

THE Maroon

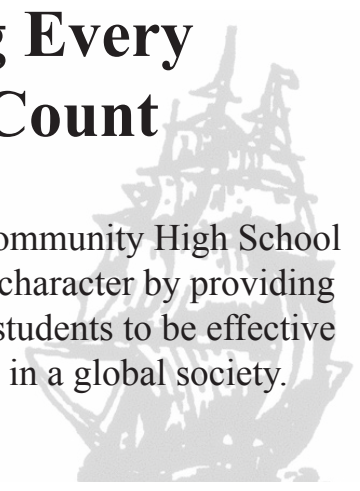
Argo Community High School
7329 W. 63rd St., Summit, IL 60501

Heading by: Taylor Krzos



Making Every Issue Count

The mission of Argo Community High School is to build intelligence and character by providing an education that prepares students to be effective citizens, able to succeed in a global society.



Annual Valentine's Day Date Guide

by: Rachel Burke '17

Are you looking for an unconventional place to take your date on Valentine's Day? Are you sick of the cliché "dinner and a movie"? Do you really want to wow your significant other this February 14th? Try some of these ideas for the upcoming holiday:

- Museums downtown! There are so many different museums with different attractions that you're bound to like at least one of them. Some cool museums would be the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum, or the Planetarium.
- If you're thinking of something a little less educational you could go for something along the lines of bowling, roller skating, laser tag, or paintball. A little friendly competition will get the heart pumping!
- For any animal lovers, you can still go to the zoo! It'll be cold, but if you love animals and the outdoors, it's worth it.
- If you're on a low budget or just want to stay in the house, there's always Netflix marathons! There are so many shows to browse through and so many romantic movies for the special day. It's a little similar to the 'dinner and a movie' but less expensive.
- Bake cookies and brownies! Nothing's more romantic than cookies and treats for your sweet! The possibilities of cookie recipes are endless, and they're a lot of fun to make from scratch. You can learn a lot about someone by cooking with them.
- If you're in the mood to get creative, you can set up a scavenger hunt for your special someone. Hide clues for where the next clue is all over the house until they find a present in the last hiding spot. It's fun, cute, and shows that you put a lot of thought into that day.
- If you're not able to see them on this special day, you could always just Skype them or post little hearts on their Facebook wall. Even the smallest gestures make a difference.

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Singles Guide to

Valentine's Day

By Madison Krzos '17

Are you single and need a way to get through Valentine's Day? You're in luck because *The Maroon* has put together the ultimate singles' survival guide.

Don't go on ANY social media

It's obvious that people are going to profess their love for their boyfriend or girlfriend on social media. If you don't want to be utterly disgusted by teenage love then steer clear altogether.

Think about the origin of Valentine's Day

When you actually think about the origin of the holiday, you realize you are celebrating the 3 part execution of St. Valentine. Nothing says love like beating, stoning, and decapitation - enjoy your sweet treats!

Cuddle up in bed, watch a romance movie, and cry

Maybe it's not the best way to spend Valentine's day, but everybody needs a good cry once in a while, and what better time than a day where you are left alone to bask in your lonely tears while watching classic romance movies? Just give in - you'll feel better later.

Reenact (part of) the famous *Lady and the Tramp* spaghetti scene

Make yourself some noodles, sit at the table and slurp them up. There are so many plus sides to this; you're not going to find some mutt at the end of your spaghetti, and you don't have to share with noodles with anyone! Sounds like a score to me!

Buy yourself some chocolates and devour them in one sitting

If you really need a way to cope with this made up holiday then treat yourself to some sweet chocolate. They say life is like a box of chocolates, but what if you don't have anyone to buy you that box of chocolates? Invest in some chocolate for yourself. You won't regret the delicious taste of singledom!

Find a hobby to attract a mate

Imagine if you knew how to juggle, you sure wouldn't be single. Or if you knew some sweet yo-yo tricks, that would have everyone swooning over you. Teach yourself how to do something cool and unexpected. By next year you'll have a mate, and you won't be reading our annual singles guide.

Argo Mourns Loss of Board Member, Alumnus, and Former Teacher Chris Pluta



Mr. Chris Pluta died Jan. 26 from complications of diabetes. He was 52. Pluta, a nearly 20-year Summit resident and a life-long Chicago Cubs fan, was born and raised in Justice. A former teacher here at Argo, Mr. Pluta was a current member of our School Board and an active member of the Argo Family. He was also on the Summit Public Library governing boards and a former member of the Argo-Summit/Bedford Park Elementary District 104 School Board.

A graduate of District 109's Wilkins Junior High in Justice and Argo Community High School, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from Governors State University and a master's degree in counseling, from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

In high school, he was an active member and former manager of WARG FM Radio station and a sound engineer for the theatre arts program. In later years, he helped form the WARG Alumni Association. As a multilingual teacher, Mr. Pluta was most proud of his work with NHI (National Hispanic Institute), which taught college bound Latino students valuable leadership skills in conjunction with Loyola and DePaul universities in Chicago.

He is survived by his brothers, Joe (Wanda), Bill, James, and a nephew, Michael, as well as many close friends, cousins, an aunt and uncle, and a legion of students who became friends as adults. Mr. Pluta will be missed.

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and much, much more!

Tune In To Our New Web Show!

by **Madison Krzos '17**

Nearly every print newspaper has extended into other areas of the media. I thought of an idea that will link *The Maroon* newspaper with a more modern media: the internet. *In tune! With the Maroon* is a web show that will highlight topics from the current issue of *The Maroon*, let students voice their opinion, and showcase Argo student talent. Each show we'll have a panel of students sharing their opinions about topics discussed in the latest issue of the paper. We are also going to show tweets that were tweeted to us via twitter (@ArgoMaroon if you want to follow us). At the end of every episode we let a student show the world his or her talent.

It's important that students have a voice and are not silenced by anyone. This show will give students a chance to speak their minds and discuss school issues that will affect them firsthand. If you would like to be a panelist or showcase your talent on the show, please email mbrown@argohs.net. Look for the first episode coming out soon. We will be debating Brianna's articles about DC vs Marvel and study halls, answering one of your tweets, and more! Look for *In Tune! With The Maroon* on Argo's Facebook Page.



IN TUNE!
WITH THE MAROON

Grey Area: Should HS Students be Reading 50 Shades?

by **Rukkia Liaquat '17**







Have you ever just loved a book so much you couldn't put it down, took it everywhere with you, and read it twenty-four seven - even when you were supposed to be doing class work? Today many students are going above and beyond their normal *Romeo and Juliet* tragic drama and reading the popular *Fifty Shades of Grey* trilogy. Today students tweet about this book with no shame. A few students have been caught reading *Fifty Shades of Grey* in class with a book cover on it. I asked an Argo student if she would tell a family member that she was reading the series, and she replied, "I wouldn't even tell my little sister about it because it'd be a little creepy."

I for one remember when I first got the book, I didn't have time to go to my locker, so I went to class with it and I got the most shocked looks ever. I was constantly asked in the middle of class, "Are you actually reading that book?" and yes I've read the trilogy. However, unlike many other students, I did not read it in school. I for one do not believe in a ban on books, but there is a time and place to read an erotic romance, and the middle of your teacher's lecture on World War I is not one of them!

Movie Preview: DC vs. Marvel

by **Brianna Pryor '15**

Last November Marvel, along with their top competitor DC, released a long list of exciting comic-book inspired movie premieres that we can expect to see up until the year 2020. With actors such as Christian Bale, Jason Mamo, Robert Downey, Jr., and Benedict Cumberbatch, the future for both companies is looking very bright. Marvel's *Avengers* did pretty amazing, and I'm sure the two upcoming sequels should be just as awesome. And let's face it, *The Justice League* and *Batman versus Superman* movies are long overdue. But who will come out on top in the battle of comics? To help determine the winners, I've pitted each movie below against each other.

DC	Marvel	Winner
<p><i>Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice</i> (2016)</p> 	<p><i>Avengers: Age of Ultron</i> (2015)</p> 	<p>Tie: The first Avengers was awesome so I wouldn't expect anything short of mind-blowing with the addition of such characters as Wonder Woman, Aquaman, and Cyborg, <i>Batman v Superman</i> could just as easily be a hit. We'll just have to wait and see.</p>
<p><i>Suicide Squad</i> (2016)</p>	<p><i>Captain America: Civil War</i> (2016)</p>	<p>Captain America: Civil War. It has more popularity therefore it might receive a better turn out. The first 2 Captain America movies were great.</p>
<p><i>Wonder Woman</i> (2017)</p>	<p><i>Doctor Strange</i> (2016)</p>	<p>Wonder Woman. Next to <i>Catwoman</i> and Storm, Wonder Woman is one of the few female superheroes that is widely known. This movie will do better than the lesser known Dr. Strange.</p>
<p><i>Justice League Part 1</i> (2017)</p> 	<p><i>Guardians of the Galaxy 2</i> (2017)</p>	<p>Justice League Part 1. Although <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> was pretty amazing, we've been waiting years for a Justice League movie that's not animated.</p>
<p><i>The Flash</i> (2018)</p>	<p><i>Thor: Ragnarok</i> (2017)</p> 	<p>Thor: Ragnarok. Due to popularity I would have to say Thor. The first movie was considerably good so I'm sure everyone will be just as hyped to see this one as well.</p>
<p><i>Aquaman</i> (2018)</p> 	<p><i>Black Panther</i> (2017)</p>	<p>Black Panther. Close tie but this movie would be the first solo film for an African American superhero and with the recent casting of Chadwick Boseman, I think the movie will be a hit as opposed to <i>Aquaman</i> who will be played by Jason Mamo, whom we catch a glimpse of in the Justice League series.</p>
<p><i>Shazam</i> (2019)</p> 	<p><i>Avengers: Infinity War, Part 1</i> (2019)</p>	<p>Avengers: Infinity War, Part 1. <i>Shazam</i> is cool and all, but I doubt many people besides the super die hard comic fans such as myself really know about him. And since he's competing against an Avengers movie, there's no doubt in my mind that Marvel wins this round.</p>
<p><i>Justice League Part 2</i> (2019)</p>	<p><i>Captain Marvel</i> (2018)</p>	<p>Justice League Part 2. Assuming all goes well with part 1 of the series.</p>
<p><i>Cyborg</i> (2020)</p>	<p><i>Inhumans</i> (2018)</p>	<p>Cyborg: He's part of the Teen Titans and because the younger generation can easily identify with him, and not the lesser known <i>Inhumans</i>, this movie is bound to do significantly better.</p>

Arts & Entertainment

Academy Awards 2015 Predictions

by: Andrew Ochwat '16

The truly unnerving list of nominations (no minority actors were selected for any of the four acting categories) combined with some extremely close races will create a very tense and important year for the Academy Awards. Criticisms aside (I do have my fair share), I believe that the Oscars should be praised for making sure film is acknowledged as the art form it is. That being said, I present to you the Oscar nominations and my personal predictions for the major categories this year.

Best Picture: *American Sniper*, *Birdman*, *Boyhood*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *The Imitation Game*, *Selma*, *The Theory of Everything*, *Whiplash*

Overview: This year the race is very close, not between two movies but among nearly all of the nominees. The front-runner was *Boyhood*, a masterclass example of narrative and technical excellence in filmmaking. I say "was" because recently the critics have been turning toward another prime example of filmmaking, this reviewer's personal favorite of the lot, *Birdman*. On top of competing with each other for the gold, they have to deal with the popularity of films like *American Sniper*, *The Imitation Game* (my least favorite), and *The Theory of Everything*. *Selma* is a historical drama, so of course the Academy voters are going to be all over that one. Last, but not least, is *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, which has the craft of *Boyhood*, the quirkiness of *Birdman*, and the popularity of many others. After snagging the Best Comedy Film award at the Golden Globes, it has recently become a strong contender.

My prediction: As much as I would love to just pick *Birdman*, smart money would say otherwise. *Boyhood* displays a serious show of talent and hope for the future of cinema that the Academy can't overlook. *Boyhood* is truly a work of art, and will most likely win the award for Best Picture at this year's Oscars.

Best Actor: Steve Carell in *Foxcatcher*, Bradley Cooper in *American Sniper*, Benedict Cumberbatch in *The Imitation Game*, Michael Keaton in *Birdman*, Eddie Redmayne in *The Theory of Everything*

Overview: Okay, so remember how the last category was a close one? Steve Carell, known as a comedic actor, takes a darker dramatic turn in *Foxcatcher*, in which he delighted critics with his surprising acting chops. Bradley Cooper has become a late favorite for voters, and very well might steal the race from the beautiful, haunting, perfect performance by Michael Keaton. Benedict Cumberbatch provides a perfectly serviceable performance, but he's Cumberbatch, and that alone is enough to get him close to a win. Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking is an audience favorite, which means a lot in a race so widely contested. The most obvious snub here is David Oyelowo, who literally *became* MLK Jr. before the audience's eyes. He would have been a strong contender, yet wasn't even nominated. A true shame. **My prediction:** Bradley Cooper and Eddie Redmayne have emerged late in the game as audience and critical favorites, and, as usual, this counts for a lot. Only time will tell, but I would place my vote on Keaton.

Best Actress: Marion Cotillard in *Two Days, One Night*, Felicity Jones in *The Theory in Everything*, Julianna Moore in *Still Alice*, Rosamund Pike in *Gone Girl*, Reese Witherspoon in *Wild*

Overview: Critics say that Julianne Moore practically already has the Oscar on her shelf. While I have not seen the performance, I am well aware of her formidable acting ability, having seen her in loads of other movies. Reese Witherspoon is the only other real contender here, acting as Cheryl Strayed in a

movie based off of her memoir. It would certainly be nice to see Rosamund Pike take home the prize for her mesmerizing performance in *Gone Girl* (which, by the way, should have been a nominee for Best Picture, just saying), but these are just fanciful thoughts.

My prediction: Yeah, I'm just gonna go ahead and go with Julianne Moore on this one. We can all have hopeful ideas of Rosamund Pike or Reese Witherspoon taking home the trophy, but it won't make it any more possible.

Best Supporting Actor: Robert Duvall in *The Judge*, Ethan Hawke in *Boyhood*, Edward Norton in *Birdman*, Mark Ruffalo in *Foxcatcher*, J.K. Simmons in *Whiplash*

Overview: Robert Duvall and Mark Ruffalo may both be fine actors, but the only real (if slight) threats to J.K. Simmons's total supremacy in this category are Ethan Hawke and Edward Norton. Both are fantastic performances, especially Norton's. As we've discussed, I'm biased towards everything *Birdman* – but, looking at these odds, I can't say they have much of a chance against Simmons's chance at this year's Oscars. Sorry, guys.

My prediction: Edward Norton may come in as a welcome surprise, but it looks as if Simmons grip on this statuette is pretty secure.

Best Supporting Actress: Patricia Arquette in *Boyhood*, Laura Dern in *Wild*, Keira Knightly in *The Imitation Game*, Emma Stone in *Birdman*, Meryl Streep in *Into the Woods*

Overview: What it comes down to in this race is whether the Academy will favor Arquette's layered, complex, perfect thematic portrayal of an imperfect but loving mother over Stone's powerhouse, scathing, perfect thematic portrayal of an imperfect but loving daughter. And, good money says they will. It's not that the other actresses don't stand a chance against the two (Knightly's performance in *The Imitation Game* was one of the few things I really enjoyed about the film), it's just that they don't really stand a chance.

My Prediction: The Academy will most likely favor Patricia Arquette over Emma Stone, which I really can't argue with. It's not that I prefer one over the other (they both were highlights of the film they worked in), it's that if Stone's acting abilities are this strong so early in her life, she'll have no problem securing an Oscar in a year or two.

Best Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu for *Birdman*, Richard Linklater for *Foxcatcher*, Wes Anderson for *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, Morten Tyldum for *The Imitation Game*

Overview: Here's a toughie. Okay, for this article, let's just pretend that only Iñárritu and Linklater were nominated (I feel terrible leaving Anderson out of it). Even with just these two, you have a conundrum. Both directed and created something truly unique and beautiful in their own right. Linklater created a 12-year epic that has become the most full and perhaps the most effective coming-of-age pic of all time, following actors for 12 years to fully capture the experiences of change and growth. Iñárritu created a breathless, claustrophobic, and tense environment in a theatre and on the sprawling streets of New York with deft and skillful cinematography to make it seem like it all happens to be shot in one take. You see the problem here?

My prediction: I'm not sure who deserves it more. According to the top Oscar writers, Linklater is the top contender for the award, which I can't dispute at all. Good luck to both men; their brilliance has made my life a better one. I know I shouldn't ask for this in such an esteemed category... but how about a tie?

Best Animated Feature: *Big Hero 6*, *The Boxtrolls*, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, *Song of the Sea*, *The Tale of Princess Kaguya*

Overview: Quite possibly the most horrible injustice

of the nominations this year was the snub of *The LEGO Movie* in this category. Nearly everyone who saw the film would agree that it was the best animated movie this year by far. *Big Hero 6* and *How to Train Your Dragon 2* were good films, at best. *The Boxtrolls* seemed oddly disturbing to most people and scared off people at the box office, and, by the way, has anyone ever even heard of *Song of the Sea* or *The Tale of Princess Kaguya*?

My prediction: *How to Train Your Dragon 2* will win. How was the Oscars ever going to let Marvel get away with winning an Oscar? Just kidding (sort of). In the words of Peter Knegt at Indiewire.com, "Whichever film does win, however, should take a moment to thank *The LEGO Movie* for not being nominated."

Book Review: *The Impossible Knife of Memory*

by: Estrella Salgado '17

When seventeen-year-old Hayley Kincaid gets home from school, the first thing she thinks of has nothing to do with Facebook, texting, boys, or even homework. She's worried if Dad is going to be stone-cold drunk on the couch, a heap of medals thrown on the floor. Ever since he came home from the war, brutal memories of blood and loss have forced him down the path of drugs and alcohol. The pair were on the road for five years, and he's finally decided to settle in his old hometown for Hayley's sake.

Hayley isn't finding the change from independent homeschooling to the crowded halls of high school easy. Protecting her father from both his PTSD-torn self and the glaring public eye has hardened her. Besides, she has her own trust issues, ones that prevents her from letting good friends into her life. But Hayley can't live behind a wall forever. When her father's condition grows drastically worse, will she have the courage to seek help? And will she ever admit that she, too, is broken inside?

Laurie Halse Anderson (*Speak*, *Wintergirls*) is famous for providing a contemporary teen audience with intensely true-to-life situations, and *The Impossible Knife of Memory* is an excellent addition to her collection. Hayley Kincaid is a well-developed character who provides a solid portrayal of the families of soldiers. She is surprisingly mature, but her casual language and believable actions make her accessible to readers.

Anderson's trademark slap-in-the-face realism does not sugar-coat the horrors of war and PTSD, but it doesn't come across as a dry speech against military intervention. Also, the novel comes with a firm understanding of human flaws that delves into the power of redemption. A strong supporting cast, like Gracie, a prescription pill addict and Finn, her adorkable boyfriend, anchors the novel so that its deep themes don't get lost.

I have to say that *Wintergirls* struck a deeper chord with me, and it is still my favorite Anderson novel. Even so, *The Impossible Knife of Memory* is a very well-plotted novel that will leave readers thinking about real issues long after that last page is turned.

Entertainment

Student Surveys - Valentine's Day Edition

Since some people love it and some people hate it, we decided to take the pulse of the student body by asking of our fellow Argonauts questions about **Valentine's Day**. Some of the questions were as follows: 1. The straightforward, how do you feel about Valentine's Day? 2. The existential, what is love and what do you love most? 3. The sensational, who's your favorite celebrity couple? Here's where their hearts are.



Gabby Grinstead '15

1. Valentine's day is supposed to be a special day to be romantic to your lover and give pretty gifts like teddy bears and chocolate – yum!
2. Love is when you care for yourself AND others and you do anything to express your affection.
3. Jay Z and Beyonce.



Vanessa Cortez '17

1. Valentine's Day is no different than a normal day, but I hate it anyway.
2. To me love is Netflix, and I love food the most.
3. Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively. They are a cute couple!



Jackie Alexander '17

I feel Valentine's Day can be a really special and romantic.



Ashley Smith '17

1. No reply
2. Love is a chemical reaction in the brain that draws two people together. I love writing and reading good fiction.
3. Blake Shelton & Miranda Lambert because I love their music.



Brenda Escobedo '17

1. Screw it!
2. Love is an unconditional feeling for someone or something, and I LOVE CHURROS!
3. Kim and Kanye because their kid has a nice name: Little Westy or whatever.



Matt Warciak '16

"Baby don't hurt me, don't hurt me no more."



Maya Oria '15 and Jeremy Laboy '14

1. Maya: It's a day that couples get together to remember the first day they met or how much they care about each other.

Jeremy: I think Valentine's Day is mainly about showing appreciation for the person you are with, and you do that the whole day, just as much as any other day but I guess more that day.

2. Maya: I think that love can't be defined because it comes in different shape, sizes, and feelings that you can't understand. My Xbox 360. Joking - my boyfriend.

Jeremy: I think Love is realizing the one thing you can't be without. You become so accustomed to it, when you're not with it you can't function. What do I love the most? This girl right here, my girlfriend.

3. Jeremy: I'd say Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt
Maya: Yeah, I was going to say that or Leonardo DiCaprio and Rihanna Loki

Creative Corner

- Submit your artwork, poetry, or photography to The Creative Corner by 3/10 for the next issue! Email Mrs. Brown (mbrown@argohs.net) for details.



Teachers' High School Valentine's Memories

by: **Estrella Salgado '17**

Ever wonder what your teachers were like in high school? Well, here's a chance to find out what they did on February 14th in their teenage years!

Mrs. Brown shares that in sophomore year, she and her boyfriend went downtown Chicago to retrace Ferris Bueller's footsteps. Cute!

Mr. McCormack informs that he can't remember having a girlfriend on Valentine's Day, but he played video games and broke his tooth on a SweetHeart.

Mr. Strelow recalls eating at his girlfriend's house, then embellishes the story by saying he trained her parrots to squawk, "Happy Valentine's Day!"

Mrs. Zywica went to an all girls high school – no boys to gossip about. (Not sure we believe that one.)

Mr. Kantzavelos claims to have given his girlfriend a graphing calculator. *The Maroon* will be investigating this claim . . .

Mr. Dagres confesses that he never cared about Valentine's Day in high school. "It wasn't like now, with all those big helium balloons," he says.

Mr. Ball openly admits that he had always broken up with his girlfriend by the special day . . . or vice versa.

Can Teachers Pass Our Personality Test?

by: **Kim De La Torre '16**

The teachers pictured below were given a task, "Describe yourself as a person and some activities you like to do." In a test to see how accurate they are, I compared their responses to their horoscopes in *Fortune-Telling Birthday Book* (Chronicle Books). Let's see how they did!

Mr. Poull describes himself as a social, patient, and meticulous man. He likes playing tennis and coaching both the boys and girls tennis team. The book reads for his February birthday, "You are conscientious and reliable and plod along in your work faithfully. You like travel and a change of scene. You are honest and wholehearted in your love, and it will bring joy and contentment to you." After reading what the book says about him he says, "I have never been one to truly believe in this. I am a skeptic, but I find this oddly accurate." He disagrees about the travel; he prefers to stay home.

Mr. Jankowicz describes himself as a hardworking, dedicated, easy to get along with, and friendly man. He enjoys sports, he used to coach wrestling, he enjoys the outdoors, and spending time with his family. The book reads for July 6, "You are serious in everything you do: love, work, or recreation. You are a great reader, a profound thinker, and an ardent student, and you make the most of your abilities. You enjoy culture and refinement, and whatever you undertake is done to the best of your ability." After reading this he says that he did find this accurate but he is still a skeptic.

Mr. Daugherty describes himself as a reserved, easygoing, patient man with a good sense of humor. He loves sports and loves spending time with his immediate family. The book reads for February 6, "You have a keen sense of humor and are witty and fond of fun, though economical and prudent. You are inclined toward sensitiveness, which worries and annoys you. You should practice poise. You

teacher test cont.

are demonstrative and loving, and you should have a very happy marriage." He finds this very accurate!

Mr. Garcia describes himself as a very patient man and he deals well with adversity. The book reads for April 12, "You are naturally very cautious and act only after due consideration. Once your decision is made, you will not retract any part of it and will carry all responsibility. You love your home and continually try to make it more pleasant and attractive." He says he finds this highly accurate.

Mr. Hills describes himself as a very hardworking and serious; however, he does see himself as a fun, outgoing person as well. He is always willing to help others and likes to meet new people. The book reads for August 11, "You have positive ideas and opinions but are sometimes diffident. You have determination, perseverance, and energy, and you are fond of sports and pleasures. You will not fall in love at first sight, but when you do love, you will do so thoroughly and with absolute devotion." Mr. Hills says that this is pretty accurate.

Top 10 Movies of 2014

by: **Andrew Ochwat '16**

10. Captain America: The Winter Soldier – One of the most un-superhero movie superhero movies I've yet seen, *The Winter Soldier* pulses with a bold and brilliant mix of sci-fi, action, paranoia thriller, and drama. A beautiful movie with a powerful and important message is not what most people expect from a superhero movie, but this one delivers both.

9. Gone Girl – This dark maze of a mystery pic left many audiences amazed and confused by its increasingly disturbing outlook on humanity. Following a man who is accused of killing his wife, we, the audience, are encouraged to figure out whether he actually did it or not. Even those who find the ending disagreeable (I've come to terms with it, myself) should agree that the film is a ride well worth taking.

8. Dawn of the Planet of the Apes – This movie has some of the best heroes and villains of any movie this year, human or otherwise, and the visuals are flawless. Take this action-packed and emotionally resonant joyride, and you won't be disappointed.

7. Guardians of the Galaxy – This was by far the most fun I ever had at a movie theatre this year. Though the story and villain (I'm beginning to think no Marvel movie can top Loki) aren't the best, this film is a pure joy. Visually, comically, and sometimes emotionally resonant, *Guardians of the Galaxy* creates another Marvel win out of a little known comic series. And who knew that a movie

about a walking tree and a talking raccoon would become No. 2 at the box office?

6. The LEGO Movie – Featuring an ensemble cast of characters, this film's fantastic visual flair and hilarious dialogue made this a critical and audience favorite! At the center of the film's message is the idea of finding a balance between conformity and non-conformity, a well needed message, but one that hasn't been told quite as well until this movie.

5. Selma – This historical drama got two Oscar nods, one for Best Picture, and one for Best Original Song. The movie is beautiful, because it's a careful and thoughtful exercise in filmmaking. Horrifying, because it's real, it happened. Moving, because you aren't watching just a film, you're watching history.

4. Interstellar – *Interstellar* is a story about mankind sending a manned mission through a wormhole on an exploration mission to find a habitable planet to move to as Earth dies, yet through this already exciting story, we are treated with in-depth monologues and criticisms involving all the base parts of human nature. Space isn't the only thing Nolan is exploring in this gorgeous epic.

3. Boyhood – Despite whatever some may think of the film, none can argue its ambition. Filming the same actors over 12 years, director Richard Linklater perfectly captures the essence of growing up. Following Mason, we embark on a 3-hour journey consisting of parental arguments, failed love-lives, angst teenage philosophical questions, and the childhood trauma of moving are all there as we watch Mason change from a six-year-old to a college freshman all before our very eyes.

2. The Grand Budapest Hotel – Any other year, and this film would surely have topped my list. The film follows a hotel owner and his lobby boy on a series of misadventures throughout a series of beautiful locations. This is easily one of the funniest movies of the year, if not the funniest. Its low/highbrow humor pairs with its absurdist landscape to create a great, gigantic joke quite unlike any other. This gorgeous and hilarious film is quite possibly the most unique of the entire year.

1. Birdman – Oh, *Birdman*. *Birdman*, *Birdman*, *Birdman*. You had to come along, didn't you? You had to get a late wide release so I couldn't see you until the last minute, and then uproot my entire Best Of list? Your story of an aging actor directing, writing, and acting in a play to combat the public notion that he's washed up and can only ever be his old role, "Birdman" (cue irony that actor Michael Keaton of old Batman fame plays him), seems simple enough, but it's anything but. You are unparalleled this year in your magnificence. You are proof that originality will never die. You are the masterpiece that every artist wishes they made. You are the Best Film of 2014.

Note to readers

The Maroon is the student-produced newspaper of Argo Community High School. Editorials, commentary pieces, and columns reflect the views of the individual writers and not necessarily *The Maroon*, the administration, the faculty, or the advisors. Replies to *The Maroon* are strongly encouraged as well as letters to the editors. Further, submissions are always welcome. Please submit all material to Mrs. Brown in room 246. All submissions must be signed, but upon request names can be withheld.

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Active Shooter Drill: No Mystery

by: **Rukia Liaqat '17**

To prepare for a threat in the building, particularly one with an "active shooter," the Argo Community High School staff took part in an active shooter drill on the morning of January 5th, 2015. Parents were informed of this drill when a notice was sent out on the Argo website. I had the opportunity to speak with Dean Loizzo about this drill and he states that this drill is similar to fire drills, tornado drills, and shelter in place drills. The active shooter drill is just another layer to prepare for a crisis situation. During this drill teachers were assigned to designated areas where they remained until the simulation was over.

Many students had questions and heard rumors about a gun being shot in school. Don't worry students, there were no actual bullets used during this drill; instead, blanks were used to give the staff members an idea of how a gunshot would sound during this situation. Dean Loizzo believes that this drill was more effective than those done in the past. This active shooter drill seems to be more realistic than past lockdown drills. In the end, this drill, like many prior drills, was just to prepare everyone for an emergency situation.

Op Ed: No More Study Hall

by: **Brianna Pryor '15**

As many students here at Argo can agree, there is no point of having a study hall. I've only been here at Argo for 5 months and even I know that study hall is nothing more than a waste of time. The study hall period was created with good intentions: to allot time during school hours so that students can get a head start on assignments or study for upcoming tests. But this is not the case. If you were to walk into my study hall on any given day you'd see the normal group of students playing UNO, students doodling in their notebooks, or the rest of the group casually waiting for the bell to ring. Not much studying or working is going on. I say we get rid of the class for good.

My solution is simple: let's use that time and put it towards creating advisories, or homerooms, as some people might know it. During a typical advisory at your average high school, this period is usually at the beginning of the day and lasts for about 10 minutes. In this time, students would receive important papers and hear the morning announcements. This 10 minutes would also serve as a grace period for students who may be running late. They would still be tardy for school but they won't be missing out on valuable class time.

With the remaining 20 minutes from

discontinuing study hall, we could add that to making the passing periods longer. By doing so, you would be allowing students not only more time to get class, but also the opportunity to take a bathroom break or get a sip of water, which will cut back on time lost from students leaving in the middle of class. In addition to the things I've previously stated, adding time to the current five minute passing period allows us students to drop off books at our lockers. Having to walk up three flights of stairs and get to the other side of the building while carrying a large load of textbooks is tiring and stressful. Getting rid of study hall does more good for the school than keeping it does.

What is the Abe Lincoln Book Award Read-a- thon Anyway?



What is the ABE Award?

The Abraham Lincoln High School Book Award (known as the "ABE AWARD") is given each year to an author whose book is voted Most Outstanding by participating Illinois high school students. The award is sponsored by the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA).

How Can I Participate?

Level 1: Read one of the selected books and receive extra credit in your English class if you do the following:

1. Write a brief report on the book.
2. Attend a book chat with other readers of the same book.

Level 2: Complete level 1 assignments above AND read 3-4 of the selected books and you will:

- *Receive an ABE book award T-shirt.
- *Be eligible to vote for the winner of the ABE book award.

Schedule of Events

NOW: Pick a book and start reading.

March 6: Deadline for submitting your vote for best book to Mr. Leonard in the library (Level 2 participation)

Week of March 9: Book chats to be held before and after school in Room 231.

*See your English teacher for due dates of extra credit book reports.

Grace Revealed: Shaping the Life I Have Today

by: **Madison Krzos '17**

How did you end up where you are today? How did your family end up in the outskirts of Chicago and how did you end up going to Argo High? It's ok if you don't know; I didn't know until I read a book my uncle wrote that unraveled my families' brutal history. The book *Grace Revealed* by Greg Archer goes back in time to uncover the mass deportation of Polish families in the 1940's. This book discusses one family's journey. Not just any family, my family. My grandmother was only three years old when Russian soldiers banged on her family's door and told them they had thirty minutes to pack up their stuff. From there they were forced onto a boxcar with many other Polish families; they spent weeks on that boxcar. They were taken to slave labor camps and my great grandfather and great aunt Mary were forced to work hard. This book tells unbelievable stories about my family's journey to freedom.

I was practically glued to the book because of the things I was learning about my family's past. The stories were incredible and the brutal conditions they endured are unimaginable. Along the way my great grandfather and great aunt Mary passed away in a Russian hospital due to malnourishment. Russian nurses shoved needles under my great aunt Jenny's fingernails yelling at her to tell them what the Poles were planning. And my grandmother and her brother were forced to pray to Joseph Stalin in order to get food. Eventually a soldier helped them to freedom; the family boarded a boat, sailing away to a better life. But where did this boat take them? It took them to modern day Tanzania, Africa where they lived for eight years. Finally on Thanksgiving Day, 1950 my family arrived in Chicago with the help of my great grandmother's sister who already lived in America.

Reading this book shed new light on my family history. It opened up my mind and made me realize how I ended up exactly where I am, living just outside of Chicago because my family showed perseverance and my great grandmothers' need of a better life for her and her children. After reading my uncle's book it made me realize that everyone's family history shapes who they are today, where you live, and how you identify culturally. I encourage you to look into your family history like my uncle did and now I am; you might learn something about your family that you never knew before.



Great Season for Sailorettes

by: *Geraldine Dagher '16*

An interview with the Varsity Sailorette Coach, Ms. Palmer was proof that hard work and practice does pay off. The Sailorette team won conference on our home court and came in first at sectionals, making Argo very proud!

Like the qualities of any good team, it is believed that there are good leaders to take the team to the top. Theresa Komperda, Katie Yuris, and Natalie Paulsen were the three captains who led the team. According to the Mrs. Palmer, "They did the majority of the choreography, taught the dance elements, lead the stretching and warm ups, and organized many team building activities. They earned the respect of their team by showing commitment, leadership, and a positive attitude. They did an extraordinary job in choreographing our pom routine, and that choreography was a major part of our success this year. In addition to the captains, many other members stepped up to the plate to lead the team in various activities or drills when captains were not available. Our team works well together and welcomes leadership even if not by a captain."

The outstanding teamwork of the Sailorettes was shown in these competitions:

January 10th - Andrew High School competition 3rd place

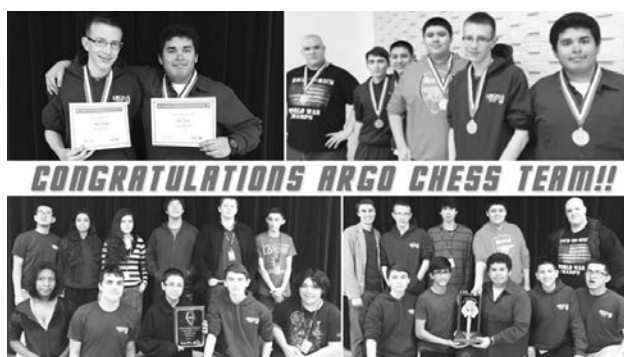
January 17th - SSC Conference 1st place
January 17th - Team Dance Illinois competition 1st place
January 17th - Team Dance Illinois competition - overall award for technical and artistic excellence
January 24th - Sectionals - 1st place
January 30th - IHSA State - 19th place

In order to move up even higher on the ladder, the team will work on their flexibility and arm motions. Coach Palmer said, "Most importantly, we need to continue to think creatively to come up with some special elements to include in our next routine. It's never too early to start planning." The team is also very welcoming to girls interested being part of the Sailorettes and will be hosting their try-outs for next year to begin training a new crop of girls for next year's competitive team. One would ask how these girls balance their vigorous practice with school etc? It's certainly not easy at all and requires hard work, practice, and a good positive spirit to keep up. The Sailorette Varsity coach stressed that, "I think it is important to students not to stereotype girls in skirts. These girls are not only talented at what they do on the court but they are also very successful and motivated students in the classroom. The three captains were all named Illinois State Scholars this year. In addition to this, the vast majority of the team takes Honors courses and makes the honor roll every semester. They are a pure pleasure to work with and I am proud to be able to call myself their coach!"

Excellent Outcome for Chess Team

Congratulations to the Argo Chess Team for defeating Richards at both Varsity and JV levels, tying for 1st place in Conference for Varsity and winning 1st place undefeated in Conference for JV. This performance was the best in 15 years. The team was lead by Josh T who came in 1st place on 1st board and 2nd place All Conference, Eddie D who came in 1st place on second board and 10th place All Conference, Stefano H, who came in 2nd place on 3rd

board, Gerson M who came in 3rd place on 4th board, Christian D who came in 1st place on 5th board, Rashmin P who came in 2nd place on 6th board, Nick O who came in 2nd place on 7th board, and Michael T who came in 2nd place on 8th board. Nice job and thank you for your hard work.



Boys Bowling Ends Season With Orlos's Run at State

The Argo Bowlers enjoyed great success this year, ending the season by sending senior Michael Orlos to state. Michael ended the season at conference with a 6th place finish averaging a 210; this was his second all-conference finish (last year he was conference champ). The team moved onto Regionals, taking 5th place overall, with Orlos and Stephen Janeczko moving on. Stephen Janeczko moving on in the playoffs. Orlos was the 2nd individual qualifier averaging 209 and Stephen was the 3rd qualifier averaging 207 with both moving onto the Sectional tournament. Orlos averaged a 213 coming in 12th overall and taking the 4th qualifying spot for the State Championship. Although he advanced alone, Janeczko went with Orlos to the final tournament. Orlos said, "The competition was unreal with the top bowler throwing two perfect games and averaging 260. I didn't fair as well, only averaging a 180 but finishing in the middle of the pack. I was placed 114th out of 236 bowlers. My goal from freshman year was to make it down state and I finally achieved my goal."

Making it to State is a major accomplishment and the whole Argo community is proud of Michael for doing so. Congratulations on achieving your goal, Michael!

Speech Team's Bolek Advances to Sectionals

The Argo Speech Team run by Mr. Lettiere and Mr. Malloy has had great season. The team has been working hard and getting great results. At the Conference tournament in January, Emily Roche took 1st place in Radio speaking in the novice division, Vilte Viatkute took 5th place in Poetry Speaking, and Rachael Bolek was tournament champion and all-conference in Radio Speaking.

With her performance at last Saturday's Regional Speech Tournament at Downers Grove North High School, senior Rachael Bolek secured a ticket to the IHSA sectional. Bolek beat out some of the area's top competitors in Radio Speaking to advance to the next stage in the IHSA state series. In response to the result, Bolek said, "As a sophomore, I made it a goal to make it to sectionals by senior year. Now I'm a senior, and I'm going to sectionals." Bolek will compete against some of the best speakers in the state at the February 14th IHSA Sectional Tournament at Elk Grove High School. If she places in the top three competitors at this tournament, she will head to the State Finals in Peoria on February 20th-21st.

Boys' Swimming

by: *Kim DeLaTorre '16*

The boys' swim season has been going along very well. On Saturday, January 31st, the JV boys attended the Main East Invite. They competed against five other schools and came in first place. On Saturday, February 7th, the boys will have their conference meet, competing against six different schools. Head coach, Mr. Garcia, says that he hopes to place third or higher in conference. Preparations for the week before conference consist of having strong practices and tapering so they can go faster. The highlight of this season was the Main East JV Invite Championship. For the Varsity boys it was taking third at the Shepard Invite, and for the diving team it was when Manny Prouty broke several of the varsity diving records. Sectionals will be the 21st of February, and some goals for sectionals are to have at least two swimmers place in the top twelve and to have a relay score points by placing in the top twelve. Coach Garcia says that they have had a really nice season so far, many of the boys have walked away with medals, and overall the boys are swimming really well.

Varsity Boys' Basketball Trying For Slam Dunk Season!

by: *Madison Krzos '17*

The Varsity boys' basketball team continue to shoot for a slam dunk season as they practice two hours a day and try to remain consistent throughout the season. How does Coach Maietta plan to win this season? Well he goes by the mantra A - attitude, R - responsibility, G - grades, O - opportunity. He says they're still working on the A, R and G but is hoping his seniors and juniors can all work together and lead the team to victory. The boys had a tough loss to T-F North earlier in January when they started the game leading by double digits, but could not pull it together in the fourth quarter and ultimately let go of the game. They proved, however, that they learned from their mistakes from that game and pulled it together to get a win against Tinley Park on Alumni Night. Coach Maietta is working on offensive consistency, especially shooting and upping their toughness on defense. Coach Maietta and the players know that they have to work hard to see results. In practice they go through a skill circuit, then a full court transition, offense and defense, and finish up practice with conditioning. The boys' varsity basketball team is working hard to win this season! Good luck to the boys with the rest of their season!

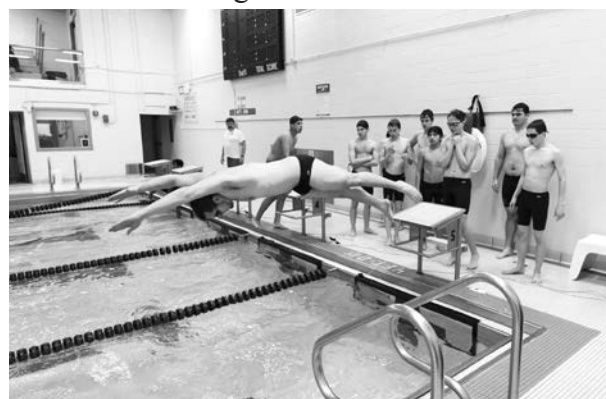


above: Seniors Jineen Hammad, Skye Castaneda, and Emma Gamboa will be missed. Come cheer them on at Senior Night, Thursday, Feb. 12th in the Swanson.

Varsity Girls' Basketball Hopes to Finish Out Season strong

by: *Madison Krzos '17*

Argo girls' varsity basketball has been playing great this season. Looking back at an interview conducted with Coach Walsh in December, the team has certainly improved. Coach Walsh told me the team continuously tries to improve their defense, and Junior Karolina Krzak proved that in a 15 point win over Queen of Peace when she played "lockdown defense" for Argo. The seniors are playing great during their farewell season as Argonauts. Skye Castaneda continues to play strong defense and shows incredible hustle, Jineen Hammad is very strong on the boards and Emma Gamboa provides strong play defensively. The juniors are helping the team soar to victory this season. Celia Arreola and Fatima Jaber both had 11 points against Universal securing the win for their team, and Victoria Zepeda also picked up 12 boards that game. Coach Walsh told me Sophomore Alexis Loza proves that she belongs on the team, and she definitely showed her potential in a game against T-F North. Loza played great off the bench and helped get the win for Argo. Fatima Jaber stands tall at 6'3 and is playing strong down in the post for Argo. The team played like a well-oiled machine, all contributing to a win against Tinley Park on Alumni Night. Of course you can't win them all, and the girls suffered a devastating loss against rival Reavis, losing 64-49. The team has certainly improved since Coach Walsh and my last interview. The girls finish out their season soon. Let's hope the girls can finish out their season strong!



above: Argo swimmers practicing hard

Argo Wrestling Isn't Tapping Out

by: *Rachel Burke '17*

The Argo Varsity Wrestling Team is having one excellent season this year. They have a record of 16 games won and only 6 losses. One of their strengths this year is the leadership of the seniors who carry skills from the practice room into competition. The team's seniors will be especially missed next year. The varsity team has won the Conference Red Division and beat our school's rival, the Reavis Rams. Although the team has done fantastic so far, there are still obstacles they have yet to overcome. They need to be healthy and mentally strong for the Individual State Wrestling Series starting with the IHSA Regional. To any students who want to join the team next year, or in future years, Coach McMurray states, "We are the hardest working team in the building. Once you have wrestled in life, everything else becomes easier." Good job, Argonauts! Keep up the good work, and good luck at the IHSA Regional!



Brian Diaz, Jose Vasquez, Marco Cervantes, Romiro Jimenez, Richie Kaszuk, Luis Ramirez, Andrew Aldarondo, and Mo Abdelghani are the departing seniors on the Varsity wrestling team. This young men will be missed!

That's Just How They Bowl- Girls' Bowling

By: *Rachel Burke '17*

Finishing top two in conference this year is the Argo Girls Varsity Bowling team with an average score this year of 152. The Junior Varsity team's average is 131. Both teams share similar strengths. They both are a close group of girls who are very competitive. They have great attitudes and put their heart and soul into every game and practice. To any new people trying out in the future, there is a strong group of Lady Argonauts coming back next year who are very talented and would love to have you try out.