



Nordonia Knightlines

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 6

MAY 2009

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Nordonia Band Marches on Disney



During this past spring break many of the Nordonia Band students went down to Florida and spent a memorable week at Disney World. They participated in a music workshop and also marched in the Pre-Spectro Magic Parade in Magic Kingdom.

The band will soon be performing in the Memorial Day Parade for Nordonia Hills and also at Nordonia High School's graduation ceremony in E.J. Thomas Hall at The University of Akron.

Two scholarships from the Band Aides organization will be awarded to two senior band students who are going to pursue a music degree or stay involved in a music program in college. We congratulate all of our seniors and hope their band experience was a memorable and exciting one.

Many thanks go out to all of the parents and volunteers for giving their time and talents in supporting the band members and the Band Aides organization. Thank you to Mrs. Staci Vincent for all the wonderful direction and expertise that she gave to the Color Guard members during the marching season. Finally, thank you to the directors, Mr. Robert Hoefler and Mrs. Beth Levy-Petracco, for all of their tireless efforts and dedication in instructing the band students throughout the school year.

Physics Day 2009 Coming Soon to Nordonia

In May, all the Physics classes from Nordonia High School will spend the day applying the laws of motion to amusement park rides. Each student will receive a packet with ride data and questions about specific rides.

The students will have to collect data from each ride and solve problems relating to speed, force and momentum. This packet is the culmination of second semester studies on mechanics and motion and will be a significant part of their final exam.

"It is so cool to take what you've learned in the classroom and see it work on the Iron Dragon," said Barbara McMichael, Physics teacher.

Students will be permitted to carry accelerometers onto specific rides and measure the g-forces experienced by the rider.

Teacher John O'Brien commented, "It's amazing all the physics they're able to complete in one day. The students really feel confident about all they've learned."

It is a full day of fun application and enjoyable learning.



Pictured to the left: Elise Madar times rides during Physics Day 2008.



Social Studies Department Gears Up for AP Testing

The first week in May began the Advanced Placement testing cycle. Nordonia students have the option of taking a variety of courses with the Advanced Placement designation. Advanced Placement classes are taught at a higher level of thinking and require more extensive reading and writing in the Social Studies area.

The AP Government and Politics test was given on Monday, May 4, 2009, to 31 senior students. The test consists of 60 multiple choice questions, to be completed in 45 minutes, and four essays. There is no choice of essays – all the questions presented must be answered. The students have 100 minutes to complete all four of the essay questions.

Friday, May 8, 2009, brought the AP United States History test. 46 Nordonia students took this test. Three seniors and 43 juniors answered 80 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes, then faced a document-based question in essay form and two additional standard essay questions.

A document-based question is a question accompanied by primary source document excerpts, maps, pictures and other primary source information that relate to the question. Students must answer the question using 50% information from the documents as evidence to support their thesis and 50% outside information (something the student knows about the subject that is not in the documents) supporting their thesis. Students had 15 minutes to plan their thesis and organize their document and outside information and 45 minutes to write the essay. After completing the document-based question, there was still more to be done. Students had to write two more essays and had 70 minutes to complete this task.

These tests are difficult, but success on them can lead to college credit. All Nordonia students who take AP classes are required to take the AP tests given the first and second week in May. Congratulations to all Nordonia students who have completed their AP tests.

Last Chance to Buy 2009 Yearbook

Adviser: Ms. Annette Lang

Phone: 330-908-6039

E-mail: annette.lang@nordoniaschools.org

May 23, 2009, is the last date to order a 2009 yearbook. The cost of the book is \$57.00 plus tax. Don't remember if you have ordered a book? You can call Jostens 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-866-282-1516. P

Please remember, we do not purchase any extra copies of the yearbook to sell in the fall. Do not miss out on all the fun memories; order the 2009 yearbook now.

Yearbook order forms and information are now on-line. Visit the high school Web page and click on the link to the Jostens Yearbook Logo, or call 1-866-282-1516 to order.

Summer Reading, Summer Reading, Summer Reading!

The English Department is asking for all student participation in its summer reading program for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Students have been given choice in both titles and assessments. Students may see their English teacher with questions.

Students may also find the list of appropriate titles on the Nordonia Web site. Links may be found at www.nordoniaschools.org on either the high school page under "English" or on the curriculum page. There will also be a link posted on the main Nordonia homepage.

Students will receive a hard copy of a brochure listing all titles and a menu of assessments from their English teacher. Extra copies will also be found in the high school guidance department, in the high school's main office, and in the curriculum office at the Board of Education.

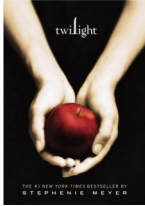
A detailed list of readings can be found on the following page.

English Department Readies Summer Reading Program

<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 9 <i>College Prep</i></p>	<p>HAROUN AND THE SEA OF STORIES REQUIRED READING <i>Salman Rushdie</i></p>	<p>FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN <i>Mitch Albom</i></p>	<p>HOUSE OF SCORPION <i>Nancy Farmer</i></p>	<p>SECRET LIFE OF BEES <i>Sue Monk Kidd</i></p>	
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 9 <i>Honors</i></p>	<p>THE LORD OF THE FLIES REQUIRED READING <i>William Golding</i></p>	<p>CRY THE BELOVED COUNTRY REQUIRED READING <i>Alan Paton</i></p>	<p>THE CHOSEN <i>Chaim Potok</i></p>	<p>A SEPARATE PEACE <i>John Knowles</i></p>	
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 10 <i>College Prep</i></p>	<p>THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME REQUIRED READING <i>Mark Haddon</i></p>		<p>COLOR OF THE SEA <i>John Hamamura</i></p>	<p>FIREHOUSE <i>David Halberstam</i></p>	<p>NIGHT <i>Elie Wiesel</i></p>
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 10 <i>Honors</i></p>	<p>TO KILL A MOCKING-BIRD REQUIRED READING <i>Harper Lee</i></p>	<p>THE BONESETTER'S DAUGHTER <i>Amy Tan</i></p>	<p>AS I LAY DYING <i>William Faulkner</i></p>	<p>ALL THE PRETTY HORSES <i>Cormac McCarthy</i></p>	<p>A RAISIN IN THE SUN <i>Lorraine Hansberry</i></p>
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 11 <i>Fundamental and College Prep</i></p>	<p>A LESSON BEFORE DYING REQUIRED READING <i>Ernest Gaines</i></p>	<p>FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS <i>H.G. Bissinger</i></p>	<p>A LONG WAY GONE, MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER <i>Ishmael Beah</i></p>	<p>DEATH BE NOT PROUD A MEMOIR <i>John Gunther</i></p>	<p>SOLD <i>Patricia McCormick</i></p>
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 11 <i>Honors</i></p>	<p>FRANKENSTEIN REQUIRED READING <i>Mary Shelley</i></p>	<p>WUTHERING HEIGHTS REQUIRED READING <i>Emily Brontë</i></p>	<p>THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY <i>Oscar Wilde</i></p>	<p>THE TURN OF THE SCREW <i>Henry James</i></p>	<p>ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD <i>Tom Stoppard</i></p>
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 12 <i>Fundamental</i></p>	<p>INTO THE WILD REQUIRED READING <i>Jon Krakauer</i></p>				
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 12 <i>College Prep</i></p>	<p>BIG MOUTH AND UGLY GIRL REQUIRED READING <i>Joyce Carol Oates</i></p>	<p>FINDING FISH <i>Antwone Fisher</i></p>	<p>LIFE OF PI <i>Yann Martel</i></p>	<p>THE TIPPING POINT: HOW LITTLE THINGS... <i>Malcolm Gladwell</i></p>	
<p><i>Going into</i> Grade 12 <i>Advanced Placement</i></p>	<p>THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD REQUIRED READING <i>Zora Neale Hurston</i></p>	<p>THE JUNGLE REQUIRED READING <i>Upton Sinclair</i></p>	<p>ANTIGONE <i>Sophocles</i></p>	<p>CATCH 22 <i>Joseph Heller</i></p>	<p>SONG OF SOLOMAN <i>Toni Morrison</i></p>

Knight Readers Rock!

“I’m bored!”



Even parents of high-schoolers hear that lament, and it often comes as early as June. But the IMC has an answer for you. . . . a stack of student-selected, summer loans.

All our most popular books are available: *Twilight*, *Crank*, *Gossip Girls*, *t.t.y.l.*, *Maximum Ride*, *Secret Life of Bees*, and many, many more.



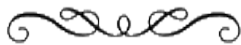
We also have lots of new titles that have just come in; *Wintergirls* (a teen’s struggle with anorexia), *If I Stay* (17-year-old Mia awakens from a coma after a car crash and discovers her entire family died in the crash), *North of Beautiful* (an exploration of inner versus outer beauty by a port-wine birth-marked teen of a verbally-abusive parent), *If I Grow Up* (a young urban youth tries to resist the allure of joining a gang) and *Red Moon at Sharpsburg* (the Civil War tears apart the country and many families).



Plus, there are biographies and non-fiction books for the renting. Students can come in and see for themselves.



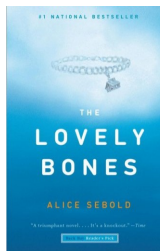
The library will be open every weekday through June 12, 2009. Students can select a stack of books that will not be due until the first week of school. Anything still needed in the fall may be renewed. A little planning can go a long way towards eliminating mid-summer, rainy day cries of boredom.



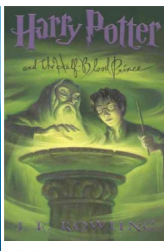
My Sister's Keeper



Angels and Demons



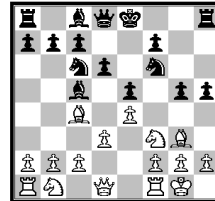
The Lovely Bones



Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

Read these before the movies open!

Chess Championship



The second semester chess tournament wrapped up in April with a surprising finish. After players Jerry Ficzeri, Steve Tentler and first-semester champion, Jeff Crawford, were dispatched to the losers bracket, junior Steve Novak had only to wait to see whom would challenge him again.

In a repeat of the first semester tournament, senior Jeff Crawford was victorious, winning the opportunity to challenge Novak by besting Alex Krieger, Deon Scott, Alex Nolan and top freshman finisher, Steve Tentler.

This is where the similarity from first semester ended, however, as Novak quietly aced the first game of the championship round dashing Crawford’s hopes.

Other players included Bryon Leach and Adam Thornton. One thing is for sure, a good time was had by all!



Standing: Alex Krieger

Top Row: Kitty Sutherland, Alex Nolan, Brandon Vandermullen, Deon Scott and Jerry Ficzeri

Sitting: Jeff Crawford, Bryon Leach, Adam Thornton, Steve Tentler and Steve Novak

Knight Readers Rock!

After meeting at local coffee houses throughout the year and discussing a wide variety of books, we are wrapping up this school year with a discussion of Jodi Picoult's *Change of Heart* and a return trip to Kendall Cliffs indoor rock-climbing gym.

Lots of students read for pleasure and many talk about the books they have read with their peers. But it takes real dedication to read a book each nine weeks beyond school requirements and then meet and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the plot and writing.

Nordonia Knight Readers have shown they have what it takes. This year we have discussed *Paper Towns*, *What Was Lost*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *Change of Heart*.

We have lots of ideas for next year's club, as well as plans to re-establish the seniors- and teachers-only discussions that we were unable to schedule for this year.

New club members are always welcome!



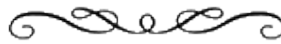
Top Row: Cynthia David, Kitty Sutherland, Sarah Stokar, Anna Hovorka, Sarah Hrdlicka, Jessica Heatherman

Front Row: Julia Magyar, Sarah McMasters, Natalia Hutnyan, April Porter, Danielle Howard

Not pictured: Casey Carruzzo, Alicia Fogg



Last year's rock climbing adventure was such a success we have scheduled a repeat outing for this year.



Meet the Green Team!

Hopefully, you have heard about a team of students, known as the Green Team. These students pick up the high school's recyclables.

They do an outstanding job each Tuesday and Friday hitting every classroom and emptying barrels of paper into the Abitibi dumpster in our parking lot. The bags of plastic and aluminum recyclables get transported to the dumpster at Macedonia Rec.

These students are to be commended as they have kept up the twice-weekly routine all school year!



Students make Nordonia High School a better place to be.

Green Team is composed of pairs of volunteers from the following organizations and their faculty advisors:

IMC student workers: Ms. Dillon

International Club: Miss Hahn

Freshmen Class: Mrs. Coleman

Senior Class: Mrs. Toukonen

Leadership Council: Mrs. Dressig

National Honor Society: Mrs. Newcomer

Teen Institute: Mrs. Christy

Drama Club: Miss Sawyer

Basketball: Mr. Vehar

Junior News from Guidance

I know that you are all looking forward to that much deserved summer break. Remember though, it is still a few weeks away, so don't "leave for break" too early. Junior year is very important academically on your transcript. Every point counts these last few weeks, so make sure you finish with your best effort!

Don't forget, this summer is an excellent opportunity for upcoming seniors to begin, or continue, their college search. Be sure to utilize the materials in the junior packet you received this year. The materials can be very helpful in getting started with the college search process. Also, take advantage of the many useful Web sites available to you to assist with information you may need. You can find a link to useful Web sites on the high school guidance Web page, which you can access through the high school Web site. Look for the link "Helpful Career and College Links" in the "links" section on the right hand side of the guidance home page. Web sites are listed regarding colleges, careers, financial aid and college entrance exams.

Also, take advantage of the summer months to visit colleges that you may be interested in. This summer, you should determine factors most important to you in choosing a college, visit each college to see if it fits your criteria and narrow down your choices to your top two to three colleges that you could "see" yourself attending. College applications should be filled out and submitted by Thanksgiving break of next year. I will be going into classes right after the start of the year to discuss the application process. Make sure you have already completed your college search homework and have your college choices narrowed down by then.

I encouraged all juniors to take the ACT or SAT at least once before the end of their junior year. If you did not register for either of those tests this spring, it is very important that you take one or both right away in the fall, especially for those of you applying to a four-year college. There will be an ACT and SAT given in October, so make sure you sign up by the registration deadline in September.

In December, I will hold a financial aid evening program for those of you interested in attending any type of college or post-secondary education. At this meeting, we will discuss the different types of financial aid and the FAFSA form that you will complete, among other topics. Right now, however, you should be searching on-line for scholarship opportunities from private organizations. You can visit www.schoolsoup.com and www.tuitionfundingsources.com to be added to the largest on-line databases for scholarships. Remember, you should never be asked to send in an application fee to apply for a scholarship by a legitimate organization. Stay tuned for more financial aid information in the fall.

It is imperative that you complete as many of your graduation requirements as possible before you begin your senior year! If you are still working on passing a section of your OGTs, please seriously consider attending our one-week OGT intervention. You will only have two attempts left next school year to pass; without a passing score, you will not graduate. Students will receive instruction as well as have an additional opportunity to take the OGT and use a passing score to fulfill this graduation requirement. I will contact those families that this may apply to at the end of May with more information after we receive the scores from the March test. Also, if you fail any of your academic classes this year, you should make up those credits in summer school. Students can attend CVCC summer school or one of the on-line schools to complete these courses. There is a chemistry course being offered on-line but you may register during the week of May 18-22, 2009, only. Please, see Mrs. Ross if you need this information.

Finally, any student wanting to play a sport in a Division I or II college must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse and make sure they have the required courses. Remember, only college preparatory level courses meet NCAA requirements, so be sure to verify that you have completed all of the courses you need. If you are short some credits, we can still add them to your senior schedule. You can do this by visiting their Web site at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Next year will be very busy, exciting and stressful. Enjoy your summer, get plenty of rest and come back in the fall ready to work hard from day one. It will make your senior year much less nerve-racking. Those who plan ahead, work diligently to keep good grades from the beginning and throughout and don't get senioritis too soon will not have the added stress of graduation worries and not getting into the college of their choice. Graduation is all up to you, so please make good choices; access the support here at the high school so that you can get that much needed high school diploma. This is very crucial in our world today! Work hard, and finish strong this last grading period. It will pay off in the future, and you will be so glad you did!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Staci Ross

Junior Class Counselor