



Hard work the key for Class of 2011 leaders

By James McKay

After months of work, worrying and waiting, the final senior class standings have been set. With their final averages a mere .554 points apart, no one was really sure of how things would turn out (Although both of them say they kind of knew all along). Elyse Cianfarano



Elyse Cianfarano, top, and Kali Kearns were recently named as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2011. (Fultonian Yearbook photos)

led by quite a large margin (relatively) in the fall, but Kali Kearns gained ground all year and made the competition almost too close to call. In the end however, Elyse was declared valedictorian of the class of 2011.

How does one get to the elite top two? Both girls attribute their success to old-fashioned hard work and dedication. When asked to give tips to other students aiming for the top, both seemed to put the emphasis on something other than grades. Elyse said, "Don't get too caught up with your grade. In the end, the number won't matter as much as what you've actually learned and retained." Kali replied similarly with, "Still be involved with other stuff. Colleges want to see something more than your good grades."

When asked who helped along the way, Elyse said that her support came, "Mostly from teachers," while Kali thought that her parents sup-

port over the years is what helped her pull through.

As for future plans, Kali is going to study at The School of Human Ecology at Syracuse University. After college she wants to do something medical, but without blood, perhaps a lab technician. Elyse will be studying Neuroscience at Colgate University. Both girls said that their top two positions will help them in college. Elyse said, "Good grades helped me get into a school with like-minded students, so I think the resulting environment will be good for me." Kali says that, "My hard work in high school has helped build a work ethic that will carry through and make college easier."

There is no doubt that both the Valedictorian and Salutatorian have worked hard and earned the top two spots in the graduating class of 2011. All that is left is to wish them good luck and see how their futures turn out.

**"Don't get too caught up with your grade. In the end, the number won't matter as much as what you've actually learned and retained."
GRB Valedictorian Elyse Cianfarano**



Former Latin students of retired GRB teacher Mr. Crisafulli, center, participated in Latin Day at Syracuse University on Monday. Pictured from left to right are: Sam Hughes, Patty Morrison, Dominic Hammond, James Marsh, Mr. Crisafulli, Colin Shannon, Elyse Cianfarano, former student Ian Hathaway, Michelle Cavaliere and Danielle Cobb. (photo by Ms.Sobota)

Opinion

Being a teen is not quite as easy as it seems

By Ryann Crofoot



The life of a teenager is never easy. Despite what a huge number of adults think, there is a lot that goes on in our lives that honestly, we are not ready to handle. The problem becomes that life starts throwing all of these things at us, and we handle them as best we can, but the truth is, many teenagers just do not know how to.

For those adults reading this, yes, teenagers have more technology than you guys did. Yes, we take some things for granted, particularly our parents. And yes, sometimes we are more rude, immature, and obnoxious than some of you ever were.

But, it is the adults in our lives who are supposed to bring us up to be able to handle those things. Some parents do an amazing job, and their kids could never thank them enough.

But the technology and things adults say we are lucky to have are also the things that make it more difficult for us. Because of Facebook and texting, more fights and more drama are started. With magazines, the Internet, and many people's (including parents) expectations, many teens deal with low self-esteem, depressions, and many teens are even affected by suicide. Many people, especially girls, end up with huge issues such as pregnancy and parenthood before they are ready because they felt they needed to do something to gain acceptance. Many teenagers have family and friends fighting in a war that they may never see again. People they care about die, but they are still expected to be able to deal with it, and we do try. But it is hard when you have not been taught how, and are not mature enough to know.

Adults are telling us that we are going to end up being the caretakers of the world eventually, and that is a lot of pressure in and of itself. Add to that the perfect grades, perfect looks, perfect happiness others expect from us right now, and the perfections we expect from ourselves, and most teenagers are ready to crack.

Just because our lives are not as bad as they possibly could be, that does not mean we have it easy. The pressure we get from our parents, the pressure from our friends, and the pressure of having to run the world one day is still a lot to deal with.

And many of the problems we will face when we enter the world (global warming, economic hardships, etc.), we are way too young to have even had a hand in causing, but we are still expected to grow up and fix them.

The thing that bugs me is when adults tell us we are lazy, we take things for granted, and just altogether complain about how easy we have it. Sometimes, yes, that is all true. But one, not all teenagers are like that, and two, we do the best we can. But teens just have not been brought up the way adults were. And if adults want to complain about it, that is fine, but I would just like to point out that they are the ones who raised us, they are the reason for the majority of the pressure and stress we carry.

“But the technology and things adults say we are lucky to have are also the things that make it more difficult for us. Because of Facebook and texting, more fights and more drama are started.”

Again, I feel the need to stress that some parents do a great job, and really do not need to read about all of the things I am complaining about.

But many teens strive to impress their parents, and just long for their approval. And what I hear from many adults these days is just the opposite. They are so quick to tell us we are lazy, take things for granted, do not try hard enough, and just basically tear down our efforts, that we do get lazy and stop trying, because we are afraid to disappoint you and disappoint ourselves.

There is a fine line between pushing a teen to do their best, and making them just want to give up.

Seniors! Stay in touch with your class! Check out the new website for the senior class at <http://grbclass2011.blogspot.com/>

Quote of the day:

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”
~Henry Adams

Look your Best!

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Reflections

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Seniors excited for Friday's big trip

Friday, May 20 is the day many seniors have been waiting for, for a while now. The Senior Trip to Cedar Point has finally arrived and has students quite excited. Many Students will be attending one of the largest theme parks in the world. Those attending will enjoy a long day at the park and an overnight stay in one of Cedar Points own hotels. On Saturday, they will also be visiting the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

When asked about the trip, students express anxiousness and excitement. Senior Joe Weller stated, "I cannot wait to go on the Top Thrill Dragster." The Top Thrill Dragster is one of the tallest and fastest rollercoasters in the world. Peaking out at 420 feet and topping 120 miles per hour, this ride will provide a great thrill to those who decide they are up for it.

One thing that poses a concern for students is the long bus ride and early morning departures. For some students, however, this will be an enjoyment. For example Senior Will Sawtell said, "the thing I am most excited for is the bus ride." Students attending will need to be ready for departure at 4:30 A.M and prepare for a roughly six hour bus ride.

"The overnight stay will be nice and give us a chance to relax before leaving in the morning," Matt Liberti added. Instead of driving back after a long day in the park, like in previous years, it will be nice for everyone to make their way to the hotel and get at least some sleep before leaving.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame will also be something that everyone should enjoy. On May 21 they will be having the Rock Your World Festival, which could possibly be a once in a lifetime experience for students to witness. This trip should be quite entertaining for those going and it will also be a great chance for Seniors to bond for one of the last times.

By Nick Mattice

Bizarre news of the day

A 12-year-old boy has worn a skirt to school in protest against "discriminatory" rules which ban boys from wearing shorts. Chris Whitehead wore a girls' knee-length skirt to classes at Impington Village College, near Cambridge, England.

He is protesting against a school uniform policy which bans boys from wearing shorts during the summer months. He also addressed 1,368 pupils at morning assembly wearing the black skirt, which boys are permitted to wear due to a loophole in the policy.

Chris believes that forcing boys to wear long trousers during the sizzling summer months affects concentration and their ability to learn. He said: "In the summer girl students are allowed to wear skirts but boys are not allowed to wear shorts.

"We think that this discriminates against boys. I will march in a skirt with other boys waving banners and making a lot of noise. I will be wearing the skirt at school all day in protest of the uniform policy, and addressing the assembly with the student council, wearing a skirt." Teachers at Impington Village College imposed a ban on boys' shorts two years ago following consultation with parents and teachers.

Chris's mother, Liz Whitehead, has praised her son for standing up for , "what he believes in." She said, "I am delighted that Chris is taking action on what he believes in, which the school actually encourages, so he is only doing what he is taught. I am really proud he is brave enough to wear a skirt to school for what he believes in and back him all the way."

By Morgan Firenze

This week in Raider Sports

Today: Softball vs. Chittenango (4:30); JV Girls Lax @ Cortland (5 p.m.); JV Boys Lax @ J-D (4:30); Girls V Lax vs. M-PH (6 p.m.); Baseball vs. Phoenix (4:30); Track @ Freedom League Meet @ ES-M (4:30).

Friday, May 20: JV Girls Lax @ B'ville (4:30).

Saturday, May 21: Baseball vs. Corcoran (11 a.m.); Boys Track @ Ogdensburg VanDusen Invitational (10 a.m.); Softball @ Herkimer Tournament (10 a.m. & noon).



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The Raiders in action



The Raiders in action



The Raiders were in action on Tuesday facing a pair of visiting sides from East Syracuse-Minoa in girls lacrosse and baseball. From the facing page, top left, clockwise, Coach Karpinko and Coach White talk talk strategy with the girls, hurler Dan Bolster fires one toward the plate, Fulton’s Brandon Clark, right, watches the play from first base while on the defensive side, Sean Stevens makes the squeeze at first to easily nail a Spartan batsman, Max Fobes has his eyes on the ball, and Kirsten Francis runs past a pair of ES-M defenders. This page, Kayla Hanczyk looks to intercept a pass with Casey Shannon, left and Erika Johnson, middle, also defending as goaler Kara Pafumi, right, looks on. In the bottom



photo Caitlin LaVoie, left, and Kayla Hanczyk converge on an ES-M player. (photos by Kayla Hanczyk and her mom)

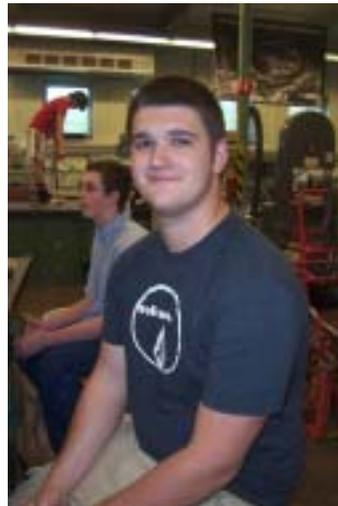
School of Thought compiled by Max Fobes and Kala Hanczyk

What are your post-graduation plans?



"Binghamton University."

Steven Haste



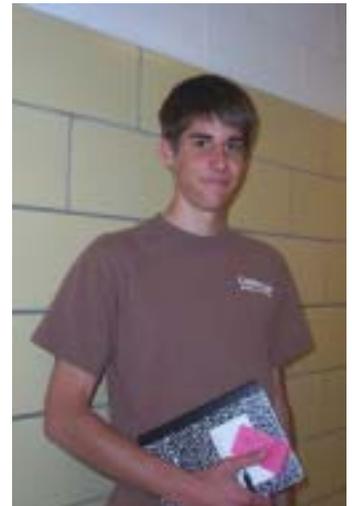
"NAVY!"

Kyle Kush



"Go to ESF for Environmental Engineering"

Kayla Hanczyk



"College at Grove City for Computer Engineering."

James McKay

Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Sun early with showers and storms later. High in the low-70s.
Record high: 92 (1971).
Avg. high: 70

Tonight:



Cloudy with a shower. Low in the mid-50s.
Record low: 32 (2009).
Avg. low: 47.

Tomorrow:



Sunny with a few showers. High in the low-70s.
Record high: 90 (1962).
Avg. high: 70.

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*