

The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, September 15th, 2016

STUDENT-PRODUCED * SINCE 1940

What happens when you send Donald Trump to Mexico? Apparently, not much. PAGE TWO



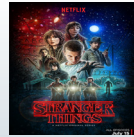
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HOMECOMING

ABBY MYERS - REPORTER

In recent weeks, many of the students here at Adams have been busy preparing for homecoming, one of the most anticipated events of the school year and football season. It is an annual celebration of school spirit that many students look forward to. This year, homecoming will be celebrated on Friday, September 16. The JA football team hosts the Penn Kingsmen at School Field. In celebration of the event, student government has spent time preparing and decorating every day the week leading up to homecoming week. Some of the festivities throughout the week include spirit week, a pep rally during school on Friday, and special homecoming shirts.

So far, the preparations for the big game have been extensive, including hallway decorations and Spirit Week, which include themed days to add to anticipation for the game. "Each class is currently working on their hallway decorations, spirit week days have been determined, spirit shirt designs are complete, and everyone is working hard to get things ready for [this] week's spirit week," explained Emily Zablocki, a science teacher and this year's homecoming sponsor. To celebrate homecoming, the student governments of each class have worked together to delegate spirit week and hallway themes for each grade, as you've surely seen around the school by now.

Homecoming preparations have also included the selection of Homecoming Court and increased work-ethic from the football team in order to win against Penn. The 2016 Homecoming Court for the girls includes Mary Claire Burnett, Lamyaa Hussein, Bella Lawton, Gisella Morales, Adrienne Patterson, and Rocio Rodriguez-Saucedo. The boys' court includes Branden Cassity, Martell Greene, Ben

Ibrulj, Jacob Johnson, Michael Kirbie, and Chad Steele. These select students were chosen due to their exemplary representation of our school. "Homecoming court members [were] selected by a committee of faculty and staff for their positive representation of JA, hav[ing] school spirit, being role model students, and hav[ing] a 2.0 GPA or higher," said Zablocki.

For many homecoming court members, homecoming is a great way to celebrate JA's notorious



school spirit. Homecoming court member Gisella Morales, among others, wanted to be part of a special school event and make the most of her senior year. "I have been very involved at our school and have grown to love our school spirit, so I believe that this would be a great experience," explained Morales. Others wanted to be a good role model for many Adams underclassmen and give back to the school. Homecoming queen hopeful Rocio Rodriguez-Saucedo said, "I wanted to be on homecoming court because I believe it is necessary to be a role model to underclassmen. I want to inspire them to believe in themselves and know that they can endure anything."

In addition to being a special night for the court, homecoming is also a special event for the football team, due to the overwhelming school spirit that it brings. "It's an event that truly brings the entire school together, especially when you see all the fans up in the stands on those Friday nights," said Collin Daniels, a senior and cornerback on the team.

"Football is a team sport and all of Adams is considered a team to us!" continued Daniels. Quarterback Andrew Burgess agreed. "The atmosphere is like no other. Homecoming games are always the most memorable games because of how many people come out and support us," he said.

Adams school spirit - "eagle pride" - is certainly one of the strongest in the area, as demonstrated by the winning of WNDU's Spirit Award. Although the football team is facing a difficult opponent this Friday, many players believe they will be able to defeat Penn with the help of JA's tremendous school spirit. "We have a tough, but beatable opponent in Penn," said Burgess.

The John Adams student body has high expectations for homecoming and is looking forward to celebrating the night with friends in the student section. "I'm looking forward to cheering on the football team in the most LIT student section along with the rest of homecoming court and student body!" said Senior Rocio Rodriguez-Saucedo. Others are just looking forward to having as much student participation and involvement as possible. Court member Lamyaa Hussein said, "My hopes for this year [are for] every student coming out to support our football team and that we are respectful to every player and the opposing team."

In short, homecoming is sure to be a great, memorable night for all involved. Good luck Eagles!

Colin Daniels

THE JOHN ADAMS
TOWER

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mariah Rush

ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kaity Radde

MANAGING EDITOR

Alice Goulding

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kaity Radde

REPORTERS

Casey Carroll

David Engel

Sydney Granlund

Niki Hakimzadeh

Alicia Koszyk

Hunter Melanson

Abby Myers

Taylor Waldron

ADVISOR

Samantha Lewis

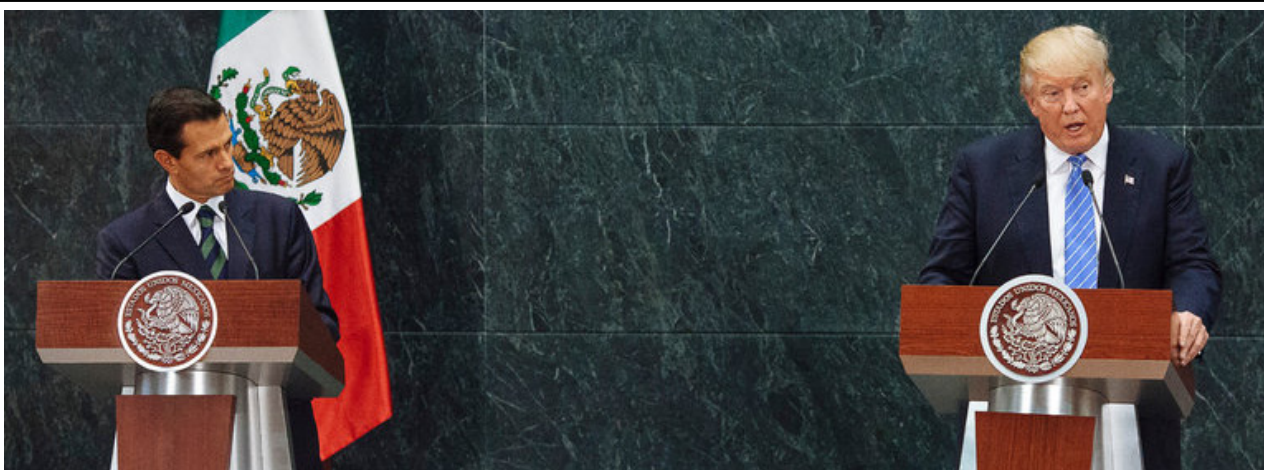
EDITORIAL POLICY

The Tower is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor submitted must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Editorials must be sent to slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us, submitted physically to room 1831, or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenham Dr.

The Editorial Board is comprised of our three editors. Editorials are collaboratively written by the editors and are designated as such.

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TRUMP'S TRAVELS:
TWO CITIES, ONE POLICY,
NO CHANGE

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN CHIEF

"Donald Trump goes to Mexico" could easily be the beginning of a satire piece, but now, it's a headline. His prospective trade and immigration policies (not to mention comments he made about Mexicans who live in the United States illegally) make him even less popular in Mexico than he is here at home. Despite all of this, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto invited him to the country - a move that has political analysts puzzled and Mexican citizens outraged - in order to talk to the candidate that has been widely vilified around the world just before he was set to give a speech clarifying his immigration policies.

This was Trump's first opportunity to present himself to the world as someone who is capable of diplomacy, and the mysterious meeting gathered an abundance of media attention. However, unlike his domestic tough-guy act, he was surprisingly docile in Mexico, both at their joint appearance and, apparently, behind closed doors, where the two discussed a variety of topics. The infamous border wall was one of the subjects they discussed, and the fact that it was discussed in private led to a strikingly predictable dispute: President Peña Nieto claims that he made it clear that Mexico would in no way pay for the wall, while Trump says that payment was not discussed, outraging Mexican citizens.

Then, Trump crossed the border to Phoenix, Arizona to hold the rally that was expected to soften his immigration policy. He quickly devolved into his usual, tough demeanor and attitude, reiterating his hard-line immigration stance. Again, he made it clear that any individual living in the US illegally is subject to deportation, which is a logistical nightmare, even if one agrees with the principle. He even went a

"Trump went to two different cities...in order to draw attention to himself and accomplish nothing."

step further and essentially said that the United States needs more restrictions on legal immigration - as if it isn't already hard enough to come here legally.

While there is a legitimate problem with illegal immigration and some would argue that Trump hasn't attacked Latinos and immigrants in general - only illegal immigrants - there is a fine line between fixing a criminal problem and attacking people whose only crime is living within America's borders. He is projecting an exaggerated, falsified image of an undeterred flood of nonwhite people coming into the country to steal jobs and commit horrendous crimes, fueling the racism and xenophobia that characterizes a decidedly large portion of his supporters. In reality, most of these people are taking the jobs no one else wants to do, which might seem cliché, but many agricultural jobs in particular are far too disgusting for the Americans whose jobs are being "stolen".

The bottom line? Donald Trump went to two different cities - countries, actually - in order to draw attention to himself and accomplish nothing. This trip, an overestimated showcase of absolutely no change of the immigration policy that made Trump's campaign of fear rise to the top of a terrified GOP base, only underlined the fact that Trump continuously caters to people who already agree with him, thriving under their praise rather than reaching out to more people. As president, he would be divisive, constantly invoking fear and anger as opposed to hope and logic. His incapability to build unity, as he demonstrated in Phoenix - arguably, his last chance to soften his unreasonable immigration ideas - or simply cease to betray the ideals of our nation is embarrassing. America was built on compromises and diversity. If it wasn't clear already, Trump aligns himself with neither.

NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL PLAYERS ARRESTED

CASEY CARROLL - OPINION COLUMNIST

On August 19 and 20, six Notre Dame football players were arrested in two different incidents. Five of the players - Te'Von Coney, a sophomore linebacker, Max Redfield, a starting senior safety, Kevin Stepherson Jr., a freshman wide receiver, Ashton White, a sophomore cornerback, and Dexter Williams, a sophomore running back - all face the charges of marijuana possession, found when they were pulled over for speeding. Along with being caught with marijuana, Redfield, Stepherson, and Williams were charged with unlicensed handgun possession during the car search. Devin Butler, a senior cornerback, was also arrested separately for battery against and resisting a police officer after the officer told Butler to step away from a woman he shoved. The altercation was short lived, but the officer was taken to the hospital for minor injuries. These charges all took place during Notre Dame football's "off-weekend" in the span of two days.

These actions led to Redfield getting kicked off the team and Butler being suspended indefinitely. The players charged for only marijuana possession were released on \$300 bond each, and those charged with marijuana possession and unlicensed handgun possession were released on \$500 bond each. Butler was held at St. Joseph County Jail with no formal charges against him. He was given time to provide additional information about the incident by the state to evaluate if formal charges needed to be enforced. Probable cause was found and Butler was released on \$1,000 cash bond the following Saturday.

Many are wondering if these punishments were enough or how young athletes will receive the news. The actions of the six football players should have had more severe consequences for the parties at fault. Two of the players received their punishments due to their seniority to the other players, leaving four players to deal only with internal discipline. The consequences should have been more severe because it now shows that local "celebrities" get better treatment than average people when it comes to crime. This revelation could cause student athletes to do anything they wish because they believe they will get special privileges due to their athletic talents.

The effects of these arrests ignore the fact that people expect to be treated equally, so those charged with the same crimes will be outraged when they receive different consequences for the

same crime. Student athletes will expect to only deal with "internal discipline" when they have done wrong and not formal consequences, like college athletes who receive minimal punishment. The Notre Dame football players were at fault in the two situations that occurred on Aug. 19 and 20, and the players should have been punished more harshly due to the fact that young athletes hear about situations like these, causing them to believe they are invincible and can do what they will without their actions having negative consequences.

BROCK TURNER

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For those that are unfamiliar with the case that shocked the nation this summer, here is a brief summary: a 22 year-old woman went to a party with her sister, drank some alcohol, and, the next thing she knew she was waking up in the hospital. Unable to recall the events of the previous night, she was told that she was found behind a dumpster with an unfamiliar male on top of her. Thanks to a pair of good citizens yelling at and chasing the man down, she managed to escape physically unharmed for the most part. However, the psychological effects on her were astronomical, as with any rape victim. As for the man? Her rapist, now ex-Stanford student Brock Turner, just walked free after serving a mere three month prison sentence - half of his controversially short six month sentence.

In March, a jury found Turner guilty of three felony counts - assault with intent to commit rape of an intoxicated or unconscious person, penetration of an intoxicated person with a foreign object and penetration of an unconscious person with a foreign object. Although a prosecutor ruled he should spend six years in prison, Judge Aaron

Persky ruled six months - three with 'good behavior.' Persky insisted that since Turner's judgement was supposedly impaired by alcohol and he showed remorse, he did not deserve such a harsh sentence. In defense of his decision, Persky said, "I think you have to take the whole picture in terms of what impact imprisonment has on a specific individual's life."

Many, including myself, were quick to be outraged by this particularly light sentence - I, like many others, instead of looking at the specific facts, read the victim's heart-wrenching testimony and cried tears of anger and disbelief. What I was missing was a key fact embedded in the narrative. Due to a horrible legal loophole, we cannot technically call Brock Turner a rapist. Yes, he was convicted of sexual assault, but legally, he is still not a rapist. This is where it gets tricky. California defines rape as "an act of sexual intercourse," and Turner penetrated the victim with "foreign objects" - sticks, among other things. Because of this technicality in California, this specific type of sexual assault is not categorized as rape, but instead as sodomy, which is somehow treated with far less legal consequence.

Upon finding out this minor technicality in a state's law that somehow can influence the entire trajectory of a case, I was shocked - possibly even more shocked and distraught than when I first heard about this case. The trouble with the fine print on a subject so seemingly simple is that it is so

difficult to comprehend why this exists. I know there are bad people in the world - that is something that cannot be changed as a static fact in the universe. But laws? These are things that can be changed. With all of the progress that has happened throughout

the world in regard to rape and its victims, it is very saddening to see that rape has such a narrow definition in this case.



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

Millennials are known for their low turnout to the polls, particularly in local elections. Even presidential elections escape the notice of many young people. There is one position in government, however, that impacts the lives of children and adolescents directly and influences policy across the city. The candidates running for school board are the ones who, if elected, will develop policies that will be implemented in every school in the SBCSC.

Several candidates are running this year for the four positions available on the board. Each of these contenders offers a different perspective on how the corporation should function and which policies are most important.

John Anella, an at-large candidate, prioritizes increasing student achievement. More specifically, he said, a long term vision is required. This vision includes “quality principals, teachers, and staff working in unity with proper allocation of resources, training and technology.” He emphasized high levels of transparency and accountability as part of his vision, and said that every student, whether moving on to college or otherwise, needs an environment tailored for success. At-large candidates campaign across all five districts.

Scott Siler, a candidate in the 3rd District, cited enrollment as his main concern. “If we take necessary actions to improve the schools, the end result is that our numbers will improve as well.” He explained that enrollment could serve as a motivator to “provide students with the resources and opportunities to succeed in an environment of safety and caring.” He also touched on Career and Technical Education, saying it needs to be expanded.

William Sniadecki, another 3rd District candidate, is concerned about equal opportunity. He wants to “ensure that every child has the same opportunities to succeed in this very important time in their life.”

Maritza Robles, an at-large candidate, claims a mix of the budget and student achievement as her priority. “We need a financially sound corporation that has [a curriculum] which allows each student to reach their full potential.”

There is one policy, however, that is highly controversial within the SBCSC. School starting time is an issue that garnered attention after several board members proposed changing it from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. Penn-Harris Madison and other school districts in the area start at times ranging from 8:00-9:00, and proponents of the change argue that it gives students a chance to gain more sleep. They cite studies which show that increased sleep improves overall academic performance.

Opponents of the proposal invoke athletics and claim that athletes would get home too late to complete their homework and relax. These arguments have sparked fierce debate among many in the corporation. It was a virtual consensus among the candidates I reached. Mr. Anella, a supporter of the change, cited research, saying that “real world evidence shows later start times improve academic outcomes for adolescents.” He also touched on primary centers in the SBCSC. “The primary school day badly needs to be extended for all elementary children to succeed in school and life.” The elementary day in the SBCSC happens to be the shortest in the area.

Mr. Siler also cited research but acknowledged the part of the corporation that wants to keep the 7:45 time. Siler, as a board member, “would have to weigh his preferences with the realities of the impact a change like this would have.” He asked several rhetorical questions surrounding the transportation and logistics issues of the decision, but personally, he supports the change.

Mr. Sniadecki has “mixed feelings” about the proposal. “It seems like doctors say a child learns better with more sleep, which makes sense,” he said. “I want what is best for the child, but I am not sure what is best. I think we need to hear from the parents and the community.” Sniadecki did not offer a concrete position but instead called for more community input into the decision.

Mrs. Robles, again invoking research, supported the change, “provided that all logistical and economic difficulties are satisfactorily resolved.”



If you will be 18 on or before election day, November 8, you are eligible to vote, but you must be registered. To register, visit <http://www.indianavoters.com/> or complete the paper form and send it to either your city or township clerk. Find out which district you live in and where your polling station is, and make informed, educated decisions down the ballot. Research every candidate, not just those running for president. Don't forget to turn the ballot over, because there are several candidates on the back, including school board.

STRANGER THINGS

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

Unless you stayed off of social media the entire summer, you'll know that "Stranger Things" was the show of the summer. This Netflix original series captivated viewers with its child actors, beautiful cinematography, and carefully constructed mysteries. Set in a rural town in Indiana, the show uses many known and sometimes overdone horror film tropes, but successfully combines them with a bizarre extraterrestrial element, creating a satisfyingly addictive plot.

The show begins with four hapless and outcast heroes playing Dungeons and Dragons, completely absorbed in the fantasy game. When the mother reminds them of their bedtimes, snapping them back into reality – a theme that'll recur multiple times – the group disperses, only Will Byers never makes it home, having faced something terrifying in his shed.

From there, the storyline splits in two, the first follows Mike, Dustin, and Lucas, all convinced that Will was taken by a D&D monster. The trio soon meet Eleven in the woods, a terrified young girl with psychokinetic powers. The four set off on a monster hunt and along the way, discover both the wonders and angst of adolescence. The second story is much more practical: Chief of Police Jim Hopper sets out to find Will, in the hopes of calming his distraught mother, Joyce. What starts as a fairly routine investigation quickly becomes a conspiracy against the federal government. When the two storylines collide, the true genius of the show is on display, as it perfectly blends the childlike curiosity and innocence of the boys with the harsh truths that Hopper has uncovered.

If the director of "E.T." and the producers of "Freaks and Geeks" were to collaborate on a work, this eight-part series would surely be it. The allusions to these two works are definitely not lost on the show's audiences, from the hyper-innocent Nancy exchanging her cardigans for a leather jacket and a "dangerous" boyfriend, to the scene where Eleven tries to disguise her alien qualities in a dress and blonde wig, to the constant presence of bicycles in every episode.

But don't be fooled, even though the show pays homage to its inspirations, it certainly stands alone as both an intensely engrossing psychological thriller and a critique of suburban living.

"Stranger Things" should not, however, be pegged as a horror series. Sooner described as 'suspenseful' than 'scary', it is not the next "American Horror Story". Exchanging blood and gore for uncertainties and emotion, "Stranger Things" is much more of a character driven plot. As the show progresses, we watch the children surpass the adults in their maturity and empathy, as Hopper and Joyce fall into their own states of disillusion and despair. Yes, there are monsters and creepy men in trench coats, but the series really breaks ground with its characters.

The most praise should then go to the casting choices. Many directors steer clear of preteen protagonists for fear of the series devolving into a Disney Channel production, but Matt and Ross Duffer, the series' writers and directors, took the risk, casting five kids in principal roles, all of whom display an impressive amount of talent. Several veteran actors make appearances as well; Winona Ryder makes her comeback to the screen and David Harbour does very well as the tough cop.

However, some find the casting to be a bit limited; Caleb McLaughlin is the only person of color in a leading role in the series. Mr. Elrod, an IB English and Film Literature teacher at Adams, took issue with the lack of diversity, pointing out that, "The genre implies that it doesn't have to operate by the limits

or constraints of physics or social history. The show's creators might try to use 'historical accuracy' as a shield to protect them from the criticisms that the show has poor representations of diversity (which it does)." He went on to ask of the creators, "Why do some things seem less believable or more strange than others? An alternate dimension and monsters can exist, but there can't be more black, Asian, Latinx people in Hawkins?" These critiques have been voiced by many, but there's always hope that the show's second season will include a more diverse group of actors.

Overall, "Stranger Things" succeeds at organically combining horror symbolism and character development, a feat unaccomplished by most works in its genre.

Netflix



JOHN ADAMS WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

On Wednesday, August 17, John Adams High School began another school year. As all the students and faculty came back from where they left off in June, they welcomed the Class of 2020 as well as a host of new teachers.

John Nowicki

A graduate of Riley High School, John Nowicki is one of the many new teachers here at John Adams High School. He has worked as a substitute, paraprofessional, and a coach for three years. When Nowicki isn't at school, he enjoys creatively writing and cooking. The first impressions Nowicki had of Adams was that it was "big, impressive, energetic, and has good positive energy." He currently teaches ninth grade English here and has been in the corporation for four years. When asked about what he liked about teaching, Nowicki says, "It's a beautiful chaos."

Jamie Thurston

A graduate of Huntington University, Jamie Thurston is very impressed already with this new school year. She explained that "the staff is welcoming and helpful and the students are eager to learn." Thurston is a new art teacher here at Adams and teaches Graphic Design, Photography, and 3D art. She was raised in Van Wert, Ohio and has been teaching for three years. Besides being very passionate about teaching art, she likes to do photography, cooking, and origami. One thing Thurston likes the most about teaching is "when a student finally gets a concept that they have struggled with understanding."

Dan Caudle

This year, John Adams High School welcomed Dan Caudle as the new assistant principal. Originally from St. John, Indiana, he graduated from Lake Central High School and went to Indiana State University. Before coming to Adams, Caudle taught Social Studies for nine years in Merrillville and Chesterton. When asked so far what he thinks of Adams, he said enthusiastically, "I love it!" With the school year off to a great start, Caudle has one goal he wants to meet at the end of the year. "I want to get as many people to walk across that Notre Dame stage for their graduation [as possible]."

Frank Beckton

All the way from Cerritos, California, Frank Beckton is very happy to be here: "I love working at Adams. Everyone is very friendly and helpful," he said. Beckton went to Los Alamitos High School and graduated from California State University. Here at Adams, Beckton is a cross categorical teacher and his job involves planning lessons that are most helpful to students with specialized needs. He has been a teacher for ten years, but this is his first year teaching in Indiana.

Charrell Luckey

This year JA welcomes one of its past students back as a teacher. Charrell Luckey grew up here in South Bend, Indiana and went on to attend Butler University. She now teaches Theatre Arts, Advanced Theatre Arts, Child Development, and Interpersonal Relationships. In her spare time she loves to do makeup design along with singing and acting. When asked so far why she came back to Adams, Luckey said, "Adams is home. I'm glad to be back. Students and faculty alike show me a lot of love."

Daniel Houck

Daniel Houck is an new addition to the Science Department this year. He teaches Biology and Earth Science and this is his first year of teaching. Before coming here, Houck attended Purdue University and Indiana University. In his spare time he enjoys playing video games and has participated in tournaments where he actually has won cash back in his late high school and college days. So far Houck is liking Adams, "The staff seems willing to help you."

Felix Marquez

Hunter Melanson

A graduate of Indiana University of South Bend, Felix Marquez is also a new teacher here at Adams. He has been teaching for seven years and now teaches Spanish. In his spare time Marquez likes biking, reading, and watching movies. When asked for his opinion about Adams, he said, "I like the kids, the staff and the fact that it is so close to home."



MEME CLUB

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

Before the start of this school year, memes primarily existed on social media as a means of witty entertainment or political satire. Students here at John Adams shared their favorite memes via Twitter direct messages and iMessage threads. Thanks to two innovative seniors, Spencer Higgins and Bennett Stuver, memes now have a community that has reached far beyond the glare of an iPhone screen.

The John Adams MEME Club was established in August of 2016. President Spencer Higgins wanted to see if his idea could become a reality, and took the idea of a "Media Engineering Members Ensemble" or "MEME Club" to Principal Seitz at the start of this school year. According to Higgins, the idea of a media-focused club at Adams intrigued Seitz. Higgins said, "MEME club isn't just about sitting around and scrolling through twitter. We're expected to produce some sort of content for the school. We also plan on distributing bi-weekly memes throughout Adams to boost student morale." Stuver added, "Yeah, and MEME Club isn't just a place for show choir kids [...] to hang out, despite rumors."

In order to thoroughly understand the premise of MEME Club, one must first understand the definition of the word "meme." According to Higgins, memes are a means of communication. He said, "Meme is short for Medium, and we all know what a medium is. It's a person who can communicate, usually with the dead, but communicate is the main idea here. So kids, they have these opinions that no one

cares about and no one will listen to. So what do they do? They express what they think through a funny medium in order to get their opinion out there." Stuver added, "Memes are important and memes are eternal. Some kid may have an opinion on the presidential election, but no one cares. Suddenly, if that same kid puts his opinion as the caption of an 'Arthur fist meme,' people might care. What we want to do with MEME Club is take this new 'medium' of sorts and provide a space where kids can learn how to effectively express their opinions through comedy. This club will make you think of memes in a whole new light."

As for an end goal for MEME club? "Well, we really want to go to Cedar Point. Other than that, the goals of MEME Club are world peace and to be able to bring more memes into the daily lives of students at Adams, especially students who may not be regular consumers of memes," said Higgins. To join MEME Club, students need to attend meetings whenever possible and have creative minds. "We're going to look at memes, make memes, and discuss what makes a 'good' meme. If you really like memes, you should check it out," explained Stuver.

If you are interested in joining the John Adams MEME Club, the founders invite you to attend a meeting. Meetings are every Wednesday after school in the choir room. For more information and daily meme updates, follow the official MEME Club Twitter, @johnadamsmemes.

To listen to the full recorded interview with the President and Vice President of the MEME Club, go to @taylor_sumiko on Twitter for the link.



Taylor Waldron

NEW RESTAURANTS IN DTSB

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

Have you been to downtown South Bend recently? If so, you have probably been to some great dining establishments. Downtown South Bend has a wide variety of eateries – from carryout, to cafes, to up-scale diners. Recently, I ventured downtown to experience some of the local South Bend flavor, choosing two of the newest dining options to sample.

I began my food adventure with a trip to The General Deli & Cafe. With a great location near the St. Joseph River and Howard Park, this relatively new restaurant is sure to be frequented by sandwich and coffee lovers alike. Rich Garrett, the store's manager, agrees that the centralized site is ideal for this new restaurant. "It all comes down to the attention this area is starting to get, along with becoming a focal point for different cultures," he said. He went on to say, "I believe this area is coming together as a sort of melting pot."

Upon entering, I found the atmosphere comfortable, with a laid back feel. The staff was extremely friendly. As far as the food goes, I decided to order an interesting variation of a grilled cheese sandwich called "The General." It was the best grilled cheese I have ever tasted.

In terms of the overall goals as well as some future plans, Rich has high hopes for the cafe. "[I hope] to get to the point to where this will be a large showcase of local products." He says that in the future, they want to have musical events, as well as specials and expanded hours. Think twice next time before going to a basic Starbucks or Panera and branch out by supporting a local cafe, The General is sure to impress.

I ended my experience with a visit to Cops and Doughnuts, a new bakery downtown. Located in the former Dainty Maid Bakery, which closed six months ago, Cops and Doughnuts opened up in late August. This place has just about every pastry a person can imagine – from doughnuts and fritters, to cookies and cakes, your pastry dreams will surely be fulfilled. It was difficult to decide between so many great options, but I opted for the apple fritter, which I highly recommend to anyone with a sweet tooth.

The General and Cops and Doughnuts are fantastic new locations. However, they are just two of many restaurants that the area has to offer. In the future, when you make your way downtown, try to enjoy the large array of food choices the area has to offer.

CROSS COUNTRY

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

On the morning of Aug. 1, the cross country team started official practice for this season. However, most of the team has been working relentlessly everyday since June. The John Adams Cross Country team started their season as soon as school let out, meeting everyday at 6:00 in the morning to run. So far, all of their hard work has paid off. At their first meet, the NIC Stampede in New Prairie, the freshmen and sophomore girls finished in 3rd place. The girls continued to succeed by winning the City meet for both varsity and junior varsity at Erskine Golf Course, defeating fellow SBCSC high schools. With their second straight championship in two days, the girls cross country team won the Caston Invite on Saturday, September 3 for both varsity and junior varsity girls.

Upon talking to a few members of the girls' team, Willow Crisovan, a junior, believes the team is off to a good start. "The girls' team [varsity and junior varsity] have won two meets already. So I think we're off to a good start." Senior, Ana Marie Broden agrees: "It's going well, we worked together as a girls team to win City and our whole varsity team [was] in the top 15 at City." With the season off to a great start, the team is gearing up for Sectionals. Sophomore Kara Kison gave some insight on the matter: "The girls' team this year is better than any other year so far. It's been really fun just bonding together and winning together as a team. It's a win win all the time."

The Boys Cross Country team has also been working hard. Since starting practice early in the summer, the coaches are very proud of the teams. Coach Byers stated, "Both teams have set goals of making it to semi-state as a team, and the work and determination they have shown has really impressed the coaching staff." The junior and senior boys did well in the NIC Stampede, finishing in 7th place overall. Continuing on to the meet at Erskine Golf Course, they placed 3rd out of the 6 teams competing. The team was led by Jack Wheeler, who placed 8th with a time of 18:13, Logan Reimbold-Thomas in 10th with an 18:21, and Momin Mirza, who placed 16th with an 18:45. At the Caston Invite, the varsity team finished in 2nd place, and the junior varsity placed 3rd.

After talking to a couple of runners on their thoughts about this season, a senior, Conor Campbell, said, "We are close together as a

pack, but we run slow. The guys have a lot of improving to do." Junior Momin Mirza added, "Compared to my team back in California we have a more ready and agreeable atmosphere. If varsity focuses more and pushes themselves more, myself included, we can win more meets." With more meets to come, the Boys Cross Country team is working hard on their improvements. Chris McCarthy, a sophomore, added that "every meet is a challenge, but it's helping us work our way up to sectionals."

With more of the season still to come, both Cross Country teams are training hard for that finish line.

BOYS SOCCER

NIKI HAKIMZADEH - REPORTER

After a steady start, the John Adams Boys Soccer Team (JABS) are ready to take on the 2016 season. The boys prepared for this year with a summer full of morning and afternoon conditioning. Their hard work throughout the off season and the beginning of the new school year has proven itself to be beneficial. The boys started with a win against Portage High School on August 20; they followed with a win against Riley High School, one of Adams' biggest rivals, with a final score of 4-2. According to senior captain Aidan Manier, "Beating our rival Riley was as satisfying as it always is."

On September 3, the boys traveled down to Bloomington, where they won all three games in the tournament, resulting in a win at the Hoosier Cup. They won their first game with a final score of 3-0, with goals from senior captains Adin Muminovic and Joey Varga as well as senior

Benjamin Hawkins. The next two games resulted with a score of 3-0 and 6-0. More recently, JABS beat Bremen High School with a score of 2-4 at our home field on September 6. To keep up this winning streak, the boys have a plan for the rest of the season. "[We plan on] training harder in practice and building relationships off the field which can help us on the field. Communication is key," said Muminovic.

Manier, Varga, and Muminovic all agreed that their goal for this season is to win the sectional championship and to beat Penn. "This year is the 10th anniversary since we last won the sectional title, so it would mean a lot to me and the team and program as a whole [to win]," said Manier. The boys plan to "win trophies," as Muminovic said, and have fun while doing it. Junior captain Donnell Williams affirms, "The team right now has good energy and is always fun to be around." The boys have created a strong bond with each other that replicates the strength of the team and all of their hard work. Varga said, "My favorite part [of being on the team] is being around the guys, it is great because you are with 22 of your best friends on and off the field." Muminovic echoed Varga, saying, "We're all friends on and off the field. If one of us falls, we all fall, and if one of us wins, we all win."

The players have impacted each other in many ways. "These guys have become like my brothers and I've loved playing by them for several years now," said Muminovic. He continued, "As a captain, I want to instill into them to work together and never give up, no matter how difficult the challenge is." Muminovic has certainly left his legacy on his team - a legacy of constantly pushing his teammates to go above and beyond. He concluded with a quote to describe the team atmosphere: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

John Adams Boys Soccer

