

Referendum Information

The School Board of Woodlawn Community High School has decided to present a referendum to the Woodlawn community. This referendum is being introduced as a 10 year bond planning to raise \$575,000. The school needs to raise this large amount of money in order to cover the cost of the reconstruction of the high school, as well as several minor additions to the school.

The proposed length of the bond is to be 10. The rate would increase by approximately 0.26%. This bond, if passed, will affect every family currently living in the Woodlawn district. For \$50,000 homes, the tax will have an impact of an extra \$30.22. \$100,000 homes will have \$73.40 added, and \$150,000 homes will have a tax impact of \$116.57.

The main reason the School Board wants to pass this referendum is to pay off the cost of the reconstruction of the main building and the north wing of the school. Currently, the School Board approved an Emergency Health/Life Safety Debt in the amount of \$420,128.40. This is set up on a two-year repayment bond. If the referendum does not pass, the District will have to refinance this bond over 15-20 years, making payments out of the Health/Life Safety fund. The only taxes at a rate to receive \$7,142 each year, when we would need to pay over \$20,000 per year. However, if the referendum does pass, the District would pay off the debt certificate and then have the ability to do other maintenance projects over the next ten years.

The primary election date for this referendum will be held on March 20th, 2012. If you wish to vote for this bond, the registration deadline is on February 21st. In order for this bond to pass we will need 250 to 300 votes. Passing this referendum will help our community high school return back to its original states as well as modernizing certain areas.

By: Emma Luck and Paige Laughhunn

Finishing Classrooms

This year's school improvement has taken longer than expected, but when it is all said and done, it will be a wonderful change to the school. While some teachers did not mind the new experience they received by using multiple classrooms, most teachers are glad to be back in their own spaces. Two of those

teachers, Mr. Helbig and Mrs. DeHoyos, were especially excited. "It will be awesome, as awesome everything in the school will be," said Mr. Helbig. Mrs. DeHoyos later stated she was so happy and so excited to be back. How did Mr. Helbig

feel about being away from his own classroom? “Teachers and students worked together so it could have been worse. It was the least fun I’ve had as a teacher.” Mrs. DeHoyos response was, “It was a new experience, but good for me.”

Superintendent Mr. Estes was approached for a quick questioning about the construction. “I give it an A, not an A+ because I expected it to be finished closer to Thanksgiving. It would have been if the receiving of the trusses hadn’t been delayed for 6 months. With the trusses being late, the rain made the damage worse due to the glue not sticking and ruining the tile floors. Workers did great and I enjoy working with them very much. The whole project cost around \$15,000.” He was also asked how he felt about the teachers returning back to their classes. He said, “It’s going to be a good, appreciated thing. It is something the teachers will look back on and will not want to repeat.”

Ben Klebba has had classes in the new and improved classrooms, and he stated “They are really extravagant. (They are) extremely blinding to the eyes. They make me so happy (that) I don’t know what to do with my hands.”

ACT Prep

The ACT is a big part of most high school juniors’ learning experience. Almost everyone stresses out over it, but it’s not as bad as you think, as long as you take the necessary steps to prepare for the test.

There are a lot of helpful tips for taking the ACT. Mrs. Witzel gave her thoughts on what she thinks are good tips on taking the test. She recommends that students get on the ACT website, because you can practice everything on the test directly off of the website. Mrs. Witzel said to make sure and do all of the practice tests that she gives the students in her English class. She also recommends doing the question of the day found on the ACT’s website. Mrs. Witzel said, “Juniors will practice English and Reading in great depth in English class, because I have all of the Juniors at once.” She said, however, that Math and Science classes are much harder to cover in class because she does not have all of the juniors at once. She also said to not put off practicing for the ACT until the last week, and to try to commit about three hours a week for practice.

The ACT puts most juniors under a lot of pressure. We had the opportunity to interview some juniors and here are their responses to our questions. Kris Harlow says, “The ACT decides my future, needless to say, I am tweaking!” Sabrina Durham’s response was simply, “I am extremely nervous.” Doug Farris said, “I’m stressing out over it, and not exactly looking forward to taking the ACT.” The search for a junior who isn’t nervous is still continuing.

The ACT is usually very stressful on most high school juniors, who are required to take the test. But as long as you take time out of your week to study and use tips necessary for taking the test, you should do fine.

Destined to Fail

Dig deeper! Work harder! This is the year you will reach your goals! No. You. Will. Not!! New Years resolutions never go through. They last a couple of days, then they fail. Some of the most common reasons that people don't follow through with their goals are doing it alone, lack of confidence, using the wrong motivation, and many more.

Some might say that if you have enough drive to succeed, you can accomplish whatever you set your mind to. What those people forget is that even if you have a good amount of drive there will always be obstacles that will slow you down or even stop you. The most common resolution this year was to lose weight. Many things could keep you from achieving this goal and the number one reason would be that you encounter food every day.

Temptations will keep you from reaching the goal of losing weight. Let's say you go to a Co-worker's Valentine's Day party and you're surrounded by all kinds of sweets, sweets that you know will keep you from reaching your goal but just look so good! You might think to yourself: just one, I can eat just one and it won't affect me. That's where it starts. That's how you fall into temptation and the resolution takes a turn for the worst.

You come into contact with food everyday, and if you choose to be strong, you walk that extra block to Subway instead of going right next door to McDonald's. You are in control of your life, and if you plan on losing weight, you take the extra step to achieve your goal. Most people won't, too many things will keep you from it, and if you ask someone why they gave up they'll give you numerous excuses. Some of the excuses you might get is I just don't have enough time, my job gets in the way, and I have too much on my plate right now.

The number one reason we fail is because we give up. Today in society, we find most people take the easy way out no matter what the consequence. Easy is convenient. Why set a goal you have no intention of reaching? Why waste the time and energy you put into a resolution when you could put it into something you know you can accomplish? In the end, why set yourself up to fail? Why set a goal you don't plan to reach? Why set another pointless resolution.

Ask River

So cheerleading isn't a sport, elaborate?

First off, cheerleading IS a sport. You practice just like any other sport does. You compete with other teams to make it to state. In cheerleading, you do more than just standing on the sidelines. You jump, tumble, lift people in the air, yell, and look pretty. Putting people in the air isn't as easy as people make it out to be. Everyone has to work together, and if they don't, it all comes down. You have to be ready for anything to happen. If the flyer comes down, you do anything it takes to make sure she doesn't touch the floor, even if it puts you on the floor. To tumble, you have to have strong arms to hold yourself up, a flexible back, and strong leg muscles. To jump, you have to have correct form, height, and power. In competition, you have 3 minutes to prove yourself to the judges. Everything has to go perfect. I guarantee half the people that claim cheerleading isn't a sport couldn't do it if they tried. So tell me again why cheerleading isn't a sport.

How do I lose weight?

First, you have to create a workout that works best for you. Plan your workouts at a time of the day that you know you won't have any interference with. You also need to eat more healthily. Cut out fatty foods candy, chocolate, etc. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. If you stay committed to your plan, you should have no problem with losing weight. It may not come off as fast as you want it to, but stay persistent, and you will see results.

Horoscopes to Help You With Your Terrible Life

Aquarius: (January 20 – February 18) – Your losing streak is about to end. Keep gambling! Also if you see honey badger, don't touch it because honey badgers don't mess around.

Pisces: (February 19 – March 19) – The people you find going in reverse at 70 m.p.h. on the expressway are usually Pisceans. Pisceans are most likely to die by falling out of a window or getting run over by a truck.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - Beware of midget bookies, today. It's ok to get one of those tiny little poetry books, though, if you feel you really must.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - You will begin a spiritual journey. The karmic chaos which has surrounded you begins to settle into a new pattern. Also, you will become strangely fascinated by electric juicers.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - You get better looking every day. I bet you just can't wait until tomorrow!

Cancer (22 June-22 July)- Your clutter karma is at an all-time high. Small children and pets are in danger.

Virgo (23 August-21 September) -Today is your lucky day! Press your luck at every turn.

Scorpio (23 October-21 November)- An apple a day keeps the doctor away, but a cup of coffee may keep you from murdering a co-worker today

Sagittarius (22 November-21 December) Captain Cranky has recruited some of your co-workers into his army today. Avoid group discussions.

Capricorn (22 December-20 January) Happy Hour is less than happy and way more than hour. Don't be fooled into going.

Honors

Every year there is Team Quest and WYSE for the honors students of schools in Southern Illinois. Team Quest is an academic competition held in Mt. Vernon. Honors students participate in Team Quest to expose themselves to competition using their knowledge and talent they have worked hard to improve throughout their school years. During Team Quest the students do a variety of activities to find their greatest level of skill. At the end of the day each teams' scores are added up, and the school's team with the highest score gets an award. They give out awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. WYSE is also an academic competition, but the students take tests in certain subject areas. It usually takes place at Rend Lake College. Each year the groups of students going switch so all the students get a chance to get an award. You can only go to WYSE if you are an honors member.

Game-A-Thon

The Woodlawn High School hosted a Game-A-Thon for the student council members, which include the following: Freshmen- Parker Renaud, Nathan Arnold, Regan Witzel, Taylor Tufts, and Lexy Pedtke. Sophomores- Kayla Shega, Sammy Williams, Johnny Renaud, Michael Panzier, and Jayson Hapeman. Juniors- Kris Harlow, Logan Isaac, Taylor Fauss, Payton Tufts, and James Watts. Seniors- Christian Hollenkamp, Alex Knecht, Leah Sutton, Kenzie Verhines, Nick Tannahill and Drew Wehrheim.

The Game-A-Thon was an eventful night of games including wheel chair basketball, hide-and-see in the dark, and many board games. However, there was a catch. Students were not supposed to fall asleep at any point during the night. Many people who participated in the all night fun bent the rules by passing out midway through the night and not waking until early the next morning. Mr. Matt Smith, one of the teachers at WHS, took a great hit to the arm while playing hide and seek. Other than

that slight incident, the night was full of many fun moments.

Student Council members took part in this event to raise money for a local family's Christmas expenses.

Top 10 Music

We Found Love- Rihanna Feat. Calvin Harris

It will Rain- Bruno Mars

The One That Got Away- Katy Perry

Good Feeling- Flo Rida

Sexy and I know it- LMFAO

Without You- David Guetta Feat. Usher

Someone Like You- Adele

Stereo Hearts- Gym Class Heroes Feat. Adam Levine

Workout- J.Cole

Moves Like Jagger- Maroon 5 feat. Christina Aguilera

(Billboard 100)

Shelby Mitchell

Top 10 Players in the NBA (according to ESPN)

1. LeBron "King" James
2. Dwight "Superman" Howard
3. Dwyane "Flash" Wade
4. Chris "CP3" Paul
5. Dirk "The Germanator" Nowitzki
6. Kevin "Durantula" Durant
7. Kobe "Black Mamba" Bryant
8. Derrick "D-Rose" Rose
9. Deron "The General" Williams
10. Blake "F.O.N. (Force of Nature)" Griffin

