



Winter Weather Advisory

By: Sam Roh

You are watching the news and waiting for those magical words to appear on screen – School Closings: Omaha Catholic Schools. What’s the first thing you do? Call your friends and see if they want to go sledding? Put your homework away and slide in a movie?

Although nobody can forecast the weather perfectly, students and teachers are all aware of the kind of winter we are having, and what may still be to come.

An old wives tale talks about March either coming in, or going out, like a lion. Translation: a major snow storm. So, what does this mean for the snow days we have left?

According to Assistant Principal Chad Holtz, we have approximately 3 snow days left to use if needed. In Nebraska snow days are calculated by hours, and there are 6.9 hours in a school day.

Roncalli is scheduled for 1155 hours a year, and must use 1080 of those hours.

If RCHS happens to exceed reserved hours, Easter Break will not be a relaxing vacation. Instead, school would be in session all day on Thursday. And, break could be cut short by returning to school on Easter Monday if necessary.

How about a twist on summer school? If you are like freshman Kylie Tetzlaff, who says, “Summer is my time to have fun,” start hoping for good weather, because we may be having school in summer if the extra time at Easter break is used.

Even though students know that each snow day may come with the cost of days added at the end of the school year, some plead for days off.

Senior Jake Higgins shovels his driveway before going to work, and his job just happens to be shoveling snow for a local company. Meanwhile,

senior Jack Haley plays video games and goes sledding.

Even with all of the relaxation with snow days, it’s important to remember schoolwork, especially since missing days may affect your schoolwork. However, Haley doesn’t feel that his grades are being affected, “I am a dedicated student, and I know when to get my work done.”

It is easy to see how snow days can be fun with all the sleeping, sledding, movies and hot cocoa. However, safety is not always processing in our brains when we see snow. Higgins said “reducing speed [and being] more aware of others” while driving is key to staying out of harms way.

When it comes to school, Mr. Holtz says students need to wake up earlier and allow more time to get to school when they know the streets will be bad.

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.

--Albert Einstein

Roncalli Students Attend March for Life Pilgrimage

By: Kayla Neeson

Along with Roncalli Religion Teacher Mr. Westra, 22 Roncalli Students attended the March for Life Pilgrimage and pro-life rally in Washington D.C. Roncalli students were joined by students from other Catholic schools, and left Omaha by bus on the night of January 19th, returning home on the 24th.

Sophomore Natalie Solis said the purpose of this trip was, “To show congress that there are a lot of people who are pro-life and we need to make abortion illegal.”

Senior Jessica Dickey has attended the Pilgrimage three times, because, she said, “I went to support

Cheer Update

By Alisa Muckey

On February 20, 2010, the Roncalli cheerleaders attended the state cheerleading competition in Grand Island, Nebraska. The squad performed their competition routine, which was choreographed by Ms. Lackore.

Before the tournament Ms. Lackore said, “The routine this year is much more advanced than their last one, and the girls picked it up fast. I’ve enjoyed working with them and they’ll do great at competition.”

At the competition the squad earned an Honorable Mention.

Senior Staci Gibson said her favorite part of competition is, “Getting to see other teams’ routines and getting to perform our routine we have been working on.”

Whereas junior Makenzie Servis said she was looking forward to, “Performing in Grand Island and showing everyone what Roncalli is made of.”

In addition to the state competition, the squad competed at the Big Red Road Show on Sunday, February 7.

what I believe.” Her favorite part was the actual March for Life on the 22nd.

Participants went to many places in D.C, including the National Mall, Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine, Our Lady of Lords Grotto, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Smithsonian.

Freshman, Sammy Lonergan, said her favorite part of the trip was, “Going to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, seeing the different Shrines, and going to mass in the Crypt.”

Mr. Westra’s favorite part was, “The March itself. I like being out there with all the hundreds of thousands of people; you felt important.”

Warning: Pothole Ahead

By: Alyssa Wilkie

Lately, drivers have been forced to play a game of “dodge the potholes.”

Every year the inevitable happens: the streets of Omaha get potholes after all of the freezing and thawing of winter snow and ice. But, this year’s cycle of freezing and thawing precipitation seems to be particularly bad.

Once freezing water seeps into the concrete, the thawing water expands, creating cracks in the concrete. After being bombarded by heavy automobiles, the cracks eventually break off, creating holes.

This winter has been particularly harsh and, therefore, so have the damaging potholes. It is nearly impossible to drive from destination to destination without encountering at least a few.

So what do you do when you come upon a pothole?

Do you swerve? Do you slam on your breaks? Do you drive right over them without a second thought?

Answer: None of the above.

If you swerve to miss a pothole, you could end up swerving into the path of another vehicle. If you slam on your brakes, all of the weight of the car goes to the front, therefore, creating even more damage to the car.

Choosing to drive over the pothole has consequences as well.

Junior Robbie Hall has had some dangerous pothole encounters. He said, “I was going to school, and I hit a very well disguised pothole and it popped both tires on the drivers side of my car, and the car was out of control.”

The safest tip to utilize until the potholes are filled is to drive slowly and cautiously to minimize the possible damage to your car..

Omaha city employees are trying to patch the larger potholes as fast as possible. However, there are many potholes, and the wintry weather keeps causing more.

Until the weather gets warmer, the city employees cannot completely fix the potholes.

In Nick’s Head

Are Movies Ruining a Reader’s Imagination?

By: Nick Thomsen

Has one of your favorite books been made into a movie? Was it the way you imagined it, or was it completely different from what you thought?

Many people feel that movies ruin the imagination of the reader. When reading a book the reader gets to create the story in their head the way they want to.

When you watch a movie the director of the film creates an image for you, causing the viewer to abandon his or her own interpretation.

Not only is the movie ruining the viewer’s imagination, but it often leaves out key concepts that are needed for the viewer to fully understand the movie’s message. Moreover, the omissions may create discrepancies between the text and movie.

A perfect example of text/ movie discrepancies would be the differences in the conclusion of The Kite Runner. The movie does not develop the character of Sohrab, which leaves the viewer confused about why he is acting a certain way. Yet, readers had no trouble interpreting the scene, because they had the background information from the text to shed light on the character’s actions.

Even with the lack of key details, many people do prefer movies. Senior Alexandria Ewing said, “Movies are more exciting, so I would rather watch a movie than read a book.”

Truth be told, action and special effects in movies can make the story visual, and keep the attention of the reader. Unlike a movie, when you read a book you have to imagine everything yourself, which may cause the reader to lose interest in the book.

Books help build imagination, and let you imagine the story the way you want to. When reading a book, you imagine characteristics, plot and emotions with the character instead of having it decided for you. Not only is the reader allowed to visualize the book, but also they are allowed to add minor details of his or her own choosing. This creates a unique story in every reader’s mind.

Even though movies are more interesting, with music and special effects, books do allow a person to think for him or herself.

Dates to Remember

February 26--No School.

March 15-19--No School for Spring Break. During spring break the School Office will be open on an abbreviated schedule from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. March 15th through the 18th. The office is **closed** during the lunch hour (Noon to 1:00 p.m.) and on Friday, March 19th. Not all staff will be present during Spring Break, so please call ahead if you wish to visit with a specific staff member.

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Alyssa Wilkie, Reporter

Alisa Muckey, Reporter

Nick Thomsen, Reporter

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