

ART ON DISPLAY



Student art work remains on display in the Delavan-Darien High School Art Gallery, which is located behind the Commons area as one enters the school. (photo by Thom Aiello)

Culinary program proposed for D-DHS

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

During the 2016-17 school year, middle and high school students were surveyed by the Family and Consumer Sciences department for their interest in this area of career and a culinary interest. The survey results showed 28 percent of students are interested in a FACS career and 78 percent of students would take a culinary course if it was offered to them. Ms. Jacqueline Jordan, Delavan-Darien High School's Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, has been heavily involved in the creation of a new culinary program at D-DHS for the 2018-19 school year.

Jordan began teaching the Family and Consumer Sciences classes at D-DHS in 2017. She has been teaching for six years and, prior to coming to D-DHS, taught at Shorewood High School, Sun Prairie and Waukesha West. Jordan has a bachelor's degree in FACS, a master's degrees in Administration and Supervision and Curriculum and Instruction, and also holds additional licenses in Food Service. For the last five years Jordan has taught the culinary programs at her previous schools and is very excited to use her culinary program experience and her master's degree to help create and start the culinary program at D-DHS.

The process of getting the culinary program started really picked up the pace when Jordan was hired and she began thinking of the direction to take the program, since she would teach the courses. Part of the process has been reaching out to different local area chefs to get an idea of operating cost, what a kitchen would really need or not need, and to get input about how to form the program.

Jordan met with these chefs from the area to learn what her and

the school needs to do to create a successful culinary program at the high school. Some of the local area chefs and people who are helping include: Tyler Salisbery of The Black Sheep and Casual Joe's in Whitewater, David Ross of Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, professional chef Michael Feker from Milwaukee, and Dave Sekeres, general manager at Lake Lawn.

At a school board meeting in December, the creation of the different culinary courses that would be offered was approved while the funding for the kitchen that would be needed is still being discussed.

Before this meeting, when asked, "How would the program be funded during a time of budget crunches?" Jordan responded by saying she was not legally obligated to share and the kitchen budget was not shared at the board meeting either. The different classes that were approved for the culinary program were Culinary Arts I, Culinary Arts II, Sports Nutrition & Fitness, and Multicultural Foods. While there were also a few other courses in the FACS department and other departments that were approved, the culinary program brought up the most discussion among board members.

The courses would all be semester long, with Culinary Arts II not being available until second semester. The cost of each class was brought up with Culinary Arts I & II, being about \$1,000 a semester for groceries and supplies, Sports Nutrition & Fitness being about \$500 a semester for supplies, and Multicultural Foods being about \$1,000 a semester for groceries and supplies. These new courses alone would cost about \$6,000 a year, and this doesn't include the building of a new kitchen for the courses.

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Exchange student discovers cultural differences while attending D-DHS

By Morgan Lock
Cometeer staff

Delavan is such a diverse community, but did you know there are a couple of foreign-exchange students in our midst?

One is Tino Valsangiacomo, a teen from Switzerland, who is staying with a family here in America and attended Delavan-Darien High School for the first semester.



Sports after school are a huge part of many people's lives here, but not necessarily where Tino is from. According to Tino, there aren't any sports or after-school clubs at

all. That would be a huge difference for a lot of people here because sports are a huge part of American culture in high school.

Another distinction between American and Switzerland schooling

Culinary course...

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Another cost of creating the program, besides the kitchen creation and course cost per semester, is the cost of moving and creating a new art room. The kitchen for this program would take the place of the current art room at D-DHS, but this creates a problem because the art room requires water and air ventilation for a kiln. The current plan for moving the art room is to make the current PBL room the art room and essentially make a hole into the teachers' lounge for water and ventilation, also making the teachers' lounge smaller. These renovations that would take place are not only for the kitchen, but also for the creation of the new art room. During this school board meeting, one board member seemed especially concerned about approving all the courses with the uncertainty of cost and funding involving the kitchen. A concern was where the funds and money would be coming from for these courses and how it would be hard to approve courses with so much uncertainty.

With legitimate concerns, the point of approving the courses was so D-DHS could put those courses into course selection coming up fairly soon and, if the kitchen budget wasn't passed by the board later on, then students would simply be informed the course wasn't going to be run next school year.

The board was assured that once the courses were approved, the school would most surely start outreach for donations and look into possible grants with a program now in place. Even Superintendent Robert Crist at the meeting assured and seemed to encourage, the board to go ahead and approve the culinary programs at the meeting. One teacher said it was important to approve the courses and develop and have the curriculum, then figure out where the kitchen funding would come from and about getting donations and grants.

Overall, the new culinary program, and all of the courses that come with it, was proposed as an exciting new addition to the curriculum at D-DHS and an amazing expansion to the FACS department. At the end of the board meeting, it was decided that these courses would, in fact, be an amazing opportunity and the course were all approved and students will have the course an option at course selection time later this year. While many of these courses can't happen without the addition of a brand new kitchen, these course approvals are a big step in the creation and start of the new culinary program at D-DHS for the 2018-19 school year.

is how classes are set up. In America, or at D-DHS, there are eight classes per day and they are typically separated by grade levels. Although there is an accelerated program where students can get into classes based on intelligence and skill level rather than age. To contradict, in Switzerland, classes are always separated by skill level, so the same classmates spend their days together, but the "classes are mixed up throughout the week, so not every day is the same," said Valsangiacomo.

Of course, over winter break, many families celebrate different holidays, such as Christmas, New Year's Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc., and Valsangiacomo said holiday traditions are very similar, but there is one thing that is different. In Switzerland, they do not have Thanksgiving, but there is a similar holiday to replace it. Since holidays are such a big part of culture, it is interesting to see how they are celebrated all around the world. Many things can form culture, such as the driving and drinking ages in America vs. Switzerland. In Switzerland, the driving and drinking ages are older than in the USA, so it may be surprising one can drive at 16 years old in America. It is very important the AFS exchange students felt welcomed and liked America and Valsangiacomo said he does enjoy America.

(Note: Valsangiacomo's time as a student at D-DHS ended earlier in January at the end of the first semester.)



Tino Valsangiacomo

'Out of the Darkness Walk' sheds light on suicide prevention awareness

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

Every September, National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is observed and it is a time for people to become more aware of this issue. Recently, we have seen an increase in the amount of education and awareness of this issue in music and literature.

One of the most recent events that occurred as an effort to spread the awareness of the issue of suicide was a Walk Out of Darkness event in November in Elkhorn. This was the third-annual walk and was organized by the Walworth County Suicide Prevention Education and Awareness Coalition, or W-SPEAC. The 2017 Out of Darkness Walk had over 300 registrants and raised over \$25,000 that will be donated to fund research for suicide prevention, create and distribute education programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss.

This event accepted donations through Dec. 31. This event holds a resource fair and is one of the biggest opportunities to reach out to the community and promote suicide prevention, awareness and education.

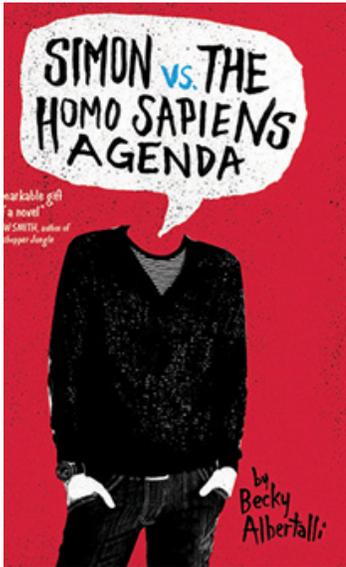
Many organizations were present at the resource fair, like Credence Counseling Associates, Walworth County Health and Human Services, National Alliance on Mental Illness, LGBT of Walworth County, and a many more. Next year's event is already in place and will be Oct. 6. It is a reminder to students, and as a community, to remember this is a real issue that happens to people every day.

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Review: 'Simon' book tells relevant story

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

"A truly remarkable story about the different struggles, the ups and downs, of an average high school student." *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli is a 2015 novel that is now being made into a movie that is set to be released in 2018 called "Love, Simon".



Throughout the book, readers get to know Simon, a junior in high school, who is figuring out who he is and dealing with his own sexuality. The book takes a totally different approach to an average love story, which I believe is part of what makes telling the story so good and unique.

Simon is in the "closet" and no one knows that he is gay except an anonymous classmate he has been messaging and his blackmailer, Martin. Before I go any further with this review, if you haven't read the story there may be spoilers lying ahead. Correction - there will be spoilers ahead.

The whole problem in the book starts when Martin, another classmate of Simon's, finds the emails he and another classmate have been sending back and forth and uses this as blackmail. Martin wants Simon to set him up with a girl that Simon regularly talks to and is friends with and, in exchange, he won't leak these emails that would reveal Simon's sexuality to the whole school.

The fact that Simon and this other classmate email instead of texting or messaging on different apps surprised me and really made the book different since whole chapters were dedicated to these emails. The other classmate, only known as Blue for most of the story, doesn't know who he is emailing either as Simon keeps his identity hidden too, and they only use screen names when they email.

While reluctant, Simon eventually finds that he has no other choice but to do what Martin says, since he is not ready to openly identify himself as gay. As this continues throughout the beginning of the book, Simon actually starts to not hate Martin as much and inviting him places and hanging out begins to be a habit for him. Meanwhile, while all of this blackmail is going on, nobody knows about it and Simon begins to consider coming out to his family with new inspiration from Blue, who did exactly that.

Although it is 2017, people everywhere still find that coming out to anyone really is a big deal and some wait years before telling anyone, so for Albertalli to show this is amazing. Albertalli took a really real topic in society and put it into a unique story that most authors, and even filmmakers, are hesitant to discuss. The way Albertalli put the whole story together, starting with the blackmail, and then Blue and Simon falling for each other, the bullying Simon received, Simon eventually coming out, and then to the final reveal of who Blue is was put together so perfectly and makes the book even better.

So, yes, eventually Martin does do something that causes some bad reactions from other students in school toward Simon. During

a play in school, students cross out Simon's name from the program and replace his name with derogatory terms related to his sexuality. This shows the bullying that not just Simon received, but that any high school student can, and sometimes does, receive. Simon goes through all these ups, like meeting Blue, and downs, like the bullying, throughout the whole book that just make it better than a story with one main focus.

Moving to the making of the upcoming movie, "Love, Simon", I am very excited if the movie is executed correctly. The way the book tells this story is the only way the movie should be made and, yes, it will more than likely be different, but one can hope. The movie also is a big step for the film industry since 20th Century Fox is the production company handling the movie and it is one of the few LGBT movies that will be in cinemas; 20th Century Fox has a big weight on its shoulders to pull off this adaptation of the book since it's a genre that isn't found in many movies.

Anyway, *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* is an excellent read and I definitely recommend it to everyone, especially high schoolers. I read this book in a day and was laughing throughout most of it, because there are quite a few jokes here and there. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli is definitely a 10 out of 10. It is an amazing read.

Out of the Darkness walk...

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Lately, an industry has seen a rise in the spread of suicide awareness and education to the public in a form that most can understand. The music industry has seen more music that addresses the issue of suicide and promotes education and awareness of suicide. One artist has recently spread suicide awareness and education through one of his songs, which has had a great impact. The song "1-800-273-8255" by Logic is a great example of raising awareness of suicide prevention, starting with the name, which is the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, since the release of the 1800 song, the number of phone calls to this line have increased by 50 percent. It can be seen Logic's intended effect was clearly achieved, to help spread the awareness of suicide prevention and even more suicide prevention education. Although Logic is not the only artist in the music industry who has addressed in some way suicide awareness, he is the most recent one.

While suicide is a widespread issue, not just throughout the U.S. but in the world, it is something that still needs awareness and education. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. While this is a sensitive topic, it is important to address it while spreading awareness and education.

One big thing anyone can do is to know the signs that someone may be struggling with this issue. Someone who starts to talk about being a burden, feeling trapped, experiencing unbearable pain, having no reason to live, starting to use drugs and alcohol more, begin acting recklessly, withdraws from activities, isolates themselves from friends and family, give away their things, or are depressed, experience more anxiety, rage or irritability, may be struggling with suicidal thoughts. It is important if you recognize that someone you know shows many of these signs that you speak to someone like a trusted adult about your concerns. It is important to remember that suicide prevention awareness and education is crucial in helping this problem.



Finding time to study: Members of the Delavan-Darien High School Junior Varsity 2 girls basketball team, fresh off of their first win of the season at West Allis Central on Jan. 16, use the bleachers to study for first-semester finals while the JV1 and varsity games followed their game. Front, from left, are Alizon Hernandez, Marissa Maldonado and Juliana Huerta. Back, from left, are Kate Pehkonen, Kimberly Huerta, Brisa Gamino and Alyssa Fonseca. Not shown is Savannah Wolf. (photo by Thom Aiello)

Review: 'Rockstar' certainly a major hit

By Jacob Prado

Cometeer staff

Released back in September of 2017, "Rockstar" by Post Malone and 21 Savage spent weeks at the No. 1 spot on Billboard Hot 100. Post Malone had posted a video to Twitter long before the release of "Rockstar" that caused high anticipation amongst fans awaiting the later release of the hit.

"Rockstar" has been certified platinum by the RIAA and tells Malone and Savage's rather unique stories of life in the music industry. Weeks after the release of the single, Malone posted a teaser for the music video that was highly anticipated by many fans and the video itself amassed 2,000,000 views in only 24 hours after its official release on Nov. 21, 2017.

Now, to say the least, the video was exactly what you would expect from a single that tells a story of a rock star's life. No, the video did not have any concert scenes, music studio scenes, or trashing hotel rooms like a true rock star, but rather was a very dark and twisted video. The video featuring both artists had Malone portrayed as a king while also fighting people off using a sword, or even a katana, within what looks like a dojo. While Savage made an appearance during the second half of the video, which is when his verse is heard, he didn't do much. Savage's cameo in the music video consisted of him kneeling down rapping his verse and later standing with flashes of Malone fighting off other people.

Some of my own favorite verse by Malone in "Rockstar" are Dude, your girlfriend is a groupie, she just tryna get in Sayin', "I'm with the band", and, of course, Man, I feel just like a rockstar. With my favorite verses from Savage being, "They like 'Savage, why you got a twelve-car garage and you only got six cars?'" and "Green hundreds in my safe, I got old racks."

In an earlier interview before the video's release, Malone said he wanted a "Kill Bill" and sick style that most people haven't explored before in music videos. Again this video definitely met and exceeded the expectations that Malone gave to the interviewers and his fans when the video released.

Overall, the vibes that came off during the video definitely deserve recognition. I mean the song has been at No. 1 for weeks so

it's no surprise the music video will get recognition. One warning I will put out there is that if you haven't watched this video yet, and you don't like blood, just be careful when or if you decide to watch it because it can get violent. The video for "Rockstar", and the single itself, by Post Malone and 21 Savage, are definitely ones to put down in the record books.

Opinion:

Living without technology eye opening for teenager

By Jacob Prado

Cometeer staff

We are surrounded by technology every day. It is everywhere and some people say we are even addicted to tech. In today's society, we are able to carry computers in our pockets and communicate with people from all over the world within seconds.

Apps like Snapchat, Instagram, and Facebook help us keep in touch and communicate with others around us. While we may think we can live without technology, we really can't, and when we are forced to become detached from tech, we go into a frenzy. In today's world, there is an ever-increasing demand for the fastest and the best technology around, which in turn creates cell phones that can reach hundreds of dollars.

Apps have continually grown over the years with Snapchat videos surpassing 10 billion daily video views, Snapchat closing in on reaching 1 billion dollars in ad revenue, and Instagram adding 100 million users in six months. While keeping up on social media is important to many teens, and adults, what happens when being detached from social media and technology is inevitable?

I am here to tell you that being detached from social media and technology is not as bad as most of us make it out to be. I think people have become accustomed to using their cellphones and technology daily and cannot imagine their lives without it.

One year ago I began a almost full "digital detox," I guess you could say, since I was still using technology to complete school assignments. At first I went through a sort of withdrawal, and would feel very detached from all my friends, although I was still surrounded by them everyday. It was a rough couple of weeks, not

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Student Artwork: Many pieces of art done by talented students are on display at the high school art gallery located behind the Commons. (photo by Thom Aiello)

ROAD VICTORY



The Delavan-Darien High School varsity girls basketball team plays a 2-3 zone defense in a game at West Allis Central on Jan. 16. In front for the Comets are Liana Gonzalez (21) and Annyce Peralta (10). In back, from left, are Jaida Speth, Heather Ream and Kailea Timmerman. Central players include E-Mei Mui-Wright (0) and Antoinette "Cookie" Powell (1). The Comets won the non-conference game for their second win of the season at that point. (photo by Thom Aiello)



Portrait: A sample of the artwork on display in the Delavan-Darien High School art gallery located behind the Commons. (photo by Thom Aiello)

Prado opinion...

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being able to talk to my friends as easy, and really only seeing them at school unless I made plans long before that I wanted to hang out with them. School continued on and, even without technology, I still talked to all of my friends and, surprisingly, the world didn't end.

In the summer without technology it became even more evident how much we rely on our cellphones and technology to communicate to people. Since I had no way of communicating with friends, I began to work more and eventually began to work close to 40-hour weeks. Yes, it was a lot for me, a 15-year-old, to be working this much, but eventually it paid off and I was given a full dollar raise. Although I had no technology over the summer, I still talked with some of my very close friends and so I was not completely detached socially. Working in the summer gave me something to do and, by the end of the summer, I was able to buy my first car.

When school started again this past September I was happily greeted by many of the people I didn't talk to over the summer, because I had no technology. I was caught up on everything that had happened over the summer and began to talk again with these people each day.

While having no technology for a year has had its ups and downs, it really isn't as bad as it seems. While this may seem pointless to say for some, it would be a good idea to think of taking a break for a little bit from technology to see the benefits. Overall this experience has shown me how much we truly rely on technology in today's society and how beneficial a "digital detox" can be.

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Too Late
To Get Involved
and
Contribute
to Either

The Phoenix Rising or The D-DHS Cometeer

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