Winter Choral Concert
By: Jada Hoffman

Friday, December 15, Mr. Richard Nunley led the Beginning Mixed Chorus, the Beginning Female Chorus, and the Concert Choir into delivering a marvelous performance.

Ernestine Fleming-Jones, head of the music department, introduced each group as they came out in unison, leaving the crowd anxious for what was to happen next.

The mixed chorus came out in black and red shirts with black pants, performing several Christmas favorites: Do You Hear What I Hear, Family, Grown Up Christmas List, and This Christmas. Diontae Roberts, a junior, had the crowd screaming as he performed a solo to his favorite Christmas song, This Christmas, by Donny Hathaway. Roberts is a transfer student and was quite nervous to be performing his first solo as a member of Kenwood’s beginning mixed chorus.

“I felt as though I did a great job,” Roberts said, “but I was trying not to get too nervous and mess up on stage.”

Good thing he followed his own advice, because he executed each note with perfection leaving the crowd in awe. Roberts had the advantage of coming from a home full of singers. His brother, Melvin Powell, also sung at the concert as part of the concert choir.

Following the mixed concert, were 17 young ladies who were all underclassmen. They dressed in red and black. Several ensembles were given to songs such as, Mary Did You Know? and Must Be Santa. The young ladies surprised everyone by pulling out santa hats as props leaving the crowd screaming out several ‘awns’ and ‘oohs’.

Last but not least, the concert ended with everyone’s favorite - the concert choir. Being the best in the country, winning international awards in three consecutive years, Nunley was eager to bring out the amazing singers. There’s a saying, “you perform well when you look well” and that’s exactly what the concert choir did. Dressed in their best attire the ladies had blue skirts with black tops, while the gentlemen had on black tuxes. More than 10 songs were performed by the concert choir including: Ding-A-Ding-A-Ding, Christmas Time is Here, and Silent Night. Jazz Gloria was also performed as it was dedicated to the memory of Willy Piggins. The choir even added their own flavor to songs such as as Jingle Bell, becoming the crowd’s new favorite Christmas tune. The concert choir took the audience to church as sophomores, Kerrington Adams, sang ‘There’s No Christmas Without You’ by Kirk Franklin. Adams, also a transfer student, felt at home while performing.

“I’ve been performing for a long time so I wasn’t really nervous,” she said. “I just prayed for the best and the rest flew naturally.”

Adams says they’ve been working on this concert for quite some time as Nunley wanted to only bring out the best. The choir ended by singing Joy to the World, bringing on stage several alumni who, surprisingly, remembered all the lyrics. Nunley and the three groups put on a show, leaving the audience in the Christmas spirit.

The next show will be Kenwood’s Got Talent: Parent Edition, as the Bronco parents and alumni will showcase their abilities. Come Friday, January 19 at 7:00pm. to see.

A Gift to the Senior Class
By: Lauren Stewart

Kenwood’s administration unveiled a huge holiday surprise for the year 2018, a senior lounge.

The student council president, senior Amaya Lorick, approached Assistant Principal Karen Calloway, about having a space over the summer. She got the idea from Mr. Nemeth, a drama teacher at Kenwood.

“He told me that his daughter’s school had one and it was a big deal for each class to claim it their senior year.” Lorick said in an interview, shortly after the space was revealed. “I thought the idea was cool so I asked if we could have one. They originally said no, and I thought that was the end of it.”

Due to a flood of other events that popped up, such as Midnight Madness and college tours, the lounge was seemingly forgotten.

In reality, the administration was quietly putting it together. The staff was sworn to secrecy for the first half of the semester. The room they chose had previously been the teacher’s lunch room. It was one of the spaces that previously failed inspection. Walls were painted, floors waxed, ceilings repaired; and eventually the room was brought up to code. Staff members pitched in, helping to find furniture and little knick knacks to make the place cozy.

The Monday before Thanksgiving break, Principal Gregory Jones officially opened the senior lounge to students.

“We were excited to reveal the space,” said Jones. “We wanted to create a space that was just for the seniors, that was reflective of their transition into adulthood. It wasn’t about a particular class, it was about the opportunity.

Jones said this is the first of many improvements, as he hopes for Kenwood to keep progressing for years to come.
The New Kids On The Block
By: Jada Hoffman

The first day of school is never easy. New rules, new teachers, new classes, new friends - everything is frightening.

Kenwood Academy has three types of new kids: the academic center (AC) kids, freshmen, and transfer students; who must experience the butterfly like feeling in their stomach that comes with being new.

Although it can be a rough transition, Kenwood ensures that everyone feels welcome and a part of the community. Staff and students work together making everyone’s experience, whether it’s one year or six years, unforgettable and enjoyable.

The AC is a magnet program where students must test in to get accepted. It’s designed specifically for 7th and 8th graders. For the most part, they stay in the Canter building, which is adjacent to the main building. They have the opportunity to take high school classes in Kenwood and be in classes with upperclassmen. Morgan Charles, a 7th grader in the AC, describes the experience as something “much harder than an average 7th grader’s school experience”.

It’s much more homework than expected, yet the AC isn’t just preparing the students for high school, but college as well. Charles realizes this and appreciates the opportunities granted to her and the rest of the AC. Although academics remain her primary focus, she isn’t sure if she’ll stay for the four years of high school because the AC caused her to be separated from many of her closest friends. She has hopes of getting into a highly selective prep school: Whitney Young. For now, however, she gives Kenwood props for its safety and welcoming community. Although she feels the academic center students are the ‘babies’, she says they’re, “just as much as a Bronco as anyone else”.

Academics are one of the main focuses of parents and students when choosing a school. Kenwood’s AC draws parents in due the rigorous courses offered to students. Although the classes are difficult, it still ensures that students are able to thrive and enjoy their time with peers. In a community, people are surrounded by others with similar characteristics to their own. The AC does a great job of being an inclusive community that everyone can take enjoyment in.

Brandon Edosomwan, a freshman, strongly agrees that a school with a welcoming community, is a school for him, which is why he chose Kenwood. Both his siblings are alumni so he was able to get a taste of what being a Bronco was at an early age. He plans on attending Kenwood for all four years of high school. Edosomwan believes out of all the schools in Chicago, Kenwood guarantees the safest, most friendly environment.

With a safe environment and tight security, many can agree with Brandon Edosomwan. Edosomwan is on the path to success, as he dreams to go to the University of Chicago. He believes Kenwood prepares him to do so by allowing him to take more challenging courses, which will look impressive on college applications. Kenwood is steering Edosomwan in the right direction, and he believes no other school could do better.

Change is a very difficult experience for many people, especially for teens. For some, it can take a week to adjust to big changes, but for others, it may take a much longer time. When you first get in, you’re uncomfortable and not used to things, but eventually you get use to it and you fit right in.

William Crowder, a transferring senior from Marian Catholic, claims if he could have, he would have started his high school years at Kenwood Academy. Crowder knew he was going to transfer and be a Bronco a month before his junior year ended. He didn’t like the structure and curriculum system at his previous school and with him being a multi-talented athlete, and working part time, he needed something that could work for him. Crowder plays football, wrestles, and at times throws discs for track and field. As a transfer, he believes both the football and wrestling teams have welcomed him graciously and he already feels part of their home. Aside from being part of the sports family, he also feels as though he’s a part of Kenwood’s growing community. Unlike other schools, Crowder agrees with Edosomwan, that Kenwood grants safety and more freedom. As a young adult, it’s important to allow students to have independence and for them to make their own decisions, so that they can develop into an adult. Kenwood’s privileges such as off campus lunch, is what Crowder believes Kenwood has that shows they trust their students and it allows them to make adult like decisions.

When choosing a school one has several focal points that decides if they’ll attend or not: academics, community and safety, sports/extra-curricular activities, etc. Kenwood has not only been approved by its new kids, but by Niche K-12, a website that helps people discover private and public schools around them by grading important aspects such as those mentioned above. Kenwood has received a B+ in academics and college prep, an A- in community and safety, and an A in clubs and activities. Overall a great report card for Kenwood Academy.

The new kids seem to be adjusting quite well within the first few months of the school year. They feel welcomed, they feel safe, and above all they feel prepared for college with the rigorous courses encouraged to all students. Kenwood Academy continues to do great at making their school shine above others and keeping the Bronco spirit alive.
On November 11th, the Kenwood Academy Broncos hosted the fourth annual Midnight Madness event to kick off the 2017-2018 boys and girls varsity basketball season.

Midnight Madness is a Kenwood tradition. The teams are shown off to the entire school. They compete in the three-point shootout, dunking contest and scrimmages. Typically, the cheerleading and poms team perform.

However, this year Midnight Madness was different. A variety of teams and clubs performed: including the majorettes, the flag team, Kenwood’s dance class, Showtime and the traditional teams: cheer and poms. There were also lots of crowd participation games added. All in all, the atmosphere of the event was vastly different than years past.

Some students were not impressed, mainly the seniors, who were looking forward to cheering on the basketball teams for the last time. “I wish more time was spent on basketball instead of dancing,” said senior Aniyah Travis.

The event was, in a sense, hijacked by the arts. Each dance performance lasted five minutes, and they were back to back. But for some, the move into the arts was positive and seemed to be representative of the change in Kenwood.

Kenwood recently added dance classes as a part of the daily curriculum named the Dance Project. Their debut piece at Midnight Madness was choreographed by junior, Diva Hunt, a competitive dancer who had been seeking a team at Kenwood for years.

“We learned the dance in like two weeks, and were continuously practicing up until Midnight Madness,” says senior, Danye Bowman, who performed in the routine.

Assistant principal, Karen Calloway, said that she was impressed by all of the performances, and by the basketball teams.

“The staff worked very hard to do something nice for the kids,” Calloway shared. She was aware that some students took a negative view about the event, but she was not too worried about it. However, she does plan on making some changes to it next year.

Hopefully, despite the opinions about Midnight Madness, support for all of the Bronco teams will continue.
Netflix Debuts New Series “She’s Gotta Have It”
By: Jada Hoffman and Lauren Stewart

“She’s Gotta Have It”, a spinoff of the 1986 film directed by Spike Lee, was released on November 23, 2017. It stays true to much of the original plot, centered around the protagonist, Nola Darling (played by DeWanda Wise), a self-described sex positive, polyamorous, pansexual woman who defies the social norms present in society. She dates three men: the conceited Greer Childs (Cleo Anthony), geeky Mars Blackmon (Anthony Ramos), and overprotective Jamie Overstreet (Lyriq Bent). She also enters into a relationship with a woman, Opal Gilstrap (Ilfenesh Hadera). An ongoing conflict throughout the first series is that despite all of her lovers’ protests, she refuses to settle on one.

The series portrayed much of Lee’s original message, as well as more modern issues. From depicting struggles with body image to gentrification to cat calling and harassment; She’s Gotta Have It attempts to tackle it all.

Many viewers responded positively to the character of Nola.

“This Nola Darling, as portrayed by DeWanda Wise, is complicated, fully human, not just a male fantasy of a sexually liberated woman. She screws up. She can’t commit, even when she wants to. She’s a good friend, a devoted daughter, a passionate teacher and artist. She’s woke. And pissed because the rent in Brooklyn is too high. And, Trump. And Prince being gone too soon. And, the patriarchy.” says Teresa Wiltz for The Washington Post.

However, some had more serious criticisms of the show. In an article for, “The Root,” writer Monique Judge commented that although it hits on some good points, it fails miserably to provide a realistic example of polyamory.

Judge writes, “She is polyamorous, but it is clear that her partners are not...There is no true honesty there. In her world, there is no room for consideration of their feelings.”

It was announced on January 1st that there will be a season two, via Instagram. Tune in and judge for yourself.

Kenwood Student Presents: “Where You From?”
By: Caleb Coburn

On November 12, 2017 Amaris Buford, an esteemed up-and-coming director, premiered her debut documentary “Where You From” at the Chatham14 theater. The film held two sold out showings on the late Sunday evening.

Many who attended raved about the film; people used words such as “masterpiece” and “fantastic” when describing the film. In the end, it seemed to leave many people wanting more.

“People who attended said that the film was very relatable and uplifting,” said Buford. “I was overwhelmed with happiness from the responses. Me sharing my art made me vulnerable but the constant congratulations’ and positive reactions secured my destiny.”

However, no success comes without hardships or sacrifices. Over the summer, during the time “Where You From” was being filmed, Buford knew that this project would require a lot of hard work.

“Sacrifices I made included my social life, senior events, money, and safety,” Buford said. “Many of the neighborhoods I conducted interviews in were condemned as the worst Chicago had to offer.”

At the end of the day her sacrifices proved to be fruitful and necessary, which has helped Buford garner fans and supporters of her work.

“It was very informative,” said Kenwood senior, Laurel Allen. “If you’re looking to actually learn about the real Chicago then you should try to go watch it”

“What’s next’ is a question that many of Buford’s supporters are now asking.

“I would like to turn ‘Where You From’ into a documentary series,” Buford said. “And I would like to get it of documentaries and create my first fictional movie about my mom called ‘Muck.’ Buford continues. “My mom is the biggest inspiration I know, her trials and tribulations and I want my first Oscar to be about and dedicated to my mom, that is the least I can do.”
A Blast From The Past
By: Xzavier Hall

Although it may be 2017, today’s edgy teens are wearing outfits straight out of the 90’s; ranging from dated trends such as overalls, band tees, and skater threads, creating a pseudo nostalgic, rap/rock orientation.

The early 2010’s saw the resurrection of the “Kid n’ Play” high top fade box haircut, and various accessories like extended shirts and floral patterns. The black kids who originally wore these things were on the fringes of popularity, regarded as weird or “white acting”. Now their style is being emulated. Being the weird black kid is now a trend.

Since alternative fashion has stepped into the limelight, kids who were once outcasts have their hands on their heads in awe. The popular Ralph Lauren polos and True Religion jeans normally associated with black boys in the early to mid 2000’s faded out of consciousness. Kenwood senior and longtime fashion alternative, Hashim Parham, says, “I don’t know why it all of a sudden picked up traction. Since like the AC [7th and 8th grade], there were only a handful of us, literally. There’s me, Xzavier, Jackson, Banu, and the almighty Sejahari, who graduated last year. Pushing the boundaries of fashion gets people like me a lot of flak, but now it’s cool.”

As he strolls away in his Doc Marten boots and jean jacket, skateboard in hand and camera on neck, he is likely to pass at least 20 people in Thrasher shirts, at least 20 more in choker chains, and even more in a pair of high top Vans.

According to Complex news, the origin of this stylistic tailspin of the youth can be attributed to the emergence of Soundcloud rap. Artists such as Lil Uzi Vert, XXXtentacion, and Lil Peep (R.I.P.), who push the norms of rap itself with other genre influences, bring their fashion as well. With a grunge look and hybrid sound, being the divergent has gained national fame, influencing the primary audience, teens.

According to Lil Uzi Vert in an interview on MTV, “I grew up listening to people like Marilyn Manson, in Philly and that wasn’t cool at all. I was running around with dyed dreads and skinny jeans, making my type of music. I’m just happy I’m asking those like me lives a little easier…”

With the influence rap has on the youth, it is reasonable to see this fashion curve as emulating the idols they see. Others view this from another perspective, saying it is not just a trend. People are feeling more open to experimenting and presenting themselves in ways outside of the norm. Today’s teens, who are millenials, are socially known to veer ways away from the normalities of society, in ideas, social issue beliefs, and identity.

Whatever the reasoning may be, it is bound to change again as years go by and culture shifts. But it is possible that we will see the revitalization of other trends as well, as history is famous for repeating itself.
CPS Graduation Requirements

Editorial

We believe that CPS graduation requirements regarding academics should be the only factor that mandates if a student graduates; if a student has successfully attained 24 credits (2 art, 4 english, 3 math, 3 science), they should automatically be able to receive their diploma.

Though the only regulation of the official 'High School Promotion Policy” is that students successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits, many CPS high schools have added specific guidelines that their students must follow in order to graduate. The graduation process becomes harder for students when schools begin to base their graduation eligibility on factors outside of academics. If a student has passed the classes in their course load and received full credit for those classes, they should be able to receive their diploma.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel wants to make it a requirement that all high school seniors provide a steady plan for what they will be doing after high school in order for them to graduate.

"Emanuel's proposal would add one more big item to the graduation checklist for high school seniors: proof they’ve been accepted into college or the military, or a trade or a "gap-year" program. The requirement would also be satisfied if the student has a job or a job offer," stated Juan Perez Jr., a contact reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

The mayor argues that the point of adding this graduation requirement is to get CPS students to stop seeing high school graduation as an ending and to push them to consider what's next. Though others may argue that adding this requirement would benefit students, not all students have plans for after graduation that CPS or school officials would deem acceptable. Students should be able to choose alternative routes for themselves, and they should not have to receive any form of approval from school officials regarding their plans after graduation in order to receive their diploma. If a student has done all of the work to get graduate, they should be allowed to do so. Many students already have no desire to go to school. Forcing them to do more work could make them feel more overwhelmed and push them to drop out.

Along with receiving a diploma, we believe that students should be allowed to participate in their high school graduation ceremony as long as they meet the academic requirements for graduation, and have not engaged in any extremely negative activity that would reasonably prevent them from having approval to attend.

Senior year is already a stressful time for the majority of CPS students; we believe that this new graduation requirement would only add unnecessary stress. Students should be able to choose their own paths, and they should not need approval from a school official in order to receive their diploma if their academic record already grants them with the eligibility to graduate.

Should You Go Greek?
By: India M. Robinson

Pledging to a sorority or fraternity is a platform of social opportunity and everlasting connections, but it is not meant for everyone.

Undergraduates interested in pledging should first research the organizations on their campus. It is important to make sure that you select a sorority or fraternity that aligns with your core morals and values. Become familiar with all of the rights and responsibilities attached to that organization’s membership. When you have figured that out, learn more about the chapter at your school. Pay attention to the things they are doing on campus, the way they carry themselves and more. The most important thing to keep in mind during the process is your reasoning for pledging.

Hazing often comes to mind when pledging is discussed. Oftentimes harmful, it can be seen as a rite of passage that promotes knowledge and loyalty to the organization and creates bonding with its members. Many Greeks describe experiencing silly hazing practices. A study done in 2008 by the National Collaborative for Hazing Research and Prevention showed that 73% of Greeks reported being hazed and most severe incidents were unreported. Hazing, when taken to an extreme, can endanger physical and mental health. Common practices are forced consumption of alcohol, sleep deprivation, sexual assault, beatings, and humiliation. This type of behavior is neither an effective, safe, nor fair way to promote knowledge of the chapter and ensure friendships with its members.

Until the change is made in the greek systems, if you are not sure that pledging is something that you mentally and physically can get through, it is better to find other ways to get socially involved coming into your first year of college.

Many memories and opportunities come with Greek life but greek life isn't for everyone and in order to better the system of pledging it would be best for those who are unsure to know their limits rather than pushing themselves past one.

In like manner, upperclassmen would need to understand when and where too much is being done during the hazing process. With self control and certain precautions, Greek life has potential to be great. Uphold the true meaning of what a everlasting brotherhood or sisterhood means.
**OPINION**

Do Children Deserve the Death Penalty?
By: Malaika Dansaba

Since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976, 22 people who committed crimes as juveniles have been executed. This number represents two percent of all executions since 1976. The last person executed for crimes committed as a juvenile was Scott Allen Hain in 2003 for a double murder-kidnapping committed when he was 17.

One might argue that someone who can brutally kidnap and murder two people should be sentenced to death regardless of their age, but studies have shown that the critical parts of the brain involved in decision-making are not fully developed until at least age 25 or later. In 2005, less than two years after Hain's execution, the Supreme Court used these findings to come to the conclusion that the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution was violated when criminals were executed for crimes committed when they were under the age of 18. Had the Supreme Court come to this decision only a few years earlier, Hain would not have been executed. It can be assumed that the death penalty for crimes committed as a minor is universally condemned. However, juvenile offenders can still be sentenced to life in prison, with or without parole. Life in prison is essentially a prolonged death sentence. This begs the question of whether or not life sentences for juvenile offenders is equally unconstitutional as death sentences for juvenile offenders.

Since 1976, only one person has been executed for a crime committed while they were under 17. This person was Sean Sellers who was convicted of the 1985 and 1986 murders of a convenience store clerk and his parents, respectively. Some jurors have claimed that they opted for the death penalty because at the time, Oklahoma law did not give the option of serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Had Sellers received the life sentence, he could have been paroled in 7 to 14 years which many felt was not a long enough prison term.

If a child can brutally murder multiple people, shouldn't our focus be on rehabilitating them instead of punishing or completely ending their lives? Juveniles who commit murder are not normal, but just because the corrections system does not know how to properly deal with them doesn't mean that they should be executed or spend the rest of their lives in prison after they have hardly begun. Because these crimes were committed when the offender was very young, they have years upon years to be rehabilitated and reintroduced to society.

The United States is hell-bent on punishing and removing people from society. Instead of caging people up and killing them when we don't know what else to do, our focus should be on what we can do to help them.

**WHAT DO KENWOOD STUDENTS THINK?**

“I believe that children should not be given the death penalty. They have the most potential to turn their lives around and re-enter society.” - Elijah Coe

“The death penalty should not exist for children. It is inhumane.” - Hasani Chavours

“It depends. Overall no, but if they commit an extremely brutal, heinous crime then it should be considered.” - Shelbi Townsend

“No. It depends on the offense. They still have their life ahead of them and they need time to develop it into something more.” - Lovette Coleman

“Kids shouldn’t get the death penalty. Personally I don’t believe the death penalty should exist” - Kaylin Wadell

“Children should not recieve the death penalty because they’re just children. They haven’t even had a chance to be educated or to know what’s going on around them.” - Ajayla Finley

“I think the death penalty shouldn’t be given to children. Killing a kid is just sad.” - Andre Erving

“I think it depends on the offense. They should only recieve the death penalty if they commit a crime that is outlandish, like murder.” - Brandon Green
Lady Broncos Dominate
By: Artese Stapleton

The Kenwood girl’s basketball team is having a strong 2017-2018 season. Despite the loss of a few key seniors, the return of core players, underclassmen and an influx of transfers have helped the Broncos remain one of the top teams in the city. They will be led by senior Joanie Johnson, who recently committed to the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC), senior Shadrian McDaniel, who also carries several division 1 offers, junior Tamara Nard also a UMKC commit and, junior Shania Jackson. The loss of junior Jayda Grady, who is out indefinitely for a leg injury, was devastating.

The team has a built a huge fan base behind them over the years. For the past two seasons, they have been successful; recording more than 30 wins each year and winning back to back regional championships.

“"The girls basketball team is my favorite team in the school, they are just so fun to watch,"" said Amaris Buford, a senior at Kenwood. ""They are cold! Just might be the best team in the school."

They started off the season 5-0, dominating their opponents in every game so far. They have been winning by over 30 points in their last four games where they played Lindbloom, Perspectives, North Lawndale, and Butler Prep. These schools are not the team's usual competitors, so it was a good test to see how they would match up against different teams.

Boys Basketball Gears Up For The Season
By: Mehki Churmley

Going into the 2017-2018 season, the Broncos boys basketball team is faced with many challenges. Last year, the team had a record of 19-8; They lost in the Elite 8 tournament and didn’t make it past the third round in state playoffs. With five new transfers and a new starting lineup, the team is trying to improve on last years record. 

“We’re taking city and state,” junior Artese Stapleton stated.

The team has high expectations and confidence, which can only help boost their performance. The team has added many new players: Isaiah Burrell, Nuri Knighton, Patrick McKenzie, Seryee Lewis, and Sontrell Key are Kenwood’s new transfers that will be pivotal to the team.

The Broncos are under the leadership of head coach, Marlo Finner. This is the first team entirely made up of players he personally recruited. With four years under his belt, Finner has an impressive resume so far at Kenwood. With the new revamped roster and new starting lineup, the team is expected to reach its full potential and bring in a banner next school year.

“They look better than last year, they look almost as good as that Nick and Zion team from 2016,” senior, Lincoln Hayes, said.

This year the Broncos were added to the new “super conferences”. These new conferences are made up of high performing CPS schools on the South and West sides, and conjoined in two super conferences. Kenwood is in the Red South-Central, which also contains; Bogan, Brooks, Vocational, Curie, Dunbar, Harlan, Hyde Park, Morgan Park and Simeon. Kenwood’s opponents are tougher than previous years and with only three seniors on the team, many critics believe they are lacking the necessary experience. But the team is hungry to prove the naysayers wrong.

Senior forward, Naseer Turner stated, “It’s basketball and whoever wants it more is going to get it.”

Kenwood's fast pace tempo will keep them on top in conference.

There are a few teams in the Red South-Central conference that are currently ranked higher than Kenwood, but Kenwood still has opportunity to dominate the conference. Kenwood may not have a lot of big names and citywide hype, but they are talented and have potential to do well enough to reel in D1 offers. The Broncos are currently ranked 19th in the Preseason top 25 in the Sun Times.

They believe they can only progress from there.
Chicago’s Son:  
The Legacy of Saieed Ivey  
By: Andrew Stewart

Nike’s unveiling of a new hyperdunk sneaker, the “FINAO”, is very significant to the Chicago basketball community.

This shoe was made for a young man named Saieed Ivey. Ivey, who now would have been 21 years old, was a former Simeon graduate. He was a basketball standout and after high school, he went to Governor State University. He transferred and was playing on the East Los Angeles College basketball team.

Ivey was found dead early in the morning on June 9, 2016, his 20th birthday. He was out celebrating when he was lured to the back seat of his car and was set up to be robbed by a young woman. When he proceeded to fight back, he was shot, killed, and left in the backseat of his car for hours. When this news hit Chicago, many people were devastated. Ivey was well known and loved by many people around the city. He had positive impacts on lots of lives.

“Saieed was like my real big brother,” close friend, Elijah Stewart said. “He used to work the camp I was in early in the morning, then would drive my brother and I to Simeon to get a workout in with him. Many times, he would then take us and coach us at all of our summer league games. Also, he tried his best to educate and shield me from all the bad things going on in the city of Chicago.”

“Saieed was a great young man and role model to a lot of kids in Chicago. He is truly missed but the impact and legacy that he left behind will live forever,” said Larry Stewart, a basketball coach at Kenwood, and Elijah’s father.

The shoes that came out are important because of it being named FINAO’s. FINAO was a movement spearheaded by Saieed, and it stands for “failure is not an option.” He came up with this a while ago with his friends to promote positivity and give young basketball players in Chicago inspiration.

“This shoe was made to promote the legacy of Saieed and for the people of Chicago to have something to have to still live by and what better way than to make it through a basketball shoe” said one of the Nike designers of the new shoe.

“I saw a couple of the Kenwood basketball players wearing these shoes at Midnight Madness,” a Kenwood basketball fan said. “This meant a lot to me because it shows that Saieed has not been forgotten and his message of never giving up is still being passed on.”

We’ve Got Spirit  
By: Lauren Stewart

Despite having less fanfare than other sports teams in the school, the Kenwood Academy cheerleading squad is one to look out for.

Coming off a third place win at city competition and ranking eighth in their region the year before last, the team is preparing to come back stronger this season. This year they will be led by senior captains Maya West and Jataya Lee, and junior captain Mariah Webster.

“We’re gunning for city this year,” West exclaimed.

Their longtime coaches are Kenya Hayes and Tamera West. Hayes is a licensed attorney and criminal justice teacher at Kenwood. She was also a majorette during her college years at Grambling State University in Louisiana. Tamera West was formerly a cheerleader at Thornwood High School in South Holland, Illinois.

Many overlook cheerleading because they don’t consider it a sport. However, according to experts, competitive cheerleading requires the same skills needed in any other competitive sport. Strength, endurance, cardio and flexibility are paramount; not to mention you’re required to have extensive gymnastics, tumbling and dance experience. Also, cheerleading has the most reported injuries compared to any other activity. A recent study in the Journal of Pediatrics found that cheerleading is the most dangerous sport due to the high risk of severe injuries, including: concussions, broken bones, permanent disabilities and paralysis, and risk of injuries causing a shorter lifespan.

Despite the risk, Kenwood cheerleaders are still invested and excited.

“I love cheerleading. It gives me the ability to be involved with different sports teams in the school”, said junior Ty’Kira Fenton. Some members of the team describe it being a tight knit organization.

“Kenwood’s cheer team was like a sisterhood, and we were always pushed to be the best,” said former captain, Nia Wilson. She found similarities between her high school squad and her current team at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

In addition to competition season, the team performs at basketball and football games. So come catch them on the sidelines this winter, or cheer them on at competition.
Reducing Academic Inequality in CPS
By: Amani T. Jackson-Gladney
Chicago Public Schools has declared its mission to get more students in advanced placement classes.

Five schools; Curie Metropolitan High School, King College Prep, Chicago Agricultural High School for Sciences, Mather High School, and Morgan Park High School are the main focuses for this academic experiment. These high schools all work with CPS and College Board to figure out ways to encourage more kids to take on classes that fits them best. Students involved in this project see both positives and negatives in this arrangement.

“My grade point average has went up, but the workload is more and it's a little more stressful,” said Kaylah Stubbs, a senior at King College Prep. “I was pressured to take one of my AP classes.”

Many, like Kaylah, also feel pressured by administration to take an AP class due to the new initiative. They understand that it makes the school look competitive, and could prepare them for college. However, it can be very stressful for students who are not ready for the challenges AP classes present.

Teachers also feel the pressure that these classes present. They have to stay on top of their game, since they’re teaching students a larger and more complex load of information.

“You constantly get to challenge yourself and you can get to present ideas with more freedom and a more rigorous curriculum,” said Mrs. Sales, the AP English teacher at Kenwood Academy High School. “The challenge is that there is more pressure related to teachers due to the AP exam, so the teachers have to be on top of their game. Stay on top of their game to teach the students a larger load of information.”

AP classes have definitely become more widespread within school's curriculums. The courses have taken over nearly 30 subjects, and include annual testing at the end of the school year. If a student receives a 3 or higher out of a total score the student will generally be awarded with advanced placement credit for the class. That credit could potentially go towards their college education. However, some highly selective institutions require a 4 to receive credit.

There have been some changes within the AP system over the years, especially regarding the class sizes. In an effort to become more inclusive, the system has tried what they could, but it only increases the class sizes and as a pro it gives access, the problem is, they are supposed to be smaller which is not good for students,” said Sales.

Originally AP classes had the benefit of being smaller. This allowed students to have a more intimate learning environment, and better relationships with the teacher. But the benefits of allowing more students to participate in higher level curriculum cannot be ignored. According to the Department of Education, 37 percent of Black and Latino pass the college-prep courses, but only 27 percent pass that take the AP class, and 18 that pass the AP exams. This creates a rift in educational mastery between minorities and privileged groups.

Students can take as many AP classes as they want, but it can get pricey. Each AP class has a fee of eighty-seven dollars per exam. The exam only counts if a student passes them, and the level of difficulty can make this very hard to accomplish. A student who is less confident in their abilities could be dissuaded by this logic.

The College Board, which sponsors AP, is a non-profit organization that connects students to college opportunities and success. According to their website, collegeboard.com, they are dedicated to promoting excellence. Each year more than seven million students prepare for college readiness exams and programs. These include tests such as the SAT and AP exams, which are two major determinants in college acceptance. Six-thousand of the world's leading educational institutions have partnered with College Board, and committed to aiding students through excellence and equity in education.

CPS believes that all students should get equal opportunities. This could help more students involved in the classes for their future.

Chicago's mayor, Rahm Emanuel, stated his intent to have at least half of public school students with one college or career credit by 2019. Every student deserves to be as competitive as possible, so hopefully his plan works.

Bringing Lacrosse To Kenwood
By: Morgan Charles

Lacrosse was first played in the early 1700's by Native Americans using a stick and a ball; it's evolved to be a sport played all over the world. Although it's not an extremely popular sport in the United States, it has began to make way in the athletics department at Kenwood Academy.

Ivan Sarudi, the Academic Center lacrosse coach, says that he doesn’t think people know enough about the sport. He thinks that once people truly understand the sport, they’ll enjoy both watching and playing. Sarudi is familiar with lacrosse because his son has been playing the sport for a while. "I've been able to help my son and attend some of his games and practices," says Sarudi. He gained an interest in coaching, and decided to sponsor and coach a team here at Kenwood.

"Lacrosse can combat the traditional stereotypes of certain races only playing specific sports," says Sarudi. To him, bringing a traditionally "white sport" to a predominantly black high school creates an opportunity for teens to receive college scholarships and further their successes.

The team is open for everyone, as tryouts were held mainly for students who are interested in the sport to gain a better understanding of the rules of the sport. As a teacher, Sarudi believes all sports help academically in terms of "managing your time, and helping students think differently."

"I feel as though Kenwood as a whole cares more about other sports like basketball and football than they do lacrosse about smaller or less known sports. The football players kicked us off the field at practice one day because they had to practice as well, and we didn't have anywhere to practice," says Kristin Lewis, a seventh grade lacrosse player.

This is Lewis' first time playing lacrosse, and she has grown to enjoy lacrosse; she now considers it her favorite sport. She wanted to try out lacrosse because her older sister played as well.

Catlin Bonham, another head coach of the Kenwood AC's lacrosse team, has played lacrosse for eight years and began playing high school. Bonham says that lacrosse helps children in terms of self esteem, and helps them to achieve academic success.
Obama Serves Jury Duty
By: Caleb Coburn

Jury duty is considered a burden many citizens try to avoid; However, it is something every American citizen is obligated to do. Even former President Barack Obama reported to jury duty on Wednesday. Obama’s experience was a bit different compared to others. When he arrived at the courthouse, there was a frenzy of people inside and many took pictures and videos. Thomas Person, a Chicago native, took a video of Obama and called the experience “the best thing in my entire life.” Originally, Person’s was not going to show up for jury duty until his mother texted him that Obama would be there.

“We have a system in Cook County where a person can be submitted one time a year on the jury and that time has arrived for President Barack Obama,” said County Chief Judge, Tim Evans.

Obama is expected to make the same salary as any other citizen on jury duty: seventeen dollars and twenty five cents for each day he serves. This is a considerable pay cut for a former president who used to make four hundred thousand dollars a year.

Obama is the highest ranking former public official to be called to jury duty in Chicago, but he is not the first former president to be summoned. In 2015, former president George W. Bush answered his jury duty call in Dallas, Texas. However, he was not selected to sit on a jury.

Many people don’t understand the history or purpose of jury duty. Jury duty is the obligation to act as a member of a jury in court. To qualify, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of the county, at least 18 years of age, able to communicate in English and if you are a convicted felon, you have to have had your civil rights restored.

There are three groups that are exempt from federal jury service: members of the armed forces on active duty, members of pride fire and police departments, and public officers of federal, state, or local government. Citizens who are actively engaged on a full time basis in any of these categories are barred from serving on federal juries, even if they desire to do so. In other words, being summoned for jury does not guarantee that a person will actually serve on a jury; the attorneys also may exclude a certain number of jurors without giving a reason.

After the jury is specter there is a whole court process. After signing in, jurors typically spend long periods of time waiting in the assembly room; it’s usually filled with magazines and puzzles. Next, you get called into a courtroom with a group of other potential jurors. Then a judge explains the basis of the case such as whether it’s a criminal or civil trial, what the charges are, and what the dispute is about. Whether the trial is criminal or civil, a verdict must be reached. At that point, the jury process is completed and the jurors are dismissed.

Overall, jury duty doesn’t always have to be a burden; it could be a life changing experience someone could enjoy.

How One Can Offer So Much
By: Najjila Brooks

His name, Ash Ashkur, will never be forgotten throughout the South Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. He is 43 years old and has shown much patriotism for America. He even took it upon himself to open a local corner store in the heart of the neighborhood, but he would have never thought how big of a deal it would become.

Sunrise Food Mart has been shelter for some, and helpful to others in times of struggle. Ashkur stated that he has been running the store for almost 11 years, and as unbelievable as it sounds he has never had anyone try and rob it.

However, he joked, “many have attempted to try and steal the occasional bag of chips or pack of Mamba’s.” The first time his store became someone’s shelter was in the winter of 2011.

“A man was crouched against the side of the building wearing only some shorts and wrapped in a thick blanket” said Ashkur. “Don’t get me wrong, I knew not all people were fortunate to have a home, I’d just never expected to encounter someone directly.”

He went on speaking about this particular day and how he helped this homeless man by giving him apparel sold in his store while also allowing him to rest in the lounge area at the back of the store.

“The next day, this man offered to work for me with no pay as long as he could sleep here every night. Of course I accepted, and 2 weeks later he was earning every penny he deserved all while staying here; He has actually become one of my most trusted employees,” Ashkur said.

For a long time Ashkur didn’t feel the need to have people working for him because the place was so small and he was able to manage everything alone, but this man (whose name remains unmentioned) changed his perspective on the benefits to having employees.

Ashkur is grateful for his store, and what it has given him, from profits themselves to the knowledge and people he has come across at his business.

“It is really a blessing, everything. From the store to the friends I’ve made in the community,” he remarked.
Kenwood Seniors Selected for Citywide Portfolio Art Exhibit at SAIC

Alejandro Vargas
N’Jari Barry
Donald Brown
Sahlim "Sam" Alsiofi
Christal Whiteside
Krist Vinotal
Jalissa Beard
Tyrese Jones
Lauren Berry
Delshawn Rowell
Jeremi Cogdell
Raquel "Rocky" Hjelmgren
Jhovante Woodard

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