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# The Voyager

Homewood-Flossmoor High School  
Volume 47 Issue 4  
November 23, 2005  
999 Kedzie Avenue  
Flossmoor IL, 60422



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## SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT



## ABC7 Showcases H-F

PETAR MANDICH  
NEWS EDITOR

ABC7's Roz Varon and the ABC Morning News Team came to H-F to host their weekly show, "School Days," November 4.

Every Friday from 5 am to 7 am, ABC7 features select high schools from the Chicago-land area with a live video feed of the school during the morning traffic reports.

High schools in the Chicago-land area can nominate themselves by sending an e-mail to ABC7 producers highlighting unique information about themselves.

At H-F, students from various sports, clubs, music groups, and other organizations

arrived at H-F as early as 3:45 am to prepare for the morning newscast.

Among the groups featured, the Marching Vikings, the Varsity Cheerleaders, and the Poms were the focus of the morning, along with the the H-F faculty band, Staff Infection, which performed at both the opening and the conclusion of the morning newscast.

"We set up ahead of time through my producer who will research all the little fun facts about the school like all the awards, the special teams, etc. The teachers and administrators then go ahead and get together the band, cheerleaders, and all the other student groups that are going to perform. Basically, a lot of preparation is

done way ahead of time," said Varon.

Although ABC7 producers research schools before the morning newscast, Varon must put a lot of energy in the program representing the school while also minding the traffic reports.

"When I come to a school, I have a rundown sheet that tells me in a kind of loose format what time I will be featuring each individual group. But, as you sometimes saw [during the program,] I veered from the sheet and said 'Oh, I want to have a snake around my neck'...you just have to look for fun students," said Varon.

To see clips from "School Days," visit [abc7Chicago.com](http://abc7Chicago.com) or [hfhhighschool.org](http://hfhhighschool.org) for pictures from the morning.

## New Mix It Up Day aims to improve peer involvement

DONALD GOENS  
STAFF WRITER

The fourth annual National Mix It Up at Lunch Day took place November 15, and according to a press release from [mixitup.org](http://mixitup.org), more than 8,000 schools and three million students across the country participated in the event this year. H-F takes part in Mix It Up Day each year with the goal of breaking social boundaries and giving students the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zone. Past Mix It Up Days have attempted to involve the entire student body, but due to a lack of participation in previous years, Mix It Up Day was carried out differently this year.

Before, students and faculty hosting the event assigned specific tables for every student to sit at during their lunch period. However this year, only 60 students participated in the event out of the 175 invitations sent out to students based on their answers to questionnaires which were handed out during English classes. Students who marked that they were interested in participating in Mix It Up Day with other cultures, were invited to be part of the event in rooms 300 and 301, the activity room, and a hallway in North Building during fifth period.

"It was a very unique way of learning about other people and seeing how others interact. Last year, it was just a whole bunch of people who did not do what they really wanted to do. This year, they provided enough people of different cultures and brought unique assets from other places," said Sophomore Corby Jackson, a participant in Mix It Up Day.

Students in Mix It Up Day were divided into three groups: multicultural, diversity, and intergroup. They were then rotated between activities hosted by student facilitators trained through the "World of Difference" seminar in Chicago.

"We felt like if we did not try to do it with every lunch period and with every student that was there, that we would have a better grasp on it and try to give people a more meaningful experience this time, and then build on it for the future," said Vice Principal and Co-Facilitator for Mix It Up Day, Ron Bean.

In the hallway, students took part in an icebreaker about the importance of names, as well as a listening activity in which students were given questions concerning their values, beliefs, and experiences to share with a partner. People in the activity room took part in team activities such as a tug-of-war, three-legged races, and telephone, in order to develop better relationships through teamwork. During lunch in rooms 300 and 301, students were encouraged to sit with people they were unfamiliar with like previous Mix It Up Days, while eating food from various cultural backgrounds.

Mix It Up Day concluded with a circle discussion where students reflected on their feelings before and after the event, what was challenging for them, and what they thought was positive about this year's Mix It Up Day. Participating students found the new version of Mix It Up Day to be a more effective attempt to bring diversity and a better experience overall.

"One day of learning something new about someone that you do not know very well is a first step to building positive relationships," said Resource Teacher and Co-facilitator for Mix It Up Day, Tiffany Chavez.

## Oak Lawn High School teens hack into computers

■ Students given suspensions after changing grades on computer. How safe is H-F?

JOE MALONEY  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When most students are not satisfied with their grades, they decide to receive extra help from a tutor or a teacher. At Oak Lawn High School, four students decided that hacking into the school's computers and changing their grades would be a more appropriate measure.

The students changed nearly 30 grades from both at home and school computers. As a result, these grades are now being marked as failing grades. All four students were also suspended for ten days and will not be allowed to use school computers again.

The loophole exploited in the Oak Lawn computer system brings attention to the security of the H-F Computer System. One of the main differences between Oak Lawn and H-F is the access points for grades. "Oak Lawn's grade books are accessible through the web. Our grade books at H-F are not done through the web. This helps

grade security," said H-F Director of Information Services, Gary Posing. Oak Lawn's data is also live whereas H-F's grade data is merely a copy of the live data.

Assistant Director of Technology and Head of Computer Security Steve Richardson and Posing disagree with how the situation at Oak Lawn is being handled. Posing believes that Oak Lawn would be wise to share the loophole that was used by the students so that other schools, like H-F, would be able to protect themselves from such a loophole. Both also feel that the disciplinary measures taken were too light as doing such an act is a federal offense.

Richardson believes that H-F is safer than other schools and less likely to have its security broken. "There is no way that students could compromise grade data here at H-F," said Richardson.

While H-F's information is considered safe, according to Posing, nothing can ever be fully secure with computers. "While you can make sure a system is as safe as it can be, there is no computer system that is 100 percent fool proof," said Posing.