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NEIGHBOR

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Prairie Ridge a 'home' away from home

Besides being new to Prairie Ridge High School, five seniors have something in common: They are all new to this country. Ana Tokacz of Poland, Gul Fedrizzi of Brazil, Miyoko Namura of Japan, Cristina Donoso of Ecuador, and Willem Groendijk of the Netherlands have decided to get a taste of American life by spending their senior year at Prairie Ridge.



Miyoko Namura of Japan

When asked about the challenges she faces on a daily basis, Namura said, "Right now my biggest concern is making good friends. There are already established groups of friends here and it is hard trying to become part of the group."

Even though Miyoko sometimes feels separated by language barriers, she describes American people as being very nice and friendly. However, there are still many family members and friends at home that she misses. Her friends send her messages on cassette tapes along with popular songs from Japan. In this way she is able to communicate with her friends and keep up with changing Japanese culture.

This year brings back graduation memories for Donoso because she recently finished her senior year in Ecuador.

"The senior year is full of high expectations. I see a lot of my friends here going through what I went through last year," she recalled.

Unlike Miyoko, Cristina doesn't feel the pressure of fitting into social groups. On the other hand, she found it difficult to suddenly start speaking English. She also misses her family, friends and the city life, but is considering attending college in the United States because she will have more opportunities here.

The exchange students have kept

busy with a wide variety of extracurricular activities and school events. Miyoko played the piano for the variety show and Gul won a costume contest at Santa Claus at the Halloween Masquerade. It is apparent that all three students are enjoying their first year of an American lifestyle.

New activities

With a new school comes new opportunities. In addition to the traditional clubs such as debate, speech and drama, Prairie Ridge is catering to a variety of interests by forming such clubs as the Environmental Club, Astronomy Club and Creative Writing Club.

The Environmental Club, although sponsored by Steve Mairet and Kelly Brough, lies in the hands of the students and aims to express their interests in preserving the environment. Mairet believes this club must be run by student effort in order to succeed. Students can do anything from adopting an animal to working at Veterans Acres for prairie restoration. The staff sponsors and students are excited that the work will be delegated among the students.

The Creative Writing Club, led by John Laukaitis, is giving students the chance to share their work in a group setting. The students have visited bookstores and plan to attend poetry readings. This group meets after school on Tuesdays and is open to any student who wants to join. A literary magazine by the members will soon be available to the student body.

The Astronomy Club will give students a better understanding of the world of astronomy. Headed by Jeanine Smith and Joe Maracini, three groups of students will meet once a month to work on finding the moons of Jupiter and the rings of Saturn through the use of telescopes and sky charts.

Students are excited about this chance to study the stars and hope to learn about star movement along the way.

Newspaper finds a name

The student body at Prairie Ridge had the opportunity to name the school newspaper. Students contributed ideas in suggestion boxes during their lunch hours in the Student Union.

Now known as Wolf Prints, the newspaper will soon be available to students. The small but talented staff has started working on a second issue.

"It was slow starting off from scratch, but we overcame all the obstacles we faced and are working hard to get it out," said layout designer Jeff Page.

Advisers Katy Kilne and Jennifer Fierbolter hope to have local ads in the paper and release an issue almost every month. Any student who is interested in writing for Wolf Prints or helping out with layout design is encouraged to join the staff and submit work. The newspaper staff wants a diverse representation of student writers.

NHS members inducted

On Oct. 6, about 50 new members were inducted into the Prairie Ridge Chapter of the National Honor Society. These sophomores, juniors and seniors are recognized for their character, scholarship, leadership and service. The students must go through a lengthy application procedure which involves recommendation letters and essay questions.

To qualify for application, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Dr. Joe Saban, the Superintendent of District 155, was the keynote speaker and gave recognition to the members for their perseverance and academic excellence.

Sponsoring the society are Marcia Lutter and Kathy Spillner. The 1997-98 NHS officers are: Beki Park, president; Kate Nelson, vice-president; Stacia

Falat, secretary; Bill Simpson, treasurer and Amber Stanley, publicist. The society meets for an hour every month and is currently planning individual service projects. Joining the Adopt-A-Highway program was chosen as the group service project. Most of all, Prairie Ridge NHS members are trying to start new traditions.

Stanley said, "I think that since this is the first NHS, we can set new goals and really make a difference. Since traditions are not established we have the freedom to improve both our school and our community."

Mentors help freshmen

Before school started, junior and senior mentors met at the school for a lesson in cognitive coaching, a very positive way of talking to other people. The goal of cognitive coaching is to help people access their internal resources. Led by sponsors Donna Robinson and Kristina Deegan, the mentors are helping the freshmen adjust to high school by meeting with them at least twice a month in a group setting.

Mentors applied at the end of last year and were chosen by the faculty. They cannot have any detentions and must be positive role models for their school and community.

"We talk about how the school week went, extra-curricular activities and sports," said Lanes Keller of her meetings with the freshmen. Most freshmen seem to enjoy this program. Mentor Lisa Kahn said, "It is much better than staying in study hall and a good way to make friends."

However, not all students take advantage of this learning experience. Mentor Paul Field said, "Some of the freshmen in my group don't come to the meeting, but the ones that do have fun. I treat them like they are my friends, because they are."

Sarah Vargo, Nicole Kahn and Susan Parikh are seniors at Prairie Ridge High School, Crystal Lake.

Cary-Grove to present own brand of 'Follies'

Once a year, the Cary-Grove music department puts on a show entitled "Fall Follies" where the different choir groups perform songs choreographed by the choral students.



Jessica Bowman of Cary-Grove High School

The show will feature vocal and dance performances from the music department students.

This year, there are 425 students participating in "Fall Follies."

"Fall Follies" is a chance for the choirs to sing and dance for the community. It is also a chance to display the many talents found in the music department," said Lisa Fairfield, a senior who participates in the Advanced Mixed Choir.

The show will be divided into two halves. The first half of the show is light and fun, with a story line that runs between all of the songs.

The theme focuses on a town where students are trying to raise money to fund Elvis.

The second half of the show is more serious. The singers are faced with the questions, problems and concerns of society.

This act includes a medley from the musical "Rent," as well as other songs mirroring the serious issues that "Rent" portrays.

This portion of "Fall Follies" is sung by the members of A Capella and Swing choirs. "Fall Follies" marks the

debut of this year's Swing Choir.

"Fall Follies" allows choir students to express themselves through singing and dancing. Traditionally, "Follies" is meant to be a time of laughter and fun. This year, the second act does not follow that pattern," explained senior Kale Rubow, who is a member of the A Capella Choir.

"Fall Follies" is scheduled Nov. 20-23.

The Thursday and Saturday performances include Beginning Treble, Beginning Mixed, Advanced Treble, A Capella, and Swing Choir.

The Friday and Sunday performances will include Advanced Mixed, Advanced Treble (both A and B), A Capella, and Swing choirs.

Every year, the students who participate in "Fall Follies" dedicate their time to choreographing songs, writing lyrics, and rehearsing for many hours after school.

Besides all the dancing and singing, "Fall Follies" allows students to work together.

"Fall Follies" is a chance for students to create something together, and display it for the community to see," said senior Stephanie Moody, a member of A Capella.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Ticket prices are \$3 for students, and \$6 for adults.

To purchase advance tickets to "Fall Follies," call Cary-Grove High School at (847) 639-3825.

Jessica Bowman is a senior at Cary-Grove High School.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

TODAY

- Dundee-Crown High School, Carpentersville, Choral Talent Show, 7:30 p.m.
- Lake in the Hills Elementary School, PTC meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oak Knoll Elementary School, Cary, Fifth Grade Music Program, 7 p.m.
- Three Oaks Elementary School, Cary, Market Day pickup, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

- Dundee-Crown High School, Carpentersville, WOW Club dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, Oak Rock a cappella rock roll quartet will entertain at the school at 9:15 a.m. for kindergarten

MAKING THE CONNECTION

7-year-old waits for someone to give him time

Kevin is one of 45 children who are waiting for that special person or married couple who will volunteer to serve as a Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Couple through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Fox Valley.

In the "Twelve Matches Before Christmas" campaign the Daily Herald is featuring 12 children who are currently waiting for their Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Couple.

The goal is to recruit adults interested in serving as "Bigs"—friends and role models.

The more "Bigs" recruited, the sooner the child can be matched. Adults interested in becoming a Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Couple should call the agency at (847) 880-3111.

Volunteers should be willing to commit eight hours a month for a period of one year. Volunteers are carefully

screened and matched with a suitable child.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a not-for-profit United Way agency which matches children, ages 5 to 12, from single parent homes with adult volunteers. It serves the northern Kane County region and the villages of Hanover Park, Streamwood and Bartlett.



Kevin is an engaging 7-year-old boy who has many interests. He loves fire trucks and it's no surprise that Kevin wants to be a firefighter when he grows up.

Women at the Well to hear jobs expert

Gail Howard will speak at the Women at the Well meeting at 7 p.m. today at Bethany Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake.

Her topic is "The Feminism Color Line." Howard is former director of job placement at McHenry County College, training and placement specialist at Midwest Women's Center, and the author of "New Steps on the Career Ladder."

Women at the Well is a not-for-profit organization which helps McHenry County women and children.

For details, call (815) 477-4696.

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Services of Worship and Prayer:
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Sundays at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Sunday Family Bible Classes, 9:15 AM
For more information call: (847) 428-4477

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Work the crossword puzzle every Sunday in the Daily Herald