

Knights In Shining Armor

By: Alisa Andrews and Allison File

Girls Who Code!



North Lincoln’s innovative Girls Who Code club is learning new programming languages and challenging themselves to develop their own codes. This club is run by Chemistry teacher, Ms. Townsend, and NLHS Senior, Allison File.



Most recently, the club has been exploring the coding mechanisms of Microbits. These mini computers can be coded to create games, flashing lights, morse code communication, and a variety of other functions.



This club allows for students to be creative as they are exposed to new technology. Girls Who Code is a nationwide organization that encourages females to get into STEM and computer science.

At NLHS, members are learning Python, programming techniques, and designing their own individualized projects that involve Arduinos and other prototyping platforms.



Students can write unique code to cause Microbits to fulfill various functions...



Senior, Alisa Andrews, wrote and downloaded a code to cause the Microbit to display a pattern of lights (pictured above).

Girls Who Code was established to close the gender gap in technology and prepare young women for STEM careers in the future. The movement currently involves over 90,000

Creative Castle

By: Grace Holbrooks & Liz Woodby

The Creative Castle is here to showcase the artisans of North Lincoln High School. If you want to share your creativity with us, our emails are below for submissions:

gracemack21601@gmail.com & lwoodby@gmail.com

Poetry

Icarus

What a splash he made
When his greed was his downfall
Yet not a head turned.

- Anonymous, 12th Grade

Photography



“I was visiting Horseshoe Bend at the Grand Canyon and was literally living life on the edge. Over that edge was a 10,000 foot drop to the river below, and I gave my mom chills trying to take the picture of a lifetime.”

Knight Life

By: Hannah Caldwell

Stress In Schools

Is school getting more and more stressful? Are students being pushed harder than they were thirty years ago? Is there a need to get into increasingly selective colleges? The answer is YES. Students today are being pushed incessantly by parents, teachers, coaches, and themselves just to see how far they can go. Students are driven by the fear of failing- in many cases, not getting into the “dream college”.

The wide selection of AP classes and the block schedule have pushed students into doubling up in everything or to always take the AP option. Students are striving for the elusive “top ten” spot, struggling to get good grades in classes that they hate or don’t even need to take. It is now possible to double up in so many classes that students are able to graduate early. There are many students that could graduate after three years but have to stay because of the rule that doesn’t allow doubling up in certain English classes. When picking out classes, students don’t ask “will this benefit me and allow me to pursue my goals?”, they ask “Is this going to make me ‘top ten’ or a junior marshal?”.

All of this is causing early onset senioritis. Students are getting burned out quicker- the juniors being perhaps the biggest victims of this. Students have grown so tired of trying, feeling that the excitement of learning has been replaced with the struggle to reach the top. Students are sacrificing sleep and social lives to get As. For many, the weekend has become dedicated to finishing homework or projects that teachers assigned without a thought. An open note to all the teachers, HOMEWORK ADDS UP! Your one-hour may not seem terrible, but you add that with the two hours from another class, and a project in the third, and you have a recipe for a stressful and possibly tearful weekend as students waste away in their homes longing to relax from the week. Please, give us back our weekends!

However, this massive workload students are saddled with may not entirely be the teachers’ fault. “Improved” curriculums can mean that teachers have more they need to teach in less time. Obviously, something has to give because continuing to put all the burden on students isn’t fair and kills any passion students could possibly have for learning. Increased homework has also led to increased cheating, just in the attempt to get it all done.

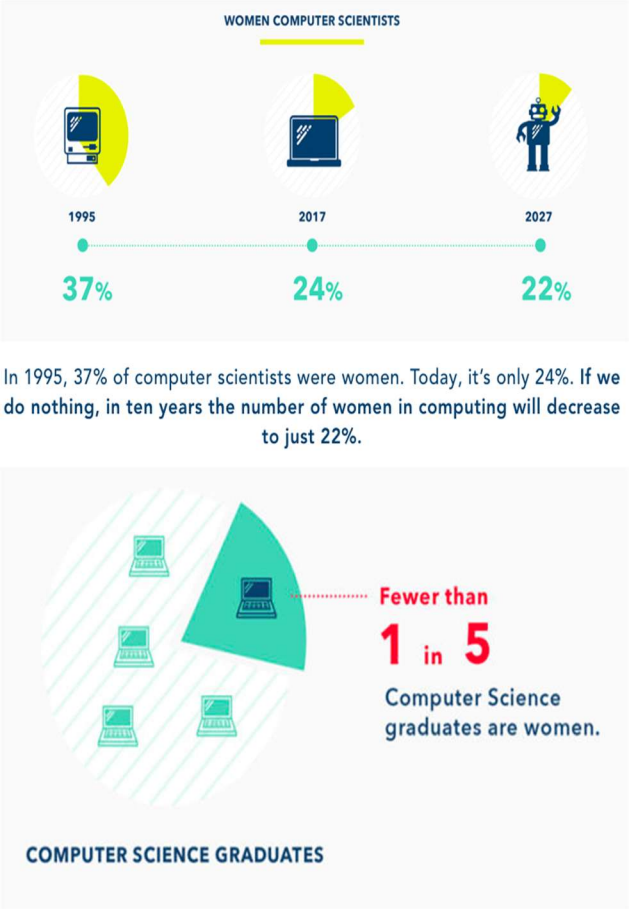
Extracurriculars are a double-edged sword. On one side, they can be fun ways to hang out with fellow students or be involved in something important. On the other, they cause time to be taken away from being able to do homework. All of the sudden, the extracurricular doesn’t seem as appealing when it causes all-nighters and late grades. During the school year, students can forget about family time or sitting back and watching

members across 50 states. This organization was founded by Reshma Saujani who states “we are on track to achieve gender parity in computer science by 2027.” Girls Who Code is one of the largest pipelines for future female engineers in the United States and allows for young women to deepen their computational experience with confidence.

Further Coding Information:

- 1. <https://microbit.org/>
- 2. https://girlswhocode.com/?nabm=0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F
- 3. <https://www.arduino.cc/>
- 4. <https://hq.girlswhocode.com/getting-started>
- 5. https://girlswhocode.com/about-us/?nabm=0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F

Statistics:



Student of the Month

The Student of the Month nominees for December and January have been released! These students have possessed outstanding qualities in either compassion or cooperation that have been recognized by their teachers and peers! The following nominees are listed below:

- Bri Broome

Anthony Perry

Robbie Hudspeth

Madison Smoak

Anaia Mayner

Austin Peacock

Kassie Angel

Melinda Carroll

Nic Ruiz

Lochlan Cable

Landon Beard

Shawn Griffen
- Brayden Stryczynski

Landry Ayers

Katie Wood

Brenden Pickler

Deanna Parker

Peyton Pack

Jewels Fernandez

Sydney Scanlon

Allison File

Hayden Tabor

Joshua Mclean

Congrats to all of our nominees! Keep up the great work!!

Mystery Person of the Month

By: Rebecca Del Rossi



“Believe it or not, as I was taking these pictures, it was close to 35° in the bottom of the canyon, but it gives you such a different perspective that you can’t help but be in awe. The natural formations were made from rain and are beautiful to see in person; I highly recommend Antelope Canyon as a bucket list destination.”

- **Will Ramsey, 12th grade** took these pictures and offered his thoughts on each.

Art



This is a rendition of the cartoon character Bugs Bunny. Nic plans to make a more detailed drawing for next month's edition so stay tuned!

- **Nicolas Ruiz, 12th Grade**

their favorite TV shows. During the school year, it’s all about the homework.

In schools, “test” is truly a four letter word. They fluctuate between the first and second biggest cause of stress, depending on the teacher and course load. Tests waste a day of valuable classroom time and cause unbelievable amounts of stress on everyone involved, including the teachers that have to grade them. Short assignments like paragraph responses or short worksheets are also a great way to benchmark where students are at. Standardized testing is the ultimate example of pointless tests. Standardized tests result in entire days lost of classroom time, and teachers “teaching to the test”. Finding another way to track student growth would greatly release the tension students feel about school.

High school is stressful, just like real life. But why shouldn’t students be allowed time to enjoy their youth or be able to grow and mature in a less stressful environment? There is plenty of time for the real world once we get there.

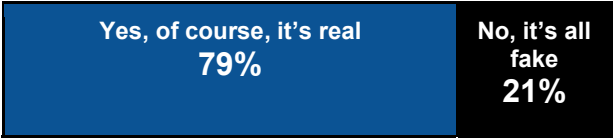
February Polls
“North Lincoln’s Views on Environmental Issues”

By: Hannah Castro

This month I asked North Lincoln’s study body for their opinions on a few environmental issues. Here’s what they had to say:

Is climate change real?

The topic of climate change is sort of a rocky subject today. Some people believe that the whole thing is fake, despite the evidence of its effects seen around the globe. Here is what North Lincoln thinks about it:



Out of the 57 people I asked this question, 45 believe that it is, in fact, a real thing affecting our world today, and 12 believed that it’s not.

Do you think we are doing enough to help keep our world clean?

Many things are going on in our world that we, as people, do have the ability to help prevent or at least lessen the damage of. However, we aren’t doing all that we can to save our planet. When I asked North Lincoln if they thought we were doing enough to keep our planet clean and healthy, every single person I asked gave me the answer of “NO, no we are not.” People understand that the world needs our help to maintain a clean environment for us and yet we still aren’t doing all we can to help it. It’s sad.

Would you rather just drink straight out of a cup or use a straw knowing that an animal suffers?

Many people know how the use of plastic straws harms the animals that come into contact with them after disposal. I was interested to find out how people reacted to being presented with this question, knowing that most people don’t think twice about it when they stick a straw in a plastic to-go cup. However, I was pleased to get the answers I did.

Chloe Spurlock, a freshman, says she prefers to use a reusable straw so that she is able to have the benefits of a straw without the harm of plastic straws to the environment.

Emma Goodson, who is also a freshman,



- I have a sibling in the same grade as me, but we are not twins
- I play soccer
- I am a huge Chicago Bulls fan
- I am adopted

Upcoming Events!

By: Faith Guia

April 6th: Back from spring break!
-SAT registration deadline is due

April 7th: NLHS Car Show and Yard Sale
-Begins at 11am

April 9th: Trey Whiteside application due
-\$1000 Scholarship; Submit to Ms. Thornhill

April 9th-13th: Cheerleading tryouts!
-From 3:30pm-5:30pm in mini gym

April 10th: Mentor Applications are due!
- Juniors and Seniors must submit online

April 11th: Special Olympic buddy forms are due
-Forms can be picked up in the office

April 15th: G.E. Massey/Newbold application due
-\$1000 Scholarship

April 20th: Bess Chapel UMC application due
-\$500 Scholarship

April 27th: Special Olympic Spring Games will be held

April 28th: NLHS Prom!
-From 8pm-12am

Knight’s Kingdom

By: Grace Holbrooks, Faith Guia, & Rebecca Del Rossi

Volunteer Opportunities

All of these are great opportunities to help out the community and also help those who need volunteer hours for a club!

- Sally’s YMCA - Denver - (704) 716 - 7300
- Denver Baptist Church - Denver - (704) 403 - 3030
- Lakewood Care Center (Retirement Home) - Denver - (704) 483 - 7000
- Habitat for Humanity Restore - Denver - (704) 466 - 4300
- Mooresville Soup Kitchen - Mooresville - (704) 660 - 9010
- The Corner Table - Newton - (828) 464 - 0355
- Cornelius Animal Shelter - Cornelius - (704) 237 - 3602

Job Opportunities

Go and get an application at any one of these places if you are looking for a job!!!

- Burger King - Denver
- Arbys - Denver & Lincolnton
- Chick - Fil - A - Denver
- Wendy’s - Denver & Lincolnton
- Pie 5 Pizza - Lincolnton
- Homingstead (senior care)- Lincolnton

Sports

By: Bella Reid and Mattie Lancaster

Basketball: Boys and Girls

2/1 vs ELHS
2/5 vs. Maiden
2/6 @ Hibriten
2/8 @ Newton Conover
2/12 vs. Lincolnton **SENIOR NIGHT**
2/15 @ Bandys

Baseball and Softball

Tryouts are February 13th, 14th, and 15th

Swim

2/7-2/9 States

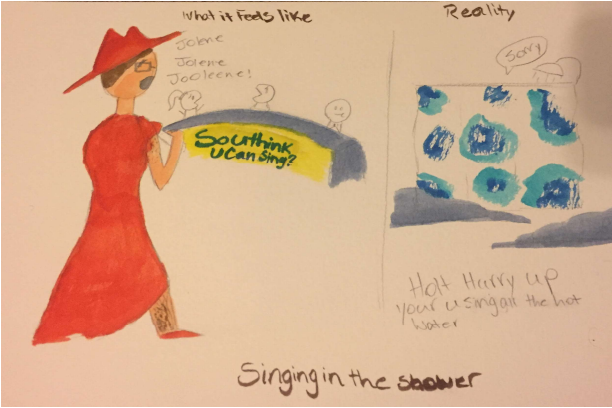
Winter Track

2/8 States

Wrestling

2/2 State Dual Championship
2/8-2/9 Individual Regional Tournament
2/14-2/16 Individual State Tournament

Jesters Jokes Holt Ludwig



says she prefers to just drink out of a cup rather than use a straw at all.

Which type of water bottle do you prefer to use?

Disposable 20%	Reusable 80%
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We all know how disposable water bottles harm the environment, so I was glad to see that at least 80% of NLHS students use reusable water bottles.

The Bard’s Tale

by: Hannah McGuire

How often do students get the chance to just sit down and read a story? Now, all you have to do is look at each month’s issue of The Sword and Pen to get a few hundred words about a junior and his friend, who have a secret! Read to find out more!

Previously in *The Bard’s Tale*.....

The two boys followed her gesture into the heart of the office and they soon found themselves at a door labeled Mr. O’Brien, Principal. Breathing in deeply, Charlie knocked on the door.

“Come in,” the voice from behind the door shouted. Flinching at the sound, Joey turned the handle, opening the door.

“Ah, there they are!” Mr. O’Brien smiled, his voice still loud even though a heavy wooden door no longer separated him and the two boys. “Come and sit down, you two. I have something I want to talk to you about.”

And now, *this week’s continuation*.....

The two boys stepped nervously into the bright room. In their anxious state, Charlie ran into Joey as they both went for the same chair. Murmuring a half-apology, Charlie chose the other chair and they sat on the edges of their seats.

“Boys, I want to congratulate you,” the principal said, sitting forward in his own desk chair and clasping his hands on the desk in front of him.

Charlie looked at Joey, who looked as though he might vomit. “What for, Mr. O’Brien?”

“Joey, you know that you’re probably the best soccer player on the team. No doubt about that,” Mr. O’Brien began. “But the last time you were in here, I had to tell you that if you didn’t improve your chemistry grade, you would be kicked off the team. Correct?”

“Yes, sir,” Joey replied, his voice barely audible, his cheeks tinged with pink- Charlie knew that Joey had been failing, but it still wasn’t kind to talk about it in Charlie’s presence.

“Well, we aren’t blind, kid. Ms. Rand, your chemistry teacher ands one of the overseers of the school newspaper, noticed that you started spending time with Charlie in the library and the cafeteria. And then your grades began to improve. We all see what you guys have been doing.” Mr. O’Brien gave the two a slightly smug expression. However, a smile played at the corners of his mouth, confusing Charlie.

Joey sighed and squared his shoulders as he prepared for the worst. “Yes, sir. You see, I needed help passing chemistry, and I asked Charlie to help me...”

“...and Charlie tutored you. And the two of you became friends,” Mr. O’Brien interjected, “and now you are both being recognized by the school newspaper in an article about this month’s character trait.”

“I...what?” Charlie looked at Joey, who also looked shocked and even mortified. Charlie had never been even nominated as a student with character, an award given monthly by the principal, and now he was going to be in the school’s newspaper over it?

“This month’s character trait is cooperation. Ms. Rand and I think that you two would be perfect for this segment. Of course, we won’t mention your grades, Joey, but we will talk about how you and Charlie worked together to overcome a difficult obstacle. Okay?”

“Umm....sure, I guess....”

Joey and Charlie left the office, feeling much lighter than before. However, a few things didn’t feel quite right with Charlie. While Joey went on and on about how jubilated he was that they weren’t going to get in trouble, Charlie wondered how they had noticed that he and Joey had been hanging out. While Charlie didn’t care, Joey had wanted to be discreet about their several study sessions. He also wondered why they wanted to write an article about them in the school newspaper. Charlie read the monthly paper that was titled *The Blue News* after their mascot, the blue devils, and there had never been an article about that month’s character trait. So why now? And why about him and Joey?

Do you want to know what happens next? Stay tuned for next month’s segment of The Bard’s Tale!