

# the *Stinger* *Online Edition*

Zion-Benton Twp. High School  
3901 W 21st St.  
Zion, IL 60099

13, April 2023

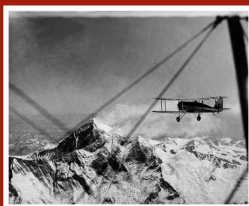
Volume 33, Issue 6

## What's the Buzz?

### Check it out!

"Signing petitions, going to protests, and spreading awareness can help ... protect the rights and health of the trans community." Follow to pg. 3

## This Day in History April 13th, 1933



"In April 1933, RAF squadron leader Douglas Douglas-Hamilton, otherwise known as Lord Clydesdale, led an ambitious attempt to fly over the summit of the world's tallest mountain" (<https://mashable.com>).

## Teen readers celebrate today

By Trinity Camara  
Notice Board Manager

Teen Literature Day, which takes place on April 13th, is a day to promote and attract teens to read more. Readers in this school take initiative to help others grow their interest in reading through recruiting students for Project Lit. book club, suggesting books that will help engage their peers and helping friends learn through reading.

Jared Dawkins, senior ZB and leader for Project Lit. book club, stated, "Teen Literature Day is an important celebration for teenagers because it helps to promote people's love of reading and encourages young people to explore

different types of literature. It's an opportunity to discover new books and authors and to celebrate the power of storytelling. Teen Literature Day also highlights the importance of literacy and the role that reading can play in helping young people to develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and imagination. "As a teenager, I think Teen Literature Day is a great way to connect with other book lovers and celebrate the joy of reading." When asked how teens can influence their peers to read outside of school, Jared Dawkins added, "You can influence your peers to start reading outside of school by being passionate, authentic, and persistent. Through shar-

ing your love for books and encouraging others to join you in discovering the joy of reading, others can be encouraged to begin exploring different works and genres of literature."

Katelin Hamilton, the other Project Lit. book club leader, was also interviewed on this topic. She was asked her opinion on why it's important to read outside of school assignments. She said, "Though school does provide what we need to know for the class and prepares us for our goals beyond high school, I think it is vital to learn what we enjoy outside of school books. If we never read outside of school projects and just assume we (Story continues on Page 2)

## IMC invites storytellers to contribute to living library

By Amanda Bennett  
News Editor

On March 24th, ZBTHS held a living library in the IMC. A living library, also known as a "human library," originated in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2000. A living library is when a person talks to another person face to face and tells them a personal story. A living library aims to address people's prejudices by helping them talk to those they would not normally meet.

According to [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int), "It works just like a normal library; visitors can browse the catalog for the available titles, choose the book they want to read, and borrow it for a limited

period of time. After reading, they return the book to the library and, if they want, "borrow" another. The only difference is that in living library, books are people, and reading consists of a conversation."

With the guidance of Mrs. Will, the IMC's coordinator, our living library included people from community and the school. Individuals came to tell their story to the students and staff here at ZBTHS. One who told his story was current student Darrick Washington; he talked about fishing. When asked if he thinks they should do this again in the future, Darrick said, "Yes, it's fun to hear everybody's stories, everybody's story is different

and unique." Another current student, Jared Dawkins, wrote his story about his insecurity of being tall, and Eric Barajas wrote his story about how you should live up to your own expectations.

People from the community included a current Zion police officer and former ZB student, a Zion chairwoman, a woman who is a part of the LGBTQ+ community, and a lawyer.

We had the opportunity to speak to attendees at the event, and we asked what they thought about the event. Nathon Roberson says he "really wanted to hear stories people had to tell about their lives." What Madelyn Garris found most interesting about the

event was "the set up and how you got 10 minutes in total (five to tell a story and five to answer questions)."

Samantha Ward's favorite speaker "was talking about her struggles with other people (primarily (Story continues on Page 4)



Photo credit: Stinger Staff

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# Teen reading fans celebrate today

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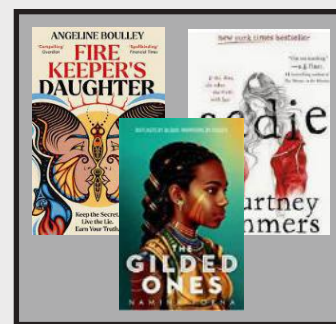
hate reading because of the few books we have had to read, then teens will never find the true enjoyment literature can provide." She also said, "I think that Teen Literature Day is a good reminder to every teen that reading shouldn't just be a chore; I think it makes us remember that we can read whatever we want, whenever we want outside of what we do in school."

While a student's opinion on Teen Literature Day is very important, so is an educator's. We asked Jeffrey Burd, an teacher of literature and English, why it's important for students to read more. He stated, "I think the most important reason is because it builds

empathy. We get to experience things that we might not otherwise experience. We get to see characters experiencing conflict and growing through their experiences. Some of those same lessons grow inside us and make us more empathetic. I don't think there is a student I've had over the last four years that hasn't been affected in some way by the devastating effects technology has on Montag in *Fahrenheit 451* and in turn thought about how technology is impacting their own lives. If we aren't reading, then we're missing out on experiences that impact us like that one does."

When it comes to a

teacher's advice or a student's advice about reading, it's important to recognize their words about the importance of Teen Literature Day. Their experiences with the positives of reading can help influence other people, especially teenagers, to realize the importance of reading outside of school.



Project Lit has read several teen lit books this school year.

## The Stinger Staff

2022-2023

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## Seniors plan to take center stage at graduation

**By Mathilde Grail**  
Asst. Sports Editor

In 43 days our Z-B class of 2023 will graduate. In order to make sure our seniors will not forget this last year of high school, the staff organized some events that could attract a lot of us.

In fact, seniors already started celebrating on April 6th with the much anticipated ABC countdown. Seniors are planning their best outfits to match each day's theme starting with Adam Sandler day.

On April 20th there will be the senior Honors and Community Awards Banquet for those who achieved high honor and honor roles.

A couple of weeks after, the prom dance will take place on May 13th with the theme *A Night at the Gala*. Students will be decked out in formal attire for the

glamorous evening.

The vibe will be more chill the following days, but it will be just as entertaining. In fact, senior spirit week will start on May 15th and will end on May 19th, the last day of school for seniors.

The schedule for the last week is packed: Wednesday is a karaoke and nacho bar in the South Commons, Thursday will be

grill and chill in the South Commons, and Friday, the last day of the year, will be a chance for seniors to enjoy a sunrise on the football field, eat breakfast, and say their farewells to teachers.

Graduation is scheduled for May 26th. Seniors will wear their caps and gowns and enjoy their final moments as Zee-Bees as they cross the stage.



Photo courtesy of ZBTHS Yearbook

# Anti-trans legislation introduced across US

By Samantha Ward  
News Editor

March 31 was Transgender Visibility Day to honor and celebrate people who are a part of the trans and non-binary community. This day is used to bring focus to topics relating to the trans community. However, this year is very different. With the increasing number of anti-trans bills that are being introduced, March 31 was celebrated by the trans community and allies, hoping that these issues will be changed to protect the trans community.

In these first four months of 2023 alone, according to translegislation.com, there have been 492 bills that were introduced in 47 states, with 26 already passed. This number is increasing every day, endangering the lives of millions in the transgender community. Many of the bills that are being passed include the reduction of access to health care, bathrooms, and education for transgender youth. For example, there is a bill being introduced that prohibits withdrawing information about a child's gender from the parents. Bills such as this will cause psychological and possibly physical harm to the child.

As of this year, according to hrc.org, 1 out of 5 types of hate crimes are perpetrated against the LGBTQ+ community, especially Black, transgender women. In the past year, 45% of LGBTQ+ youth have considered suicide due to the stress of increasing amounts of anti-LGBTQ riots, crimes, and violence. "It really feels like my legislators want everyone to believe that kids like me don't really exist," says Libby Gonzales, a 12-year-old transgender student in Texas (hrc.org), "the people leading our government should want every kid to have a great childhood. Instead, they're the biggest bullies, continuing to take away my ability to play sports with my friends, and now they want to take away my health care, and call my parents, who love and protect me, child abusers."

To add insult to injury, many bills being passed in legislation also target the drag community, prohibiting "adult cabaret performance" in public and the presence of children. According to npr.org, anyone charged will be given a \$2,500 fine and/or a year in jail and those who are found for subsequent offenses would face a felony charge and up to six years

in prison.

Luckily, there has been an increase in movements and activities to support LGBTQ youth and eradicate anti-trans bills. State Democrats, such as those in Nebraska, have applied a filibuster to prohibit anti-trans bills from being passed, as stated on thehill.com.

Advocates for trans youth have also scattered across the Internet, sharing information regarding new bills and what different states are doing during this time of uncertainty. People have also created petitions against these bills and donations to go towards trans youth, such as medication, binders, etc. "It's 2023, not 1963. Standing back is not an option," states Florida Senator Shevrin D. Jones (hrc.org), "We cannot sit back and just watch because these policies that are coming to Florida today will be in Texas tomorrow, will be in Arizona next week, and will be in Tennessee the week after."

To add, people have produced maps of where it's safer for the transgender community, one being Erin Reed, a transgender activist (thepinknews.com), "Now more than ever, it is a question that needs answering for so many transgender people facing forced

medical detransition, bans on the use of our names, pronouns, and identification documents, and many other curtailments of our rights to exist in public life." Luckily, Illinois is currently one of the safest states in the US for the transgender community.

With these anti-trans and anti-drag bills being established in US Legislation, people are making a stand against these bills. Allies are using social media platforms to tell people that are unaware to take action to make sure these bills fail. Thousands of petitions, riots, and protests have happened this year alone to help make a statement to resist the attempt of wiping out the trans community.

November 13th through 20th will be used to help bring awareness to these issues and the trans community. There will also be an LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day on April 26 in Springfield at the State Capitol to discuss these issues and how to advocate against them (www.equalityillinois.us) Hopefully, by November, the bills in legislation will be denied and the ones passed will be removed. Signing petitions, going to protests, and spreading awareness can help with this goal and protect the

## Day of Silence speaks volumes for those without voices

By Esmeralda Vara  
Stinger Reporter

The national Day of Silence is coming this month, and the SAGA club has some plans. The Day of (No) Silence is a day when some Z-B students choose to be silent for the entire day as a way to remind us of the silencing effect that bullying can have on LGBTQ+ individuals.

The day is an attempt to bring awareness and kind-

ness to all. During the Day of Silence, SAGA members would like to encourage people to wear the SAGA bracelets and wear rainbow pride shirts that were sold at the beginning of the year.

Mrs. Pavelske, sponsor for the SAGA club, wants to try and sell shirts and more bracelets for the day of silence next year. There isn't a specific goal the group is trying to hit; they are just

hoping that people will wear the items that were sold to students and teachers and remember the purpose of the day.

Students may choose to participate during this day if they wish, but are encouraged to get a card from Mrs. Pavelske to explain to staff they encounter throughout the day why they are choosing to remain silent.

At the end of the day

Saga will have a celebration for the day of silence. "Students and teachers are welcome to come and attend the celebration after school in room 136." Food and drinks will be provided, and including a variety of snacks. Activity bus passes will be available to students who need one. If there are any concerns about the after school event please feel free to email megan.pavelske@zb126.org.



# April teaches us not to take nature for granted

By Madelyn Garris  
Features Editor

The first week in April, the 3rd through the 9th, is National Wildlife Week. This week is hosted by the National Wildlife Federation and it is all about conservationism and the beauty that comes out of helping save these creatures' natural habitats in the United States. According to NWF, the U.S. has a total of seven different ecosystem types throughout the 50 States.

Throughout the past couple of years, there has been (based on National Geographic's findings) a much higher number of demand for corn and soybeans. In turn, what this has resulted in was a loss of a lot of the Midwest's Grasslands. Surprisingly enough these Grasslands store up to around one-

third of the land based carbon. Which means that these Grasslands are one nature's original climate solutions, and taking it away means more carbon will be released in the atmosphere.

According to the EPA, there are over 1,300 endangered or threatened species in the U.S. alone. Throughout the whole world, 41,415 species are on the Red List and 16,306 of them are endangered

species. That means, when running the numbers, the U.S. accounts for 12.5% of all endangered species on earth. The Grassland holds a whole bunch of endangered species ranging from birds all the way to bees.

Take the time to go outside and take a look around you because no one knows how long the natural beauty will last. The day may come when there might not any animals left.



Photo credit: nationalwildlifeweek.nwf.org

## IMC invites storytellers to contribute to living library

(Continued from page 1)

men) perceiving her and ...the LGBTQ+ community. I pretty much related to everything she was saying and 100% agreed with her. As someone who is a part of this community, I think it's beneficial that we stick together and share our stories to the public." When asked if she hopes they do the living library event again in the future she answered, "Of course! I think it was really interesting to hear other people's stories and to be able to talk to them and possibly ask questions. I think they need to do a few adjustments with the actual layout of the IMC and timing, but I would do this again!"

# April celebrates the earth and its trees

By Isa Solis  
Stinger Reporter

Earth day takes place on April 22nd and Arbor day takes place on April 28th this year. The first ever recognized Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. According to almanac.com, a San Francisco activist named John McConnell, with help from Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, asked Americans to join the grassroots demonstration. That resulted in 20 million Americans outdoors protesting together.

Today, Earth day is not just to raise awareness, but it's also a day that people take to gather and collect litter to improve our environment. There are many ways Z-B students can celebrate Earth Day. You can clean up plastic in your neighborhood, at a local park, or even at beaches. You can also think about

your diet. About one third of food goes to waste annually. Z-B's Jocelyn Castro shares, "Earth day is very important because it influences people to do good stuff that will benefit the earth and makes people more aware of negative situations happening to the earth."

Arbor day is celebrated on April 28th. This holiday is meant to recognize the importance of trees. The idea came from journalist Julia Sterling Morton. Farmersalmanac.com explains that Morton was an promoter of planting trees. Arbor day was first celebrated in Nebraska on April 10th, 1874. In under a decade, Arbor Day caught on to other states. By 1882 it had become a national event. Nebraska made Arbor Day a legal holiday in 1885 and moved it to April 22nd. It was estimated that one

million trees were planted on the first Arbor day.

Although both Earth day and Arbor day seem similar, they are still celebrated on different days and have distinct aims. Arbor day's sole purpose revolves around the idea that trees are important, while on Earth Day we lean

more about recycling and improving our environment by cleaning the earth.

Dulce Gomez, a Z-B student, states, "These holidays honor the world's achievements and how far we've come. The Earth is important and provides us with life. I also like what Arbor day recognizes."



Photo credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

# What do “April Showers” really bring?

By Madelyn Garris

Features Editor

Now that spring has officially started, we are reminded that “April showers bring May flowers.” It makes one wonder; is this adage actually true? Well, the expression dates back to a debate from the 1500s. There are a lot of unknowns, but what we do know is that there are several key interpretations to the saying. We reached out to students here at ZBTHS to ask what their reactions are to the varied interpretations.

Students were first asked if they believe the expression is true as written. Majority of them said, “yes” but there were a few students who said, “maybe” and “no”. Those responses make sense when you consider that the expres-

sion is only partly correct. It only rings true in colder climates due to the fact that after a long winter flowers need a lot of rain and sun in order to start the growth process. “This sounds accurate because I know that the ground is usually frozen during the winter time, and the rain would help to unfreeze the ground,” said Shamari Anderson.

Another reason why this expression isn’t entirely true is because most people’s favorite flowers are ones that do not bloom in the month of May rather than mid/late summer and fall. Most of the flowers people identified as favorites were roses, lotus, hibiscus, daisies, forget-me-nots, baby’s breath, blackthorn, and the only one that actually blooms in May, tulips. The

reasons why these were people’s favorite range from the color of the flowers to the flowers’ beauty. One comment that stood out the most was about forget-me-nots. Danielle McDonald shares, “At my grandma’s she has just bushes upon bushes of them. They’ve been my favorite flower forever, they just make me happy.”

The final reason is a bit strange; it is that the expression isn’t really true, but isn’t meant to be, and it actually has nothing to do with flowers at all. Some speculate that this expression is a simple way to avoid the nasty association of rainy weather by focusing instead on the promise of better weather ahead. The claim caused a bit of a stir in responses. A majori-

ty of those who responded actually like this weather. Paisley Finely said, “I don’t think we should associate like that at all. I feel like you can find beauty and happiness in every kind of weather. I personally prefer the rain.” A student who chose to remain anonymous proclaimed their love for “rainy weather. I could never imagine living in an overwhelmingly dry area.” Carimetta Derla said she “kind of like[s] the rain. It’s kind of calming to me, and I love the smell of rain.” Most responded that the smell of the rain is really nice.

No matter which interpretation of this expression you believe is more true, we can all agree that, at the end of the day, we would like to see the beautiful flowers bloom again.

## Marvel fans return to Spiderverse

By Joshua Hatcher

Stinger Reporter

With “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” Marvel and Sony’s arguably most anticipated movie of the year, just on the horizon, levels of excitement for the film are unprecedented. Only furthering this excitement are the trailers, which feature tons of easter eggs and hints that only fans with a keen eye could spot.

As each new trailer releases, it becomes more and more apparent that this film is going to be a huge love letter to Spider-Man fans, retro and modern, with inclusions of spider-people from all walks of media, new and old. Characters that fans have begged to see on the big screen for ages, such as Spider-Man

2099, Spider-Woman and Spider-Punk, just to name a few, are finally going to be center-stage in a film after ages of being comic book or video game exclusive.

Blazing forward with its own distinct animation style, Sony Pictures Imageworks continues to provide incredible comic-book-like animation quality for this series. This animation style has instantly become a sta-

ple in the industry, seeming to have inspired the animation motifs of works like “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish” and the upcoming “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem.”

If the first movie and the few trailers we have so far is anything to go off of, fans are absolutely in for a special experience that’s sure to have you saying “he’s just like me.”



Photo courtesy of www.thegamer.com

## SENIOR QUOTES for sale in May

By Enoch Kayiwa

Stinger Reporter

The Stinger team is bringing back the tradition of senior quotes for the May (“Senior Edition” of the school newspaper.

If you are interested in adding your senior quote to the last edition of the Stinger for the year, bring a quarter down to the bookstore on May 9th or 10th during lunch periods; Stinger staff will be there to get your quote.

In addition to a quarter, please be sure to have your school ID so we can verify that you are a senior. There will be a ten word limit, and each senior may only purchase a single quote. They also must be school-appropriate quotes in order to be included.

The senior quotes will be in the May 15 edition of the newspaper. Seniors who come to Senior breakfast on the 19th can get a free copy (first come, first served.)



# Understanding disability and Individuals with disabilities must

By Molly Shower  
Editor-in-Chief,  
In-Depth Editor

In 2021 alone, 15% of all public school students in the USA “received special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),” according to the National Center for Education Statistics. While this number is already quite large, if we take into account the more broad definition of disability and not solely those who qualify for IDEA services, the amount of disabled students in America is massive.

As outlined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the definition of a disability is “long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder [a person’s] full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Disability, although defined by organizations like this, is in truth a vague label. For someone with a comfortable income, for instance, needing glasses to see may not be very hindering to their life. For a person in poverty, though, they may not be able to afford glasses, and thus are limited in their ability to participate in society. Factors such as class, race, or gender can compound to worsen the effects of a disability on a person’s day-to-day experi-

ence.

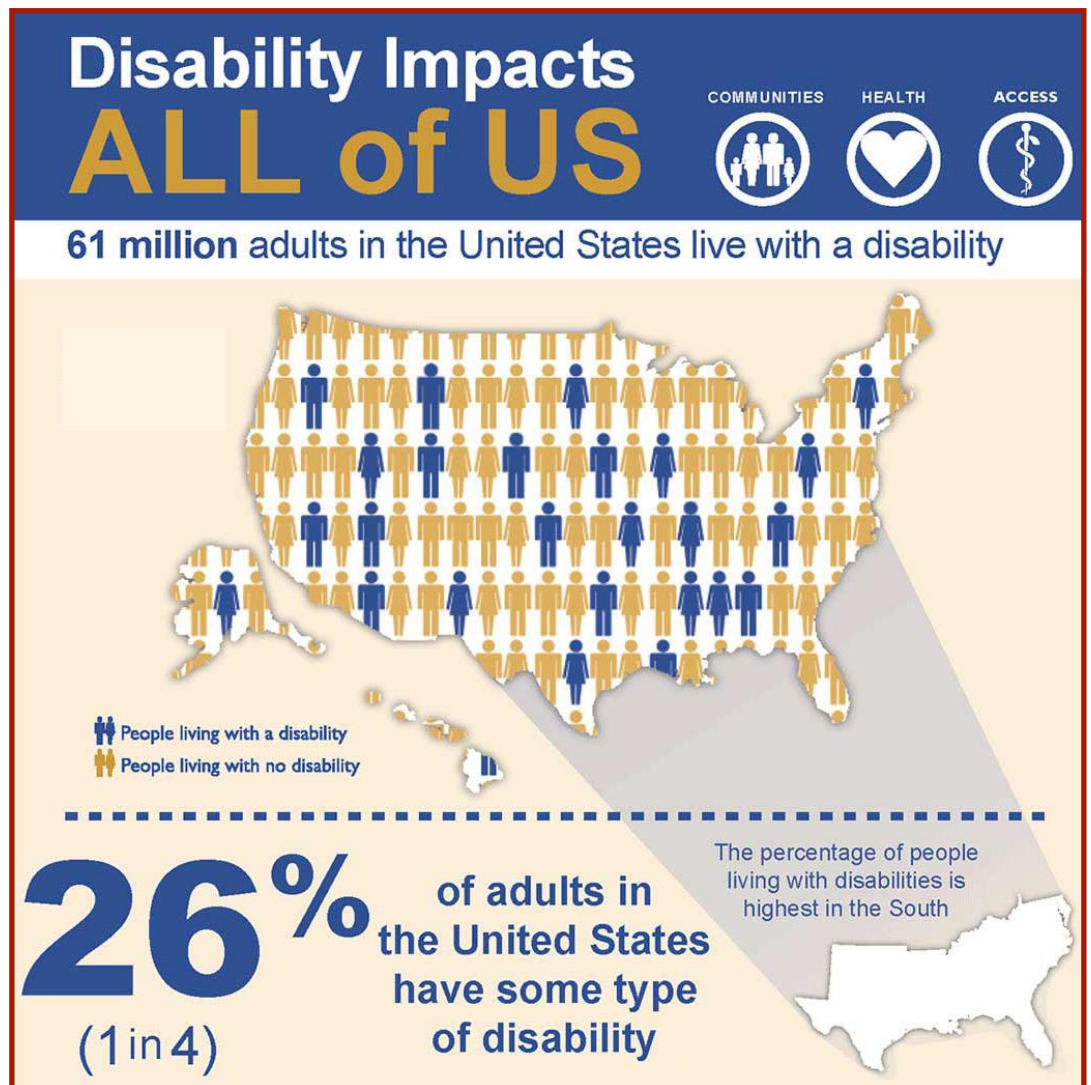
The way disabled people are treated now, however, is not how it has always been. In some ways, it is both better and worse than how it was in antiquity.

### A History of Disability

On one hand, our earliest evidence of disability in humans indicates that disabled people were largely

cared for by their communities. At the Windover Archeological Site in Florida, remains from the Middle Archaic period (from 6,000 to 5,000 BCE) show that a disabled 15-year-old boy, who is thought to have been paralyzed from the waist down from birth due to spina bifida, was nevertheless helped by his community, and thus was able to survive many years despite his debilitating condition.

On the other hand, though, more recent history has been less kind to disabled people. In 1907, Indiana became the first state in the country to pass a compulsory sterilization law which was based on the principles of eugenics, which held that the disabled (alongside other groups like the poor or members of various ethnic groups) were lesser and should not be allowed to procreate.



# academic accommodations pass many hurdles to get services

Similar laws were adopted across the country, even in more “liberal” states like California and Washington. After World War II, blatant eugenics became far less popular due to the Nazi party having advocated a similar ideology, but its lasting impacts remained. Only in 1981 did the last forced sterilization occur, taking place in Oregon.

While experts can’t exactly pinpoint what caused the shift from acceptance to eugenics, some, like late author and activist Marta Russell, have identified the industrial revolution as a major player. Under it, society pivoted towards favoring productivity, where people were more valuable the more work they could produce, and those who could not produce were considered lower. Regardless of how it occurred, however, the current treatment of disabled people in society has been a constant for many lifetimes.

Only in the past few decades have substantial laws benefiting disabled people been enacted in this country. Three laws in particular apply to schools such as ZBTHS: the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

## Legality and Disability

In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by the US government. In practice, it served similar purposes to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protected against discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation. The ADA simply protected a group not originally covered: the disabled.

The ADA as it exists now has five sections, called “titles”, that each address a different facet of life in which disabled people are to be legally protected. Title II and III each are important, here, because they, among many other things, outline the protections a public accommodation like a school must offer. The latter even makes particular note of service animals, which it states are to be allowed even in places where

animals are normally not permitted, because the help they offer to disabled people is greater than the self-interest of any business or public entity, unless that service animal causes a large disruption or is out of control.

Also in 1990, an older act dealing with education and disability, called the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, was reauthorized and changed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. Under IDEA, disabled students are entitled to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that fits their specific needs; even so, disabled students are also to be taught in a ‘least restrictive environment’, which means that by default anyone with a disability is to be instructed alongside nondisabled students unless the severity of their disability warrants otherwise.

The last pertinent law to disability in education is the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which, under its Section 504, provides a framework for people with disabilities to access reasonable accommodations in many facets of their lives, including education. This can range from a quiet study area to more time on tests, and generally, a 504 plan is open to a wider range of disabilities than an IEP, while still offering aid to those who need it.

There are still other laws that are important in the lives of people with disabilities, and activists across the country have long been fighting for better treatment legally, a battle which will only continue to rage as time goes on. Still, these three laws are incredibly pertinent to disabled students and their families, including those at ZBTHS.

**Accommodations and Modifications**

<div style="background-color: #00AEEF; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 15px; text-align: center;"><b>Accommodations</b></div> <p style="font-size: small;">An accommodation is a support or service that is provided to help a student fully access the general education curriculum. Accommodations provided during classroom instruction and assessments must also be provided during state assessments, if permitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change <b>how</b> a child learns or accesses the curriculum</li> <li>• Change the way materials are presented</li> <li>• Change the way a student can respond</li> <li>• Allow students with disabilities the opportunity to complete the same curricular activities as peers</li> <li>• Keep intact the objectives of the content or activity</li> <li>• Enable the student to bypass the effects of the disability</li> <li>• Help remove barriers</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #00B050; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 15px; text-align: center;"><b>Modifications</b></div> <p style="font-size: small;">Modifications are changes to course content, required work, or instructional level. They change the learning goal for an individual student and are used when the general curriculum is too advanced for a student. Modifications usually involve changing an assignment or objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change <b>what</b> a child is taught or expected to do in school</li> <li>• Individualizes changes made to the content and performance expectations for students</li> <li>• Change the <b>complexity</b> level of information</li> <li>• Modify the course or activities/objectives to meet the needs of the learner</li> <li>• Allow a student with a more significant learning need to experience the same curriculum as his or her peers, but with different learning outcomes</li> <li>• Utilizes different grading criteria and/or credits received compared to peers</li> </ul>
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**A Zee-Bee  
You Should Know**

Alysha Pimentel



“I am a junior student here at ZBTHS, I love to read romance books whenever I have free time, my favorite color is purple, and I am an editor-in-chief for our school’s yearbook class. I plan to be an editor-in-chief next year as well when I’m a senior!”

**Staff Showcase**

Mr. Ryan Geary



“Hi, I’m Mr. Geary! I teach Business Education courses at ZBTHS like Personal Finance, Mobile Apps and Coding, and Business INCubator! I’m also a Volleyball and Softball Coach and am the Adviser for Future Business Leaders of America. I really enjoy working with students to figure out what they want to do after high school. If you ever need help with entrepreneurial ideas, FAFSA, resume writing or job interview preparation, swing by room 400! My door is always open.”

**ATTENTION  
SENIORS!**

**WANT TO SING THE  
NATIONAL ANTHEM  
AT GRADUATION?**

**AUDITIONS WILL BE  
HELD ON MONDAY,  
APRIL 24TH, 2:45  
PM-3:30 PM IN THE  
CHOIR ROOM.  
SEE YOU THERE!**

*In Celebration of Earth Day...*

**Zion-Benton Clean-up**

**Beach Edition**

**All Students and Staff  
are Welcome!**

**Thursday, April 20, 2023**

**2:45-5pm**

We will be cleaning up Hosah Park located near the lake at the end of Shiloh Blvd. in Zion, IL. Supplies for the cleanup are being provided by the Zion Park District. Refreshment will be provided after.



**Sign-up By April 14th**





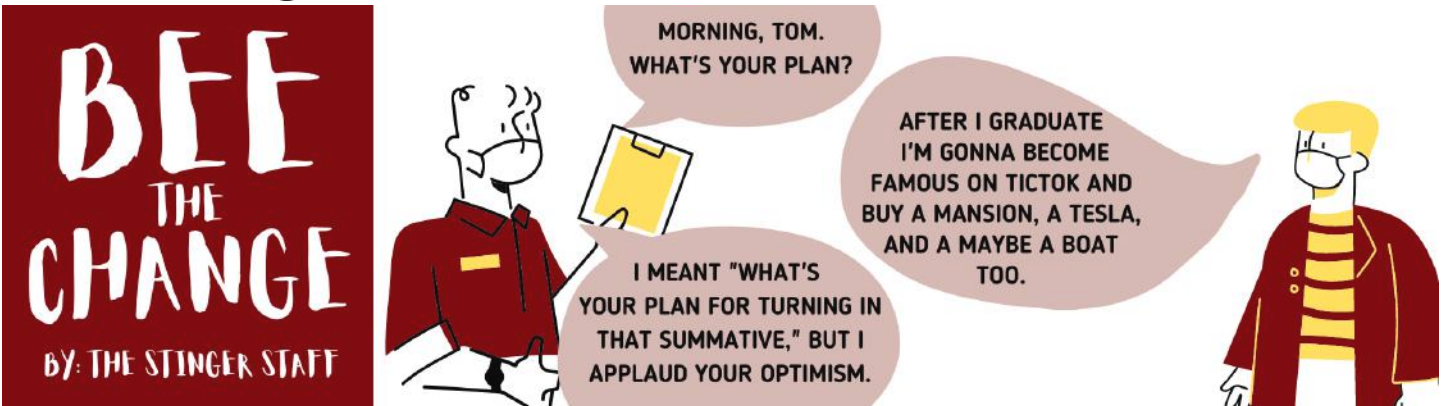
### Life Has a Stinger



### What's the Buzzzz?



### Bee the Change



# Zee-Bees make memories in Europe

By **Cassandra Olvera**  
Stinger Reporter

This year a group of students had the opportunity to take a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Europe with other Zee-Bees.

Mia Mitchell, a student attendee, states, "we visited several countries and cities including Switzerland, France, Monaco, Italy and Spain. It was an incredible adventure that I will never forget." The first stop was Switzerland. Mia says, "we spent a few days exploring the cities of Lucerne and Zurich. We explored local shops, historical buildings, and even went on top of a mountain called

Mount Rigi!"

Students also enjoyed strolling through the charming streets of Cinque Terre and trying delicious Italian cuisine at the local gelato places and restaurants. Mitchell recalls, "we got to see all of the famous colorful buildings that you see in movies, and got to see the Mediterranean Sea. It was so beautiful and I hope to go back one day."

Zee-Bees also got to take a stop in Monaco, one of the richest countries in the world. Shortly after, they visited France. They went to cities such as Nice, Avignon, Nimes, and Carcassonne. "I think most of our time was spent in France. In France we

got to visit a lot of historical landmarks, such as an amphitheater and even a castle. We got to eat delicious french food as well, like croissants and lavender ice cream," Mitchell said.

The group's final destination was Barcelona, Spain. They explored the colorful Park Guell, got to see the La Sagrada Familia, and experienced the Boqueria Market. Mitchell recalls, "Most of us took a bike tour through the city, and some of us got to see a Flamenco show! The city was really busy, and could be overwhelming sometimes, but we all loved it."

All in all, their Europe trip was an amazing adventure

that allowed students to experience different cultures, cuisine, and lifestyles. They learned so much about history, architecture, and made memories that will last a lifetime. Students who attended hope to return to Europe and explore even more of its incredible cities. Here's hoping that the Zee-Bees reading this visit Europe and enjoy it as much as those on the 2023 trip did.



Photo courtesy of Ana Peterson

# Zee-Bees look forward to A Night At the Gala

By **Trinity Camara**  
Notice Board Manager

Prom season is finally upon us. After what felt like a long school year, it is time for Zee-Bees to celebrate and make some memories.

After a lot of planning, the prom committee decided on the theme, *A Night at the Gala* with a color scheme of gold and white. Prom night will take place on Saturday, May 13th, 2023 at 6PM and will be located at the Holiday Inn at 6161 W Grand Ave. in Gurnee.

Students should arrive at the location in time for dinner to be served at 6PM. Following that, dancing will begin at 7PM, and the winners of the king and queen title will be announced at 8PM. Students can remain partying for the rest of the night until 10PM.

Throughout the night, there will be a free traditional photo booth and a 360 photo booth accessible to all students. However if attendees wish to take professional pictures at this event, there will be an additional fee. In order to attend, tickets will need

to be purchased between April 3 - April 14. Students can buy these tickets at the bookstore during lunch periods, or before and after school at the cost of \$65. In order to purchase a ticket, students need to have paid off all previous fees.

Mrs. Valerugo, the sponsor of the prom planning committee, shared what students can expect throughout the night. She stated, "when they first enter, they will be able to go in and select a table of their choice with their friends. We didn't do assigned seating as some schools do. That's really to ensure who they want to sit with is who they will sit with. There will be a photo booth free of charge, there will also be a 360 camera which is brand new this year which is also free of charge."

Valerugo went on to say, "They will have a beautiful meal set up for them, full course with meat, pasta, vegetables, bread, and salad. There will be something for everyone. Being a Vegetarian myself, I want to make sure that we have

options for students. If they are gluten free, there will be options."

Students may be curious about what type of music will be played during prom night. She explains, "This year, we pivoted our DJ from the DJ that [we] used at homecoming to the DJ that was used at the snowball dance. He's young, he's very aware of what's 'in' so he will be playing his selected music, but also there will be an option for requests that happen earlier. We are going to put out a google form, I believe, through advisories, and that's where a list of the songs will come from. One thing that I always want to mention, which I know kids get upset about, is we do have to be conscientious because this is a school event. There will be times when things will have to be played at radio edit just solely because it's a school event."

Lastly, It's important to recognize the dedication that goes into planning such an event. She was asked what the planning process was like. She re-

sponded, "the planning process actually starts back in September. What we do is start meeting with a group of students. We typically use the junior class officers to begin with, and then it's opened up through the announcements for anyone else who wants to join. We have students from New Tech and students from Z-B who have been a part of this prom journey. First we pick our theme, then the theme really dictates the rest of it. We look at the colors and what the actual visual images are going to look like when you walk in. When they started looking at glamor, gold, and white, we started looking on Pinterest or google images to get a vibe so we could make their visions come into fruition."





# Girls Wrestlers bring skills to state

By Mia Mitchell  
Sports Editor

During February 23-24, some of our Z-B girls wrestlers went down to state. The competition was held on both Friday and Saturday in Bloomington IL. It's a major accomplishment that the wrestlers, Adriana Ketchum and Ileen Castrejon qualified for state, but on top of that, they had very successful performances.

"Ileen Castrejon took 4th, and Adrianna, it being her first year down there, went 0-2, but wrestled with two really strong matches, it just wasn't her day," said Coach Lunsford, the women's and men's wrestling coach here at Z-B. Castrejon not only was successful this year, but made it down state last year as well.

Some other girls on the team helped make their performance possible, and traveled downstate with Ketchum and Castrejon. "Jay Thompson was an alternate, which meant if someone in her weight class did not make weight she was able to slide in, because she finished fifth at her sectionals," Coach Lunsford said. Unfortunately,

she did not get to compete, but it's outstanding that she was even in an alternate position. "We also brought Naomi Foot, a sophomore, to be a workout partner for Ileen," coach Lunsford continued.

So, not only were Castrejon and Ketchum working hard individually to be successful, but they also had help from their coaches and other teammates. The road to success has been happening for the whole year. These young women have worked really hard, and it's definitely paid off. "Well, it's been a long process," Coach Lunsford started, "They've really spent the entire year, school year, summer, fall, you know off season stuff, training like crazy. We've been working hard, I've been taking them to another place in Lake County to wrestle other girls and guys from the Lake County area, to get better and stuff like that. It's just a matter of all year training for them, that's really what it was." The hard work and dedication from the girls, the team, and the coaches is what caused them to be this successful.



Photo courtesy of Emerald Night Photography

While individual success was important for Z-B, there was also a lot of growth for girls wrestling as a sport here at Zion Benton, and in Illinois in general. "I will say, last year, for this whole state series from sectionals to state, there were only 521 girls. This year, there were 1276 girls. The girls sport is just growing that fast, and the level of competition compared to last year to this year was just unbelievable," Lunsford said. Not only did the amount of girls competing grow at a state level, but they also grew here at Zion. "I will say this, last year I ended with 4 girls in the program, this year I ended with 16. So, I'm hoping

by next year we're at 30. I mean, I really want to grow this women's program, to be one of the best of the best, in at least Lake County," Coach Lunsford said.

With Zion Benton already having really successful women on the wrestling team, we will most definitely continue to be successful. The growth of the sport is important, and we hope it continues. The Z-B community can't wait to watch Adrianna Ketchum, and Ileen Castrejon compete again next season. Hopefully the team will grow even more, and more young women will be making Zion proud, and being successful wrestlers.

# Boys volleyball team looks forward to a successful season

By Megan Galeana  
Stinger Reporter

This year boys volleyball is ready to have a successful season. They have done it before and they are going to do it again with a good season ahead of them. Jonathon Vertiz, a senior at ZBTHS, is one of those players, he has been playing volleyball for three years. He is so glad that he is playing volleyball because "it is something I find peace in and it has given me opportunities in college." At the moment he is practicing

and training to get good for games. One of his favorite drills that he is practicing is "scrimmaging." It is his favorite drill because "it gets fun when both teams get really competitive and into it."

There are many ways other volleyball players approach practicing to improve. The way Jonathon approaches practices is "with an open and positive mindset so that I can improve." People seem to worry about making mistakes, but when it comes to

Jonathon, he says, "There's at least 75 points in one game. I don't worry about mistakes unless I repeat the same mistakes multiple times."

If you ever try to play Boys Volleyball, Jonathon Vertiz has advice: "Stick with it, volleyball is a sport anyone can pick up if they practice enough."

Chase Franz is a senior at ZBTHS and is also a player of the boys volleyball team. Chase Franz has been playing for three years as well. He finds volleyball

important to him because "of the bonds I've made from playing over the past few years and the fun and competitive atmosphere created in games and practice." At the moment, he is focusing on practicing and training. One of his favorite drills is "shuffle the square because it's the best drill in the world," he says.

Franz has a unique approach to practice: "You have to go into it without worrying about messing up or else you'll be afraid (Story continues on Page 12)

# Boys volleyball team looks forward to a successful season

(Continued from page 11)

to make mistakes. If you never make mistakes, you won't learn from them to get better." He goes on to say that "if you worry too much about the mistakes you make during a game, you'll play timid and won't be at your best. Instead, you should let the mistake go and be confident that you'll do better next time."

Franz says, "volleyball is a super fun and competitive experience, and all the coaches are great. I highly recommend volleyball to anybody that wants to give

it a try!"

David Sotelo, a senior player on the team, has been playing for an impressive six years. David finds volleyball important to him because "It teaches you life lessons and helps you grow as a person. It is also important to me because I love being able to play with really good friends, and it just makes me happy." As he is practicing drill, he says his favorite drill is "gladiator drill," because "it makes you work hard and puts you through a good

sweat."

Different players practice differently to improve. David's way is to "just try to get better every single practice, and do more reps, learn, and listen." People get a little stressed out when they make a mistake during a game, but David says, "just let it go. Volleyball is a game of mistakes and they are bound to happen." David Sotelo has advice for boys who are trying to get into volleyball. He says, "just work hard and have fun."



Photo courtesy of Emerald Night Photography

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