



## LTC David Bresser Speaks on Behalf of U.S. Veterans

By Jake Kleier

Every year Covington Catholic has a Veterans Day Assembly sponsored by NEHS in the gym and invites a veteran, hopefully a graduate as well, to tell about his experiences.

This year was no different. Lieutenant Colonel David Bresser, Class of 1990, returned to CCH on November 11 to share his experiences in the Army with the entire student body. LTC Bresser started out by giving some background of his time at Cov Cath. He swam all four years and was state champion for the 200 freestyle event in swimming. He also ran cross country for three years, and was an NHS Of-

ficer.

While in the Army, LTC Bresser led several successful assignments in the Middle East. One story he shared with us was when his squad served a dinner to the civilians of a Middle Eastern town. He remembers to this day the faces on some of these civilians when they saw the food they were being given. LTC Bresser continues to serve this country and has been awarded numerous medals and honors for his services. These included three Bronze Stars, Air Medal, Army Commendation with Valor, Joint Achievement Medal, five Meritorious Service Medals, three NATO medal for work in Bosnia and Afghanistan, Iraq



Above: LTC Bresser addresses the student body on his most recent tour in Afghanistan.

Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Chilean Jump Wings, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, Overseas Service Ribbon, four Army Achievement Medals, National Defense Service Medal, and Meritorious Unit Commendation, just to name some of them. From the many commendations that LTC Bresser was awarded, it is easy to see what a great asset he was to the Army for his several tours.

Thank you LTC Bresser and all veterans who have fought to protect this great country.

## Another Successful Canned Good Drive

By Johnny Thiel

The Colonels kicked off their annual holiday canned food drive this November to benefit Be Concerned, and once again did not disappoint.

The canned food drive is a tradition at Covington Catholic and is headed by the Student Senate Officers. Students bring in their extra cans from their homes to benefit the less fortunate, in exchange for an out of uniform day, which everyone loves.

Notre Dame backed out of the traditional competition with the Colonels because as Vice President Victor Matos said, "They scared." While the Pandas replied to this statement by Vice President Matos with a "no comment," one can reasonably infer that the Notre Dame Pandas were indeed afraid to take on the Colonels this year. The fear

of the Pandas was reasonable given that the Colonels turned out a record eight tons of canned food.

The Colonels once again showed that their generosity stands out among the many great characteristics that they display on a daily basis. One of the ways the Student Senate coerces the students to bring in cans is by allowing them to be out of uniform for a day for the small price of five cans. This gives the Colonels a superb reason to bring in cans for the less fortunate in the inner city.

The tradition of the Holiday Canned Food Drive at Covington Catholic was once again a success as the young men from Covington Catholic turned out a record eight tons of canned food for Be Concerned. This shows the Colonels are truly the most caring and generous of all the surrounding high schools.



Photo by D. Ruth

VP Victor Matos and Senior Jackson Medley count the cans.



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## Jack Johnson Brings Peace

By Evan Braun

*In Between Dreams* is an album created by one of my favorite folk singers, Jack Johnson. Mr. Johnson truly created a relaxing and beautiful masterpiece that not only fits all ages of listeners but it has a little something everyone can relate to.

Everybody has stress in their life. Most of us probably have more than we need. We create stress. Sometimes stress can become a situation where it is just too much to handle. Therapy could work, or you could just listen to Jack Johnson's *In Between Dreams* that I'm dying for you to hear. The

amount of good work this album can do for you is unimaginable, but if you just give it one listen your stress will slowly fade away.

Jack Johnson writes music that just feels good; it sticks to an equation that combines his warm, relaxed voice with an acoustic guitar. It is mellow, with earthy, striped down instrumentation, an overall uniform sound and lyrics that are simple yet thoughtful. Mr. Johnson's care free approach is his biggest strength. *In Between Dreams* is a bit brighter and more upbeat than his previous music and I highly suggest you give it a listen.

## Basic Black is not a Must

By Andrew Whitacre

Rebecca Black, the YouTube sensation who introduced the world to her first single, "Friday", is back with an all new song titled "Saturday." The song features Dave Days who performs a verse on the track.

Rebecca Black's first song, "Friday," was a total bomb, and she received very harsh criticism for it. Rebecca released it 2 years ago and the music video has over 61 million views. She has not come a very long way since then with her new song "Saturday." "Saturday" is a pop song with every cliché element a pop song in this day

and age could have in it. The beat is a basic, 4-chord, electronic beat structure and the lyrics are basically about "partying like there's no tomorrow" and how teenagers enjoy the weekend. The lyrics are very simple and the rhymes are basic. Rebecca includes references from her song "Friday" and even copies some of the lyrics, which is not a smart move, considering how much criticism she received for that song.

Basically, "Saturday" is a catchy, but nonetheless, overall poorly written and annoying song. It was hard enough listening to it to get an understanding of what it is all about.

## The Hobbit Does Not Disappoint

By Matt Quinn



*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is a 2012 fantasy movie directed by Peter Jackson. It is the first part of the three-part films from the 1937 novel *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. *An Unexpected Journey* is followed by *The Desolation of Smaug* in 2013 and *There and Back Again* in 2014. These three films are all prequels to Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy.

*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* takes place in Middle-Earth around 60 years before *The Lord of the Rings*. It is the story of a hobbit named Bilbo Baggins, played by Martin Freeman, who is reluctant but is finally convinced by the wizard Gandalf to join 13 dwarves to travel through middle earth to take back the Lonely Mountain held by the dragon Smaug. Gandalf is played by Ian McKellen and Thorin Oakenshield, the leader of the dwarves, is played by Richard Armitage. *The Hobbit* first premiered in New Zealand on November 28 and went international on December 12, 2012.

*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* has grossed over a billion dollars and has been nominated for three academy awards. These awards include best visual effects, best production design, and best makeup and design. It was also nominated for 3 BAFTA awards. The world waits for the continued series to continue with *The Desolation of Smaug* in 2013 and *There and Back Again* in 2014.

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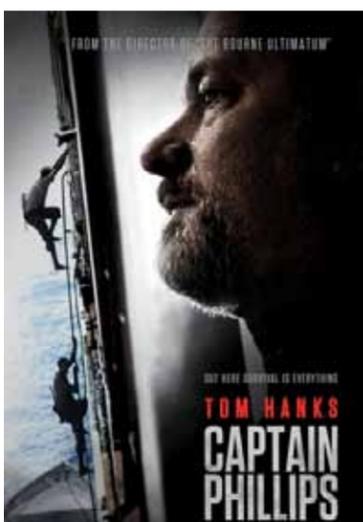
## Don't Miss Captain Phillips

By Corey Craig

*Captain Phillips* has been topping the charts with a domestic total of 101 million dollars and few extra 100 thousand. It has been seeing nonstop success ever since it hit the theatres; the thriller portrays Tom Hanks as Captain Richard Phillips of SS Alabama, a ship making its way down the horn of Africa to reach poverty-stricken families in the southern tip of Africa. His wife actress Catherine Keener plays the

caring wife Andrea Phillips. Captain Phillips starts off his voyage by double-downing on security measures and preparing his crew as they are making one the most dangerous paths one can take; traveling in close vicinity to the shore of Somalia famous to be the home of the Somali pirates. As Captain Phillips makes his voyage some uneventful scenarios take place, consequently forcing Navy Seal intervention.

*Captain Phillips* has been one of the most acclaimed movies of 2013 and has received nothing but good reviews from critics. Its intriguing story line draws the audience in and the events that follow only get better, constantly keeping the audience on the edge of their seat. The events portrayed in the movie are factual and make the movie that much better. The dramatic thriller has been pulling in crowds since it hit the theatres, and for good reason. If there is one thing to be said for this movie, it couldn't be done. It is worth the trip to your local theatre.



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## A Year Without Christmas

By Andrew Whitacre

On Friday, December 6, a shift in the temperature and precipitation of the weather caused a drastic phenomenon to occur at Covington Catholic High School. On that Friday, Cov Cath had its first snow day of the year. The students rejoiced at the weather and the day off, but what they did not know was that a course of events had just begun to unfold that would conclude in a year without a CCH Christmas. The following Monday, Cov Cath had a 90-minute delay. The school was already behind in their class time and with exams soon approaching, some traditions had to be cut from the schedule.

Tuesday came along and everyone was in full anticipation and excitement for the annual CCH Christmas concert. It was to everyone's full surprise when it was announced that the Christmas concert would be cancelled this year due to lack of time. What an outrage! I believe that the concert should not be cancelled.

First off, the band and chamber choir and chorus have been relentlessly practicing their songs to put the entire Covington Catholic student body and faculty into the Christmas spirit. Christmas is one of the most important holidays in Catholicism because it celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, our

Lord and Savior, and as a Catholic School, we cannot simply push this holiday aside for a measly extra hour of school work. Secondly, the Christmas concert has been a tradition for many years and Covington Catholic is a school recognized and whose foundation is in its tradition. Taking tradition away from Cov Cath is like taking milk away from cereal; it's just not complete.

In conclusion, it is essential that the Christmas concert be fit into the school schedule for Covington Catholic this year. It is a great tradition, it gets us out of class, and it invites everyone to sing a long and enjoy the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas season. Ho ho ho!



## New Field & Stream Arrives



By Keith Radcliff

For over a month now, enormous crowds have gathered to marvel at Northern Kentucky's newest attraction: Field & Stream. During its opening weeks, Field & Stream has seen fire-capacity-maxing crowds and millions of dollars' worth of merchandise sold. While these numbers will certainly dwindle after its opening season, there are still some doubts as to the prosperity of the store. Will their success

last, or will it collapse after the holiday season buzz?

In case you do not already know, Field & Stream is an outdoorsmen and hunting store, selling items such as guns, canoes, camping gear, fishing gear, and much more. Moreover, it is owned by Dick's Sporting

Goods, a well-known and extremely successful sporting goods store, and is only the second of its kind, the first being built around a year ago outside of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Adversaries of this debate say that the initial success of the store is not due to the actual quality of the store, but its marketing ploys during its grand opening weekend. During its grand opening weekend (November 1-3) Field & Stream

attracted customers by boasting massive festival tents in its parking lot that consisted of raffles, interactive outdoorsmen games such as marksmen and fishing, and food stands. Also, they brought in big name celebrities such as Si and Phil Robertson from the hit A&E show *Duck Dynasty* and A.J. Green, the Cincinnati Bengal's star wide receiver, to draw even more potential customers. I, however, believe that while the marketing ploys were genius and lucrative, they are not the only reason for the store's prosperity. First off, its prime location helps make this store accessible to an enormous amount of people; it is only ten minutes from Cincinnati, a large metropolis with an even larger population, seconds off of I-75, an interstate that runs the entire length of the country, and

one exit away from I-275, an interstate that connects three states. Secondly, its competition is relatively non-existent around this area because the closest store of its largest competitor, Bass Pro Shops, is an extensive one hour drive to the northern outskirts of Cincinnati. Lastly, the main reason why I believe this store will continue to be a success is simple—it is fresh, new, and one of a kind. Our tri-state area has never seen a store that specializes in hunting and outdoor activities; Field & Stream, in this area, will mostly have a monopoly in this specialty items category, boosting its sales and revenue even more.

## Da Bears

By Nick Cheesman

Despite losing many of their prime starters this season, the Chicago Bears are still in contention for the beloved playoffs.

By the looks of their record, the Chicago Bears are having an off year. Their losing record may come from several different reasons, but the main reason would be from their vast amount of injuries. The Bears have definitely been struck with the "injury bug" and have lost stars like defensive captain, Lance Briggs, and quarterback, Jay Cutler. These two starters are a few among many that have had to seek medical attention during and following games this season. Quarterback, Jay Cutler, has had two large injuries that have kept him sidelined for most of the year. An injury to his groin and recently to his ankle

has kept him out of big games and thus making the Chicago Bears rely on their second-string quarterback. Josh McCown, who has come in to replace Cutler has done a decent job. He is performing well under pressure, but still cannot pull off some wins. Not only is their offense struggling, but their defense has been declining as well. Without the skill and power of their Middle Linebacker, Lance Briggs, the infamous Chicago Bears defense has not been playing like they were predicted too. Hopefully the Bears can get past the raging Dallas Cowboys in their next game and then follow that up with an easy win against the struggling Cleveland Browns.

Optimistically, Lance Briggs and Jay Cutler will come back from injury and lead the Chicago Bears to a promising end to the 2013-2014 season.

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## 150 Years Since Gettysburg Address

By Riley Kinsella

Seven-score and ten years ago Abraham Lincoln delivered one of the most notable speeches in American History, the Gettysburg Address.

November 19, 2013, marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln addressing the nation regarding the preservation of the Union and the equality of every human being. The speech was delivered during the dedication of the Sol-

dier's National Cemetery located in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, four and a half months after the Union Army defeated the Confederacy. Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, led the country in one of the most difficult times the United States has faced. The American Civil War took place between the years of 1861 and 1865 and was fought over issues such as the abolition of slavery and states' rights. Abraham Lincoln led the United States of Amer-

ica in civil war against the Confederate States of American whose president was Jefferson Davis.

After the Union defeated the Confederacy, Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address in the hope of encouraging the nation to preserve a representative democratic "government of the people, by the people, for the people, [that] shall not perish from the earth."

## Academic Achievements in the Colonel Community

By Tommy Lawler

On Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Covington Catholic held its 38<sup>th</sup> annual Academic Awards Presentation. Students that were able to maintain a cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.6 or above with no grade below a 70 percent were recognized in three separate categories: those who maintained these marks for one year, those who maintained these marks for two years, and those who maintained these marks for three years. Here is a list of the students who were able to maintain these marks for all three of their years spent at Covington Catholic High School so far.

Adam P. Atkinson	Adam P. Holstein-Seibert
Brett D. Bauereis	J. Riley Kinsella
Joseph M. Burns	Thomas R. Lawler
Maxwell S. Boyle	William F. McMurtry
Samuel A. Burchell	William P. Neltner
Daniel J. Chal	Sean T. Nemann
Nicholas A. Cheesman	Keith T. Radcliff
Bradley T. Couch	Thomas E. Ryan
Anthony R. Goebel	Aaron J. Schilling
Jeremiah D. Greer	Daniel J. Schlachter
David W. Hacker	Zachary T. Smith
Evan J. Harmeling	Neal K. Stansel
Kyle R. Hennies	L. Chase Vennefron
Benjamin P. Heppler	Nathan L. Wichmann
	Thomas X. Hiltz

Additionally, these students were also recognized for their participation the Governor's Scholars Program, which is a five week experience in the summer when the students live on a college campus and attend classes. These students were Connor Field, Jeremy Greer, Keith Radcliff, and Nathan Wichmann. Another three students attended Governor's School for the Arts, which is a three week program over the summer where students live on a college campus and enhance their artistic abilities. These students were Adam Holstein-Seibert, Blake Nelms, and Neal Stansel. The following students were also recognized for their excellence on the National Science League Test, and test taken in the spring across the nation that measures a student's scientific ability. These students were William Heppler for Biology, Joseph Marino III for Chemistry, and Nathan Wichmann for Physics.

The Keynote Speaker for this awards ceremony was Mr. E Lee Metzger, a 2003 graduate and an attorney with Adams, Stepner, Woltermann & Dusing. Covington Catholic salutes these students that have achieved academic excellence and looks forward to seeing more students receive these awards next year.



Aaron Schilling, Neal Stansel, and Blake Nelms all enjoy a nice breakfast after the assembly.

## Scholarly Art Student Brings Home the Gold

By Riley Kinsella



You may have heard that Mr. Haders' art classes are exceptionally time-consuming, but it sure does pay off to be in one of his classes—liter-

ally.

This year Steven Faris represented Covington Catholic High School in the 2013 Art Competition at the College of Mount Saint Joseph. Over 40 schools within the Tri-state area select two art pieces from their school to enter artwork in this competition. Out of the all the schools entered in the competition, only two scholarships are awarded; one senior and one Junior are selected for the scholarships. Steven Faris, a junior at Covington Catholic High School, was the only junior out of the entire competition to win a scholarship. The scholarship is worth \$2,000 dollars, renewable each year. The competition is judged by a panel of judges that are faculty at the College of Mount Saint Joseph located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ryan Arlinghaus, another junior from Covington Catholic High School, was featured in the exhibition of the Art Competition at College of Mount Saint Joseph.

The Covington Catholic High School art classes are taught by Tim Haders, a teacher known for his humor and enthusiasm in the fine arts field. Mr. Haders selected both Steven Faris and Ryan Arlinghaus to represent Covington Catholic High School due to their outstanding performance in his class.



## The Forgotten Holiday

By Brian Menke

Thanksgiving is a holiday that is losing its significance in American society. The following day, which has been dubbed “Black Friday”, is growing larger and larger subsequently overshadowing the holiday preceding it.

The juxtaposition of the two days is interesting to begin with. On Thanksgiving, people celebrate all that they have and show their gratitude by coming together as family and friends and enjoying a delicious meal around the dinner table. As night approaches however, people have their wallets at the ready as they prepare for the shopping pandemonium of Black Friday. Almost immediately after Americans say “I couldn’t ask for anything more in my life”, they are out the

door rushing through crowds to fulfill the lists of wants that others have asked for for Christmas.

Many stores are opening their doors before Thanksgiving is over, encouraging people to leave their family festivities early in order to take advantage of the limited number of items on sale in various stores.

The holiday of Thanksgiving is something that needs to be preserved. People forget to be thankful for the things in life that really matter and focus instead on the frivolous material desires that are ever growing around the Christmas season. Thanksgiving is now being viewed unofficially as the kick-off to the shopping season. It is no longer the same.

## NEHS Keeps Students of a Literary Mind

By Aaron Schilling

The majority of high schools throughout America pride themselves on their students’ participation in their national honors societies. Covington Catholic is no different; however, Cov Cath possesses an honors society that many high school students do not have the opportunity to participate in. The National English Honors Society expects approximately the same academic achievements out of its members as the National Honors Society does; however, NEHS accepts students who excel primarily in English studies. In addition, NEHS also tends to provide more activities and service opportunities for its members than the more general NHS.

Throughout the school year, NEHS sponsors countless events that benefit both Cov Cath and the general community. The club moderator is English teacher Diane Ruth, and numerous student officers help to keep the club running and act as liaisons to the underclassmen members; senior Jeremy Greer is the acting president of NEHS. With the help of these leaders, NEHS is able to take part in numerous activities such as the pancake breakfast; once a month, NEHS cosponsors a pancake breakfast before school. On mornings such as these, all students are welcome to a cheap meal before their school day begins. Pancake breakfast proceeds are split between Cov Cath’s Photo Club and NEHS. In honor of the Christmas season, NEHS plans to go Christmas caroling at Madonna Manor on

the 16<sup>th</sup>. Every year, NEHS chooses one week in December to sell raffle tickets to students; the reward of winning this raffle is one full week of free lunches at Cov Cath—a fairly coveted prize. This year, however, the club decided to spice things up a bit with a “minute-to-win-it” challenge. Instead of just paying to enter their names into a raffle, students received the opportunity to compete with their peers in fun, often English-related challenges. Some of these challenges were unscrambling authors’ names or matching an author to his or her work. Some non-English related challenges included a stepping contest and a cookie-eating contest; students attempted to take as many steps in one minute using a pedometer. Junior James Hummeldorf starred in a contest involving eating a cookie from his forehead without using his hands; he managed to dominate the challenge in just over two seconds. Three of these winners and runner-ups were chosen to win twenty dollars’ worth of free lunches at Cov Cath. The winners were juniors Kristof Halle and Lucas Foertsch as well as Cov Cath’s own history teacher and track coach Mr. McCoy.

Covington Catholic’s division of the National English Honors Society gives all of its members (academically gifted students from grades 10 to 12) countless opportunities to help better their school and the community as well as have fun. The club not only helps its members be a part of an elite society that will help them with college applications, it also gives students an enjoyable opportunity to help their school and their community.

## Kentucky Youth Association



Kevin Sommers represents CCH at KYA.

By David Wessels

This past November, The Kentucky Youth Assembly held their latest meeting, on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The assembly is a three day gathering of the young men and women of the area for a less than conventional learning experience. The students participate directly in a simulation of the Commonwealth’s democratic process. Acting as Senators and Representatives, students write, debate, and vote on legislation that affects them.

As candidates, lobbyists, or members of the media, students experience the rich spectrum of activity that constitutes our political process. As advocates and justices, students argue and judge a legal case in the actual Supreme Court chambers of Kentucky. Officers elected by students serve as Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Media Corps Editor in Chief, and other conference leadership positions. With these positions, the students participate in a real-life political scenario.

Adults were also invited to attend, as Covington Catholic teacher Barbara Hagedorn did. She traveled to Frankfort in late November to go to the conference. Most conferences are held at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville, Kentucky. On the second day of each conference, students travel to Frankfort to debate in the Capitol and Old Capitol. Mrs. Hagedorn enjoyed her experience immensely, and she found it enlightening that so many young people were as active as the ones in Frankfort were. “It really provides the kids with some real-world experience on how our political system works. I have a feeling we are creating some great leaders and have a bright future ahead,” said Mrs. Hagedorn.



Above: Jake Fischer demonstrates his agility and balance on moving the book-shaped cookie to his mouth in a minute’s time.

## NDA/CCH Drama Students Leave Audiences in “Caw”

By Aaron Schilling

This Christmas season, the Notre Dame/Cov Cath Drama Program assisted in instilling a little holiday cheer in audiences of all ages with their most recent production: *The Only Christmas Pageant in Town*. The immense cast and crew of just under one hundred students managed to give an ironic performance by giving the audience the illusion that they had no idea what they were doing on stage in this classic Christmas Pageant-gone-wrong comedy.

The show opened on December 14<sup>th</sup> with a crowd filled with teenagers and adults hungry for a seasonal comedy and children eager to sing along with the cast to their favorite holiday songs and sit on Santa’s lap after the show. Following the Saturday matinee, word must have spread, as the theater

continued to fill that night until selling out on the Sunday matinee. Audiences must have been drawn to the combination of holiday themes, children’s attractions, and comedy that members of all ages could enjoy. The show was also aided by the talented students who took on the lead roles. The Notre Dame girls who took the spotlight were junior Meleia Michels—who starred as the dynamic, glamour-deprived director reluctant to put on a makeshift pageant when her Hollywood performers get stuck in a winter storm—junior Alisha Grosser, and “freshman sensation” Kelsey Swarber—assistant directors who act as the voices of reason to their devastated director by reminding her what Christmas is truly about. Sophomore Michael Pikar led the drama colonels on the stage with his performance as “Angel Sam” (a light-hearted take on the Bible’s

Angel Gabriel). In this role, Pikar narrated the debacle that the simple church pageant turned into; as the heavenly observer, he added to the riotous, over-the-top slapstick nature of the play with his subtle and witty humor. Some other colonels that took the stage were sophomore David Rice as Civil Defense Coordinator, Chuck Morris and junior Antonio Spiritoso as stranded trucker turned pageant star, Allen Wiseman. After the pageant’s Assistant Directors were able to convince their director to put on the improvised performance and teach her that Christmas is not about the glitz and glam but about family, giving, and the birth that the season celebrates, senior Brianna Vollman brought the show to a climactic close with her leadership in a classic song and dance that engaged the entire audience. In spite of most of the audience members’ comfort

zones, Vollman’s infectious spirit roused the entire theater into performing the holiday classic “The Twelve Days of Christmas” using both their voices and their bodies.

Notre Dame and Cov Cath’s drama students truly showed their versatility as everyday church goers forced onto the stage with no performing experience whatsoever, proving—ironically—their immense talent on the stage. Children may have been drawn to the promise of seeing Santa after the show, but following their viewing of a true testament to entertainment many preferred to meet with the gifted actors. In fact one young girl blew right passed Santa to meet Ms. Vollman, the spirited singer who inspired her and a full theater to “caw” like four calling birds.

## Shredding the Slopes

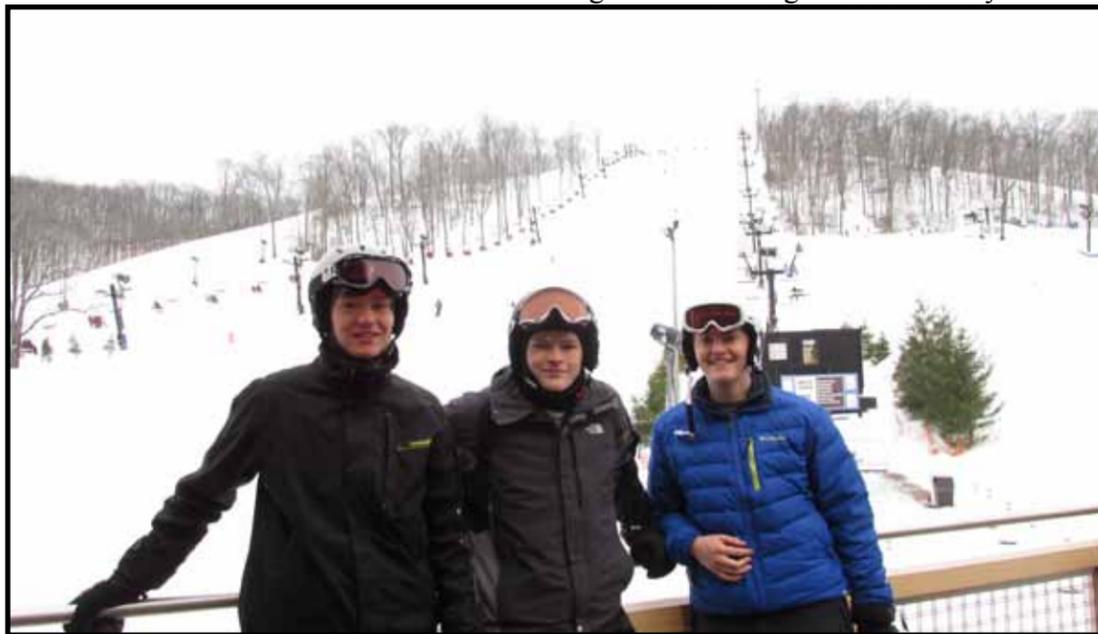
By Adam Fischer

The Covington Catholic Ski Club held sign-ups for the winter ski season in November with many anxious students waiting to hit the slopes.

Moderated by Mrs. Julie Stengle and President Adam Steffen and Vice President Kyle Morris, the ski club meets once a week to discuss when they will be taking their trips to Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Passes were bought for 30 percent off of their original price because of the Club Discount, but are now bought for the original price of 343 dollars because of the deadline. They make trips on weekends and weekdays if everyone’s schedule permits, but Ski Club members can also go on their

own whenever they please. The first trip that the Ski Club will be taking will be over Christmas break on December 30<sup>th</sup>. The trip is a little impromptu lesson on the rules of the slopes and how to keep a safe environment while skiing. The first full trip will be on Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup>. The students will leave straight from school and ski for a few hours until it gets dark. One of the most important events for the Ski Club is on Tuesday January 14<sup>th</sup> when they attend the Special Olympics Skiing. All the kids always look forward to this day because it involves no school and a long day on the slopes with special needs children.

The Ski Club usually ends its season in the beginning of February, ending with a long weekend day of skiing.



*The Ski Club members enjoy their time at Perfect North Slopes.*

## Colonels Go Ham

By Tyler O’Connell

The Ham Radio Club is a new addition to the already large list of clubs at CCH, and they are just starting to get active. The Ham Radio Club is a club moderated by Mr. Meyer and they are working on a couple of projects. The club is currently working on building data logger and altimeters for the rockets that the Engineering Club is currently working on. These devices will help to calculate who builds the best rocket.

The club meets once a month on Wednesday and sometimes has had a guest speaker. The guest speaker was Matt, an emergency management worker, who came to CCH after school a few weeks ago to talk about the importance of individual radio operators during emergency situations. A few students are currently working on getting their license to privately operate a radio, including Will McFarland.

The Ham Radio Club is shaping up to be an interesting addition to CCH.

## Colonel Brainiacs

By Thomas Hiltz

Covington Catholic receives tons of publicity and attention to its academic achievements, but the Colonels are also excelling in academic competition and this sometimes goes unnoticed.

The Covington Catholic Academic team, headed by history teacher Mr. Balskus, practices every Monday of the school-year and competes in meets each Tuesday after school. The team has posted victories over Calvary Christian, Holmes and a big win over Notre Dame. They lost a close match against Beechwood, coming short by only a single point.

The team places importance on broadening their knowledge through various drills and memorization exercises. They go through numerous questions every practice as they continue to prepare for their meets. Top players on the team include Joe Berns, Max Boyle, Jeremy Greer, and sophomore sensation Logan Boyle. Senior Conner Field, another Academic Competitor, said “this is the best team I have seen since I have attended Cov Cath. The team has consistently improved every year and were looking to make history this year.”

With this attitude in mind, the team continues to train their brains in hopes of making themselves known on a state and maybe even national scale. Seniors Sean Nemann, CJ Moellering, Jeremy Greer and Conner Field hope to end their careers with a strong final Academic Team season.

## Art Club Travels to Oz

By Tyler O'Connell

The CCH Art Club is one of the most active clubs at CCH. Their activities range from Wiffleball Tournaments to Ultimate Frisbee, and museum visits. The Art Club's most recent outing took place on November 26<sup>th</sup>. This outing was the annual showing of the Dark Side of Oz. Anyone who signs up and brings something to eat or drink can come, and this year was one of the best turnouts ever.

The Dark Side of Oz is Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon album played over a muted Wizard of Oz. The music seems to sync up with the movie, and with the right mindset it can be very enjoyable. The atmosphere of the event is a key factor in the experience; the viewing area is surrounded on all sides with sheets made to feel like a tent. A table is set up with every kind of food or drink imaginable, including cookies, soft drinks, pizza, chicken wings, donuts, waffles, and candy. There were thirty CCH students in attendance ranging from freshmen to seniors with Mr. Haders supervising. First time viewers of the Dark Side of Oz had their minds blown, such as Sam Dressman, who called it a life changing experience.

The Art Club has two more outings before Christmas Break including a Museum Visit, and a post-exam lunch at the Anchor Grill. The Art Club continues to establish itself as a top tier club at CCH.

## We've Got Spirit

By Nick Cheesman

Spirit Club at Covington Catholic is a club full of excitement, entertainment, and even many posters.

Spirit Club is a highly anticipated club that many Colonels tend to join. This club is mostly occupied by seniors and is in charge of many events and activities at the school. These members are the same people that lead our intense pep rallies in the basketball gymnasium and are also the heads of the beloved Colonel Crazy cheering section at sporting events. The spirit club will meet 1-2 times per week to either create posters for the school or converse about the upcoming pep rallies. These posters are the Spirit Club's prized possession. Every week, posters are made for the events pertaining to the school happening that week. For example, on the week of the Covington Catholic versus Highlands football game, many "Beat Highlands" posters were found on the walls throughout the school. Senior Colonel, Max Boyle, is the self-proclaimed chief of posterization and Nathan Wichmann is the head of the Spirit Club. These two Colonels can be confronted about new ideas to help the spirit in the school. Coach Hertsenberg is also the moderator of this club and loves to bring new ideas for spirit and for fun. The club's mascot is even found at some Spirit Club meetings; this happens to be Coach Hertsenberg's dog, Cerberus.

Continuing throughout the year, the Spirit Club will provide fun and excitement to all the Covington Catholic Colonels.

## Colonels Love Their Java

By Tommy Lawler

A relatively new club at Covington Catholic High School is gaining some attention. The Coffee Club, which was founded just last school year, is a great club where students can try different kinds of coffee and get their caffeine fix for the day. About once a month, this club holds a meeting before school. Students in attendance of this meeting can chit chat for a while and enjoy a nice steaming hot cup of coffee, all before school even begins.

All the members of the Coffee Club agree that it is a great way to start their day. Se-

nior Merik Berling says, "Coffee Club is one of my favorite activities at Covington Catholic High School. I wish it would have been started earlier so I could have experienced it my freshman and sophomore years. It makes my day ten times better and I can't wait for the next meeting!" The Coffee Club has steadily gained members since its founding in the 2012 school year. Mr. Cleveland, a teacher of classes such as Graphic Design and Computer Aided Design, is the moderator. He has been reeling in students since the club was founded, and he looks forward to more students joining the club this year.



Members of the Coffee Club enjoy a nice cup of joe before classes.

## 12 Angry Men Make Their Acting Debut

By Austin Oberhausen

Every year, when exam time rolls around, the CCH Drama class puts on the play *12 Angry Men*. This play is about a jury who has to decide if a teenage boy is guilty of murdering his father. At first the boy seems guilty, but one of the jurors sees it differently than the rest and begins to try and convince the rest of the jurors of the boy's innocence.

The drama class is made up of mostly seniors a few juniors and one sophomore. Some of the bigger parts of juror 8, juror 3, juror 4, and juror 10 were played by Austin Oberhausen, Nate Bailey, Samuel Hatter, and Alex Matos respectively. The drama class had been working on this

play since early November. When the big night came many were nervous, senior Matt Schmahl said, "I definitely had the butterflies, but when the lights went out and it was show time I was able to calm my nerves and tried to deliver a solid performance." Unfortunately the drama Colonels gave a performance that left much to be desired. The rest of the cast included Matt Ellison, Graham Merten, Michael Turner, Aurey Moore, Matt Schmahl, Fred George, John Peiper, Jackson Medley, Jacob Tomlin, and Austin Becknell.

The play was an overall success that had a few hiccups here and there but all in all it was a good night for the drama class. The class would like to thank Mrs. Ruth for all of the work she put into the play and asks her to please grade easy.



The cast of *12 Angry Men* strikes a pose for the camera.

## The Show Must Go On

By Neal Stansel



The snow could not stop the Colonels from spreading the Christmas cheer through their annual holiday Christmas Concert on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the Griffin Centre.

The concert began with the NDA/CCH Band performing classic holiday tunes, led by music director Greg Cerimele. Mr. Cerimele has been involved in the Fine Arts Department at Covington Catholic since 1997, and also teaches at Notre Dame Academy.

After the band's finale number, it was time for the chorus and Chamber Choir's portion of the concert. The chorus began with a few non-seasonal selections such as "Fire and Rain" and "A Hundred Years," but they also sang their seasonal staple "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch."

After the chorus wrapped up, Chamber Choir took the stage to close the concert. The Chamber Choir sang holiday classics such as "O Holy Night" and "This Gift." Chamber Choir finished

their selection with their latest Q.102 Christmas Choir Competition Entry of Michael Buble's "All I Want for Christmas is You." The Colonels took home the grand prize last season of \$5,000 with their winning entry of "Blue Christmas."

Both chorus and Chamber Choir are led by musical director Jim Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe has spent the past 5 years making Chamber Choir an elite and well-known name around the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati area. The Chamber Choir has released 4 CDs including their latest CD "Bridge", which is available in the Covington Catholic Spirit Shop. All proceeds from the CD benefits the Dan Tieman Scholarship Fund.

All in all, the annual Covington Catholic Christmas Concert was a success, despite the weather. Senior David Wessels exclaims the performance "was simply immaculate!"



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Above: Mr. Cerimele, known by his students as Sir, directs the band at the Christmas concert.



Freshman Jaret Schreiber volunteers at Steinford Toys.

## Colonels Continue to Serve the Community

By Brian Radcliff

Covington Catholic high school is widely recognized for its various work in community service activities in all of northern Kentucky throughout each school year.

Every student from grades nine to twelve is required to complete fifteen service hours each year of high school; totaling 60 service hours by the end of a student's time of Covington Catholic. While this is a tremendous accomplishment, several students go above and beyond the call of duty. In the most recently completed school year over 50 students received a varsity letter for community service. This requires a student to complete 40 hours of service in only one school year. Every year Covington Catholic earns more and more service hours than the last by adding more students and several new activities.

One of the most prominent service activities participated in by Covington Catholic students is Special Olympics. Each year several students help run events such as Special Olympics bowling, basketball, and track. Several parents also help put together and organize these

events. Another one of the school's most participated activities is after school tutoring and mentoring. For this activity juniors and seniors volunteer to tutor for one hour after school, once a week. The tutors are sent to several schools in the Northern Kentucky area. Each student is assigned a "buddy", the student will then tutor him or her once a week after school throughout the winter and spring season. During the session there is thirty minutes of homework and thirty minutes of sports and activities. Many students who participate in this activity claim it is a very fun and heartwarming experience.

Covington Catholic is and will continue to be very proud of the service it provides. Each year there are an abundance of opportunities to help the community. The head of community service, Bill Snyder, has successfully run the activities every year. He is in charge of making sure we have enough students for every activity that is brought to him. No matter how many people come asking Covington Catholic for help, Mr. Snyder always finds students willing to participate in all community service activities. We look forward to another great year of service, and hope to log even more hours than the student body last year!

## Students Get a Taste of Salsa Dancing

By Tommy Lawler

The Covington Catholic Culture Club held a meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in which Salsa dancing was taught. In the Covington Catholic Ballroom, also known as the multipurpose room. Mary Keller, owner and proprietor of Mary Reisenberg's Dance Studio, instructed the students and teachers in attendance how to dance the Salsa. According to club moderator "Dancing Diane" Ruth, "The Salsa is not very difficult once you get the hang of it, but I felt like I had two left feet when I was first learning it!" Many of the students struggled to learn the decade-old dance at first; however, once they began to figure it out, it became a lot of fun.

The salsa dance originated in Latin

America, particularly in Cuba and Puerto Rico. Some of the other forms of the dance, such as the Cha-cha or the Mambo, originated in New York in the mid-1970s. The Salsa also originated around this time period. The name "salsa" comes from the record labels that sold the music to dance to; they wanted to give the name a hot and spicy connotation.. The Salsa was immensely popular in the 70s and 80s; although it has decreased in popularity through the years, it is still a common dance that interests many people of all ages across the globe each year.

Although the Culture Club simply skimmed the surface of Salsa dancing, the members look forward to experiencing many different types of culture.



## The 20th Annual Gallenstein Scholarship

By Brian Menke

20 years ago CCH Junior Jon Gallenstein passed away and a Scholarship was established by the family in his memory. Jon was a talented art student who spent many hours working in the art room and at home creating exceptional pieces.

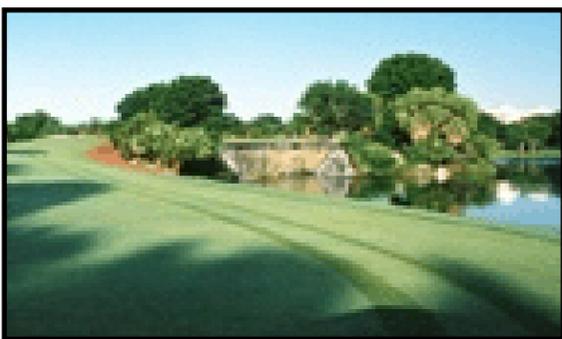
Each year senior art students honor Jon Gallenstein by displaying their best pieces in the Griffin Centre. Judges that include members of the Gallenstein family, former art students, and various local artists vote on the best portfolios to help pick the scholarship winners. This year's



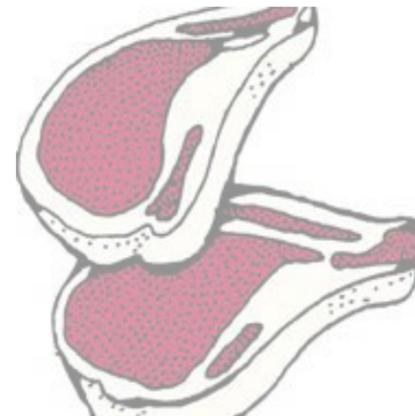
winner were Daniel Chal, Brian Menke, and Adam Holstein-Seibert. The voting this year was closer than ever, with 4 artists being separated by only a few votes. The winners received personal plaques and money to help pay for their tuition at CCH. In addition to these winners, Bradley Couch and Blake Nelms received student choice awards. All of the students that participated in the scholarship competition received their awards and afterwards visited Jon Gallenstein's gravesite.

To celebrate the participants and winners, everyone went to Golden Corral to feast on the seemingly endless buffet.

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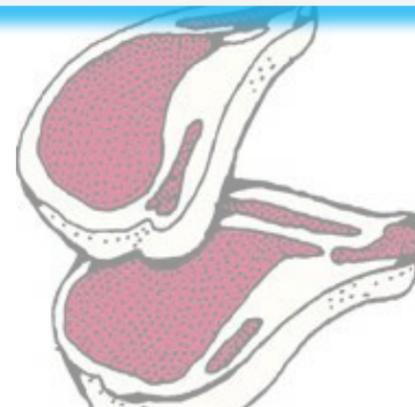
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## Strong Start for Wrestling

By Matt Quinn

The 2013-2014 season for the colonels started after months of hard work and training. The colonels started mandatory conditioning on October 15 for all wrestlers who weren't involved in a fall sport. The colonel wrestling team started with multiple scrimmages and open gyms for prospering wrestlers. They faced different competition in these scrimmages including Elder High School.



Daniel Branch takes on a wrestler from Walnut Hills.

After continuous practice and hard work the Colonels finally went to their first official match. The match took place on Wednesday, December 4 at Anderson High School in Cincinnati. The colonels first met Anderson High School on the mats and won by 12 points. The finale score was the Colonels with 36 and Anderson with 24, the team's first official win. They then faced Walnut Hills the same day who was defeated 81-0. The colonels left Anderson High School that day with heads held high and a record of 1-1. The wrestling team was supposed to participate in the Bearcat Brawl on December 7 at Walton Verona, but it was cancelled. The next meet that the colonels had on their schedule was at Ryle High School. They were set to partake in this tri-meet against Ryle, Colerain, and Conner. This event has been changed to other date; check the Covington Catholic website for updates and confirmation for this meet. The Everett Howard Memorial Invitational at North College Hill is the next even to take place for our varsity wrestlers. We wish the colonels the best luck as they take on new and old rivals.

The wrestlers started their season with a win then a loss. Their schedule has hit some road blocks and let downs, but they will continue to practice and work hard until the end. For being such a young and new team they have started out better than any of us could have hoped. With great coaches and determined wrestlers they have a "spirit that will not die."

## Bowlers Tearing Up the Lanes

By Andrew Whitacre

The Colonel bowlers have had an outstanding year thus far as they continue to tear up the lanes and put opposing teams in their place. The Colonels kicked off the season with a very close loss to Campbell County High School, the first and last loss. Heads still raised high; CCH went on to dominate Dixie, winning 6 of the 7 games. Beechwood then visited the Colonels at their home alley, Superbowl of Erlanger, and Paul Wagner, one of the highlight players on the team, bowled an outstanding 289! Next, the Colonels annihilated Pendleton County in a 7 game sweep. The CCH bowlers then used the next game to truly prove their worth by ousting the Simon Kenton

Pioneers, last year's state champions, 6 games to 1. The Covington Catholic Colonels are 4-1 and have made the most of the first half of the season.

There are many notable mentions to the bowling team including coaches Maureen Osterhaus and Gary Wagner. Last year's retired coach Jack Kaelin has made it to all of the meets to support his bowling team. The Colonels top 5 player are Matt Ellison, Paul Wagner, David Hacker, Alex Riedinger and Jason Keininger. All of these outstanding bowlers are averaging over 180 pins a game! The fine, young outstanding gentlemen known as the Covington Catholic bowling team are looking to finish the season strong and take regional and state titles.



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## Varsity Basketball Tips Off

By Johnny Thiel

The Varsity Basketball team started its season off at Simon Kenton high school in the Kelsey Sorrell Memorial Basketball tournament.

The Colonels took on the Mason County Royals in this annual pre-season tournament. The Colonels started off slow and could never catch up to the Royals due to a lack of offense and a poor defensive effort. The Colonels trailed by fifteen at halftime and after a spirited speech by Coach Ruthsatz, the Colonels came out on

an eight to zero run, but their run would be squashed due to poor defense and a cold streak on offense.

Even though the Colonels performed poorly overall, there were a few bright spots in the game for the Colonels. Senior Point Guard Nick Ruthsatz showed that he could hit shots from all over the court; while Senior Forward Mark Schult put up a strong defensive effort, which most of his team lacked, against players that were at times five inches taller than him. When asked about the game the next day Schult said, "Coach was very upset

about our defense and our lack of offense." Coach Ruthsatz's frustration about team's defense came to a head when he could be heard screaming, "Guys, We're losing!" This came after the Colonels slacked off on defense in the last two minutes of the game despite being down ten points.

Despite the Colonels' poor performance in their first scrimmage, hopes remain high for the Basketball Colonels on their Road to Rupp. The Colonels showed much promised and improvement in the annual Blue-White Scrimmage at Covington Catholic last

Tuesday. This scrimmage shows off the talent and potential of this year's basketball team. Freshman Cole VonHandorf proved that the hype surrounding his transfer from Villa Madonna Academy is to be believed after he showed off his ball-handling skills and ability to make tough shots in traffic.

The Colonels officially tip off their season December 6<sup>th</sup> against the Moeller Crusaders at Moeller High School. Hopes and expectations for this year's team to take the Regional Title remain high and a very real possibility.

## Strong Start for JV Basketball

By Nick Kathman

The Covington Catholic JV basketball team had a great start to the season on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup>.

With a 42 to 26 win over the Crusaders of St. Henry High School, the Colonels are rolling. Mostly sophomores stepped up and did a great job in this game. The standout of the game, though, was Evan Lyons. Evan scored 19 points. He was 4 for 6 on the 3 point line and scored a few more points here

and there. As a team in general, the JV basketball team came together to pull out a great win against St. Henry. The Colonels then went on to beat Louisville St. Xavier on Saturday. The score was 53 to 50. Points were spread among the whole team. It was a tough game, but the team fought hard and pulled out another great win. Good job Colonels!

The JV basketball team will not take on the Campbell County Camels on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Good Luck!

**Covington Catholic  
Colonel Football  
is #1**

## Freshman Basketball

By Austin Oberhausen

In recent years the Colonels freshman basketball team has been dominant, taking the freshman region title two of the last three years. This year's team has just as high expectations as they start their High School careers. Based on their 5-1 start to the season they seem very capable of attaining those expectations.

The Colonels opened the season with a dominant 54-35 win over the Eagles of Scott. They were led by Hunter Ziegelmeyer, who had 15 points. In their next game against Catholic school rival St. Henry, The freshmen controlled the game

from the start and cruised to a 56-19 win. Their winning ways continued as they hosted Simon Kenton and had another comfortable 46-26 win. Next came the freshmen's biggest challenge on their early season schedule as they played St. Xavier. They had a hard time finding their rhythm as they fell to St. X 43-52. They rebounded the next two games with big wins over Louisville St. Xavier and Campbell County.

Other than their one loss, the Colonels have dominated outscoring their opponents by a combined 265-155. Some notable upcoming games include Holmes, NCC, and a rematch against St. X.



*The JV Basketball Team takes on St. Henry.*

## Aqua Colonels Hit the Water

By Thomas Hiltz

The Covington Catholic Swim Team had its first official meet on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> against Sycamore High School in Ohio. The colonels have faced the Aviators the last two years and lost both meets. This year they looked to break the streak.

The Colonels started the meet strong with both A and B Varsity Medley Relays out-swimming

Sycamore's relays. The wins kept coming and the point gap between the teams grew throughout the night. Event winners included Jake Lenstch, Mike Summe, Rob Newman and Brendan Meyer. By the last event of the meet, the Colonels had established a clear victory and finished strong, winning both of the freestyle relays. The final score of the meet was 206-96, and the Colonels start their season with a big win.

The following weekend, the

Colonels traveled to Anderson High School to face off against Anderson and Moeller. The Colonels started this meet with an exciting medley relay, in which the Colonels out-reached the competition for a victory won by less than a second. Covington Catholic continued to gain momentum and ended the day with a 60 point lead over the opposing teams.

From here on out, the Colonels and head coach Richard Dickmann will look forward to the

Regional Swim Meet, which will give the team a good idea of how they will fair at the State Meet at the end of the season. Brendan Meyer, a sophomore and contributor to the Sycamore victory, said "the meet was a good indicator of things to come this season."

Brendan and the other swimmers are at the height of their training now in hopes of taking Cov Cath's first state swimming title in over twenty years.

## Colonels Cannot Keep Rival Highlands From Victory

By Evan Braun

The Colonels are at it again but this time with revenge. After losing to Highlands in Week 5 the Colonels vowed to make a stand and continue forward with a different attitude. By drastically changing their game plan the Colonels managed to bounce back against Beechwood and take a win by 21 points, ending with a score of 28-7.

Week 7 was a whole new start for the Colonels. With a new defensive game plan and offensive change for the Colonels, they managed to beat Ryle 26-17. Even though the game was looking bleak for the Colonels at the start, they managed to outplay the raiders at the end and come through with the victory.

Week 8-10 really proved to everyone how strong the Colonels really were. With the number of injuries growing larger by the week, the

Colonels still ended up beating Harrison County, Holmes, and Connor with impressive play and by at least a margin of 30 points. These weeks were definitely exciting games to watch with all the Colonel action.

Heading into the first round of the playoffs, the Colonels faced Rowan County at home. The Colonels felt confident entering Week

11 and it sure showed when they ended up beating Rowan 41-14. The game was a great start for the Colonels entering the playoffs, and it definitely built confidence for the weeks to come.

Week 12 was a game we all anticipated. The Colonels got on the bus for their road trip down to Johnson Central and expected

a big game, but once again the Colonels took the victory over Johnson by around 30 points.

With plenty of confidence, the Colonels prepared for Highlands in week 13. It was definitely a game to see! With a packed stadium in Highlands's territory, the Colonels fought like never seen before. At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, Highlands was up 14-7. The second quarter was filled with even more action than the 1<sup>st</sup> ending in 21-7, Highlands up by two scores entering the half. The Colonels came out of the second half ready to roll. Unfortunately, it was not enough to stop the Highland Bluebirds, and the game finished at 28-13, with Highlands taking the victory.



*The Varsity Football team's offense attempts to get past Highlands's defense.*

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