth date: April 25, 1995

Favorite Movie: *Iron Man*

Favorite Music Artist: Toby Mac

Biggest Fear: Going fast; new rides that I haven't been on.



What are you looking forward to at CCHS?

Going on the Arkansas trip. I have been there before and want to see more of Arkansas.

What is your worst injury or accident?

When I got stitches and had to go to hospital.

What is your favorite quote?

Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength I need."

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want with you? Why?

Video games, tons of Reese's peanut cups, and matches or a lighter.

If there was a movie about you, what genre would it be?

Sports movie, suspense

STUDENT

Rachel Hansen

Birth date: December 1, 1994

Favorite Movie: I don't have one

Favorite Music Artist: Any kind of music besides rock, screamo, and hip hop.

Biggest Fear: Holding snakes

What are you looking forward to at CCHS?

Arkansas, because I like to canoe and I can go to a different state that I haven't been to.

What is your worst injury or accident?

I got a scar from boiling water.

What is your favorite quote?

Isaiah 66: 13a, "As a mother comforts her child so will I comfort you."

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want with you?

Never-ending books, unlimited supply of chocolate and water.

What super power would you like to have and why?

I would want to read people's minds, to know what people are thinking.

If there was a movie about you, what genre would it be? Disney animated movies; it would be fun to be in cartoon form.



HIGHLIGHTS

Will Hendrickson

Birth date: April 12, 1994

Favorite Movie: *District 9*

Favorite Music Artist: 1 Tribe

Biggest Fear: Clowns

What are you looking forward to at CCHS?

Basketball

What is your worst injury or accident?

Getting dragged behind dad's car!



What is your favorite quote?

John 3:16

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want with you?

Elephant, power supply, X BOX with every game created.

What super power would you like to have and why?

Power, because it's powerful

If there was a movie about you, what genre would it be?

It would be rated G because I'm a fun, loving person.

