



Jones College Prep, a Chicago Public School

# The Eagle's Eye

The official school newspaper committed to producing responsible & engaging journalism for JCP students

Volume 11 Issue 3

November 2, 2009

After reading this issue, help us save resources. Please return it to a newsstand so others can read it.

## Jones Girls' Volleyball Team Spikes It!

by Jose Ignacio Rojas

This 2009-2010 school year has been witness to the successful season of the girls' volleyball team. To think that a varsity team not composed of any seniors is performing so well is quite frankly, unheard of. The girls' volleyball team this year appears to be a very different squad compared to last year's squad. The overall record of the volleyball team so far this season is 26 -6.

Ariel Prieto, a former member of the girl's volleyball team, said that the girls' volleyball team has always been an institution that installs self-confidence and self-esteem in every player.

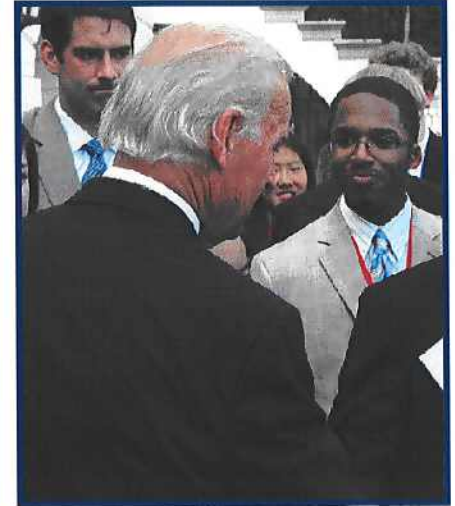
Ariel recalled that last year the team won every game but one in the regular season. Still, there was something lacking in the team.

According to Rachel Majerczyk, a sophomore in the varsity squad, "Last year, [the team] wasn't that strong because we had a lot of downfalls. We got down on ourselves. We had a very negative attitude." When asked about this year's squad, Rachel said, "We have a very strong team this year. Our coach, Ms. Moody, has taught us to be a very mental team, to be mentally in the game. Whether we win or lose,

we don't get down on ourselves. We have a positive attitude towards everything and I think that has made us very strong this year." Rachel, among others, contributes to the unity they have displayed on and off the court. The relationship players have with one another is much like a second family, according to Rachel.

Last year in their sectional, the girl's volleyball team was seeded in the 7<sup>th</sup> spot. This year, in the LaGrange Park (Nazareth Academy) 3A Sectional, the girl's volleyball team clinched a 5<sup>th</sup>

Continued p.7



Jones 2009 graduate Julian Cook (right) waits for a handshake from Vice President Joe Biden at the 2009 Presidential Scholars Award Ceremony at the White House. He was one of seven students in the nation chosen to be a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. The program was established in 1964 to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

## Are Freshmen Inexperienced for Theater?

by Desiree Vasquez

The theater productions at Jones have a remarkable reputation and are always successful with every aspect of making a musical. Their next upcoming event will be the fall theater production *Carnival*; many students are working extremely hard to make this production as great and even better than their past ones. However, unlike

recent years, only students in 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to participate in the musical. This year for the fall production, Ms. Bennett, director and teacher for the drama department, is unable to direct the musical and every characteristic of it due to health issues. This leaves only upperclassman able to be in the musical, though

freshmen are upset with an unequal chance to be chosen to contribute to the dramatic piece.

The preparation for the musical this season has come with some obstacles. Upperclassman Abby Frazier says that "it's hard without Ms. Bennett and the organization and the discipline."

Continued p. 2

### Inside this issue:

Gym Update	2
Undocumented Students	3
Mentoring Freshmen	4
Cross Country Success	4
Students in the Military	5
Dress Code: Sagging Pants	7
Global Update	9
JCP Dept. of Tourism	10
Commentary	11

## Theater from p. 1

Now that Ms. Bennett is gone, students have to plan and prepare without her presence. "There's a big difference in how Ms. Reed teaches and how Ms. Bennett teaches," says Kyla Hill. Sandra Reed is a retired JCP English teacher with theater who is a substitute director for the musical this fall.

"Ms. Bennett knew that I would be part time. I come on Tuesdays and Thursdays to work with them," says Ms. Reed, explaining how she can only help out so much. The musical is mainly in the hands of the older participants of the drama department. Some of these students have been in theater for more than three years in high school and are experienced in dramatic theater, so they're willing to take on the challenge.

Some think that, unlike the upperclassmen, freshmen are not as well qualified to be in this fall's musical. "Freshmen are inexperienced. They don't know the life at Jones and they don't know

what theater is like," said senior Fernando Fernandez. These feelings are shared among many of the upperclassmen since there is no time or enough energy to prepare the freshmen for the experience of being in a Jones theater production.

Upperclassmen feel that the freshmen are missing some important skills that are needed to be able to participate in the musical. Agreeing with this is senior Kyla Hill: "It's that they will come in not knowing the discipline . . . People in the musical are already acting up." Older participants of the musical are feeling the pressure of getting everyone already for the production by putting in some exceptional effort.

Freshmen feel otherwise. Some joined summer drama camp and worked hard for a chance. They put effort into something that they later found out they are not able to do. Madeline Luna, a freshman who worked to show her skills in dramatic theater, says, "It's a disappointment, and they wasted our time."

"It would be a really bad decision on our part to let them in," said Fernando Fernandez. This senior and drama coun-

selor believes that it would be even harder to work with freshmen that are not aware of the principles of the theater academy's regulations and organization. Teaching the freshmen the discipline of taking part in the production would take the support and strength away from everyone else that is preparing to be a part of the musical. Kyla Hill, another senior at Jones, says, "It's a disappointment, but they have to get over it."

The current cast and members are working to make the piece perfect. The fall production of *Carnival* runs in the Jones auditorium November 19-21.

We print a limited number of copies to save resources.

Print and e-Issues are also available at

[www.jonescollegeprep.org](http://www.jonescollegeprep.org)

## Let's Play Basketball! Maybe Not. by DeQuincy Jones

**"I want to have real physical education. I don't want to lift weights all day."**

Johnny Rivers is a junior at Jones. He is in the fitness center lifting weights but he would rather be playing basketball but he can't because Jones doesn't have a gym. "I want to have real physical education. I don't want to lift weights all day. I want to play basketball." Johnny isn't the only junior that wants to play basketball.

Anthony Alexander, a junior at Jones, thinks *he* is the best at ball but can't show it because we don't have a gym. He

jokes: "If we had a gym I would kill you everyday." He feels like being in the fitness center isn't "real" physical education. "To me physical education is playing basketball and swimming and playing volleyball, not lifting weights."

Jones has needed for a long time. Joe Engleman is a senior at Jones and he was told since his freshmen year that there was going to be a gym built by the time he was a junior. "They said there will be a gym by the time I am junior and now I am a senior and there is still no gym."

When we do get a gym, Dr. Powers describes that "what they are planning to do, the last time this was explained to me, was that originally they were going to build an expansion on this building and that expansion would have a gymnasium, which would be a full-sized gym. Then all the necessary locker room space. It will also have a swimming pool and additional space tied into the theatre and music programs. About a year and a half ago, CPS decided to build an entire new building and sell this property.

by Rosa Castillo and Kayla Nieves

Currently, Latinos are the biggest minority in the United States with a large undocumented population. According to CNN.com by 2050, the U.S. Latino population is expected to triple in size. Soledad O'Brien did a news special titled *Latinos in America* to explore various aspects that affect the lives of Latino immigrants.

One story dealt with Marta, a 12 year-old girl from Central America who left her country to find her mother here in the United States. Three years later she found herself sitting in an immigration detention center waiting to be deported back; a typical case of the 7,211 children known to come into the United States by themselves in search of family members and a better life.

The search for a better life is why Student A and Student B came to the United States and why they are now at Jones. They are two undocumented immigrants whose names are not being used to protect their identity. As young children their parents brought them here in hope that they

would have better opportunities than what they had back in Mexico. Now both students feel it is their obligation to make their parents proud with their achievements. The experiences of Student A and Student B as undocumented students are similar but the challenges they face are different.

Student A is a senior at Jones who is in the process of applying to colleges and for scholarships. He describes his transition when arriving to the United States as challenging. Student A said, "The hardest part was learning English." Learning a new language can be difficult at times, but like others he managed.

The problem Student A is facing now is with the college application process. When applying to some colleges, if the student does not have a Social Security number, they are considered foreign-students. Unfortunately, Student A was not able to apply to those colleges because he does not have the necessary documentation. He says, "I think the biggest thing is just money because my family can't afford it. I don't know if I'm going to go to college because of the money

issue. And if I can't find any scholarships then that's not a possibility for me."

There are scholarships for undocumented immigrants but the issue is that they are hard to find. He says, "I've talked to my counselor about it, and she told me I could go to any college I wanted. It's just whether I can get the scholarships or not." He mentions with disappointment, "There are a couple scholarships that I finally found but it's too late for those. The deadline just passed so I couldn't do those anymore."

In addition, he mentioned being accepted to a summer enrichment program affiliated with a highly reputable university. He completed all the necessary paperwork but found out that a Social Security number was needed in order to obtain a position in the program.

On the other hand, Student B has different challenges to confront.

continued on p. 6

---

## DO THE "WRITE" THING!

Want some feedback on those college essays? Having trouble getting started on your paper for Survey Lit? Want to know if your physics analysis makes sense? Got a bad grade on your social studies report and want to know why?

These and many other reasons are why you should visit the Writing Center Consultation Room, located in the SRC (Student Resource Center), the back room, 214B.

You can make an appointment in the book by Charlie's desk, or just walk in and see us. Appointments are given priority, but walk-ins are always welcome! The lunch hours of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> period are staffed with either a faculty member of the English department or an enthusiastic English student from the University of Illinois.

We welcome all kinds of writing issues, from the beginning, middle, or end of your paper. We also welcome papers from all subjects from math to music, social studies to science, and, of course, all English courses.

Do the Write Thing and visit the Writing Center to improve as a writer.

Katherine Palmer is the director of the Writing Center and an English teacher.

## Mentoring from the ELITE by Kathrine Popielarz

Last year Mr. Brake and Mrs. White introduced the leadership and mentoring class, also known as ELITE. They are continuing this program this year with a whole new set of mentors. They are setting out to bring upper and lower classmen together and give them an experience to remember. The overall goal of this program, says Mr. Brake, is "to build a positive peer community among freshmen and upper-classmen at Jones."

Before receiving their mentees, the mentors spent a few weeks preparing themselves to take responsibility for these kids. They were reading material that deals with interpersonal trust, trust within schools, and also how trust is built and broken. They also read articles about social capital. The mentors and the program leaders took time to prepare thoroughly to ensure that they were ready to work with the freshman and look after them.

But why would anyone volunteer to shoulder such a

task? Benjamin Jaffe said, "I just really wanted to help make the transition [to high school] easier for these kids."

Now, the seniors and juniors have been assigned to their freshman and are working to build relationships with them. They already had their kick-off event where the mentors and mentees were first introduced to each other. During the event, in addition to welcoming the freshman to the program, the mentors went over what the program was, and corrected any myths about it. They also played ice-breaker games in order to get to know each other and allow the mentors and mentees to begin to bond.

Katie Rothas, a senior mentor, shares her thoughts on the freshmen's response to the program: "I think at first they were skeptical because they didn't know what the program was, but I think now that they've met their mentors and they've gone to this first event that they're really excited and ready to see what this year will bring with this program."

It is obvious that the upper classmen are excited about this program and believe that it is a positive thing, but how do the freshmen feel? Zekur Stewart said, "I wanted to join the program as soon as I knew what it was about. Once I gained knowledge about what it really was, I was excited about being in it." Laura Rojas, another freshman in ELITE, commented on the timing of the program. "I thought it was a really good time [to start] because it's still the beginning of the school year and it's when you're starting to adjust, but if you have any problems you can go to your mentor. You can go to someone with more experience and they'll help you out."

The freshmen seem to be responding well to the efforts of ELITE and gaining a lot. When asked what she hopes to get out of this program, Asya Hill said, "I was hoping that later I could mentor someone else and then I also want to get to know a lot more people from this school and make new friends."

This new program is determined to improve upper and lower classmen relations and to help ease the transition from elementary to high school. The people involved are hopeful and look forward to seeing the outcome.

---

## Cross Country Success by Ethan Blumenthal

The JCP cross country team has gone from walking among the pack of CPS high schools to taking some giant leaps and sprinting to a whole new level of competition. The Eagles recently had the most successful CPS meet in Jones history.

The meet was a first for many; the girl's varsity took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the city, the boy's varsity took 5<sup>th</sup> and Jones now has three All-City Runners, including Cade Yanowski, Miranda Shaver, and Jamison Dale. This title of All-City Runners signifies that they finished in the top 20 in all

of CPS. The entire team agrees that the answers to the newfound successes stem from this year's team motto, "JCP AAT". As senior Cade (took 9<sup>th</sup> in city) says, "We are now JCP, As A Team. No one runs for themselves, and it's as simple as that."

The players say that the new head Coach Andrew Adelman brought this new team spirit to the Eagle runners. He supports and helps each and every individual on the squad but when it comes down to it he says, "I coach one unified team.

I help every runner, but it is all to build success for the team." Coach Adelman not only pushes the unified attitude while at practices or at meets, but also outside of the athletic environment.

As sophomore Luke Helliker mentions, "We often times have early morning practices, and afterwards we always go out to breakfast as a team. It is just little things like this that really make us closer."

"The team attitude never stops", junior Magaly Green says.

continued next page

