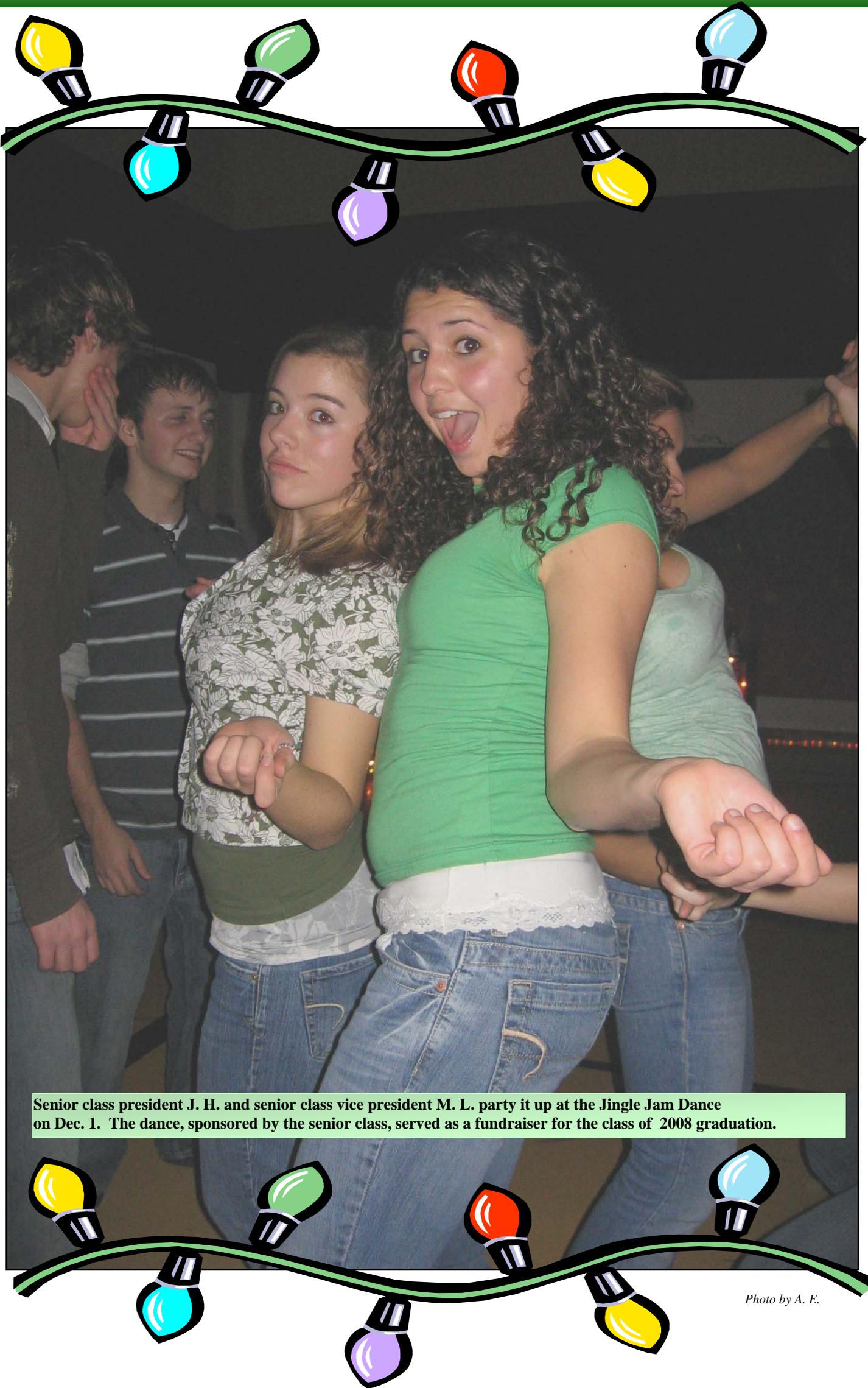


# The Cougar Scene

Features Issue 1

December 10, 2007

Vicenza Middle High School, Italy



Senior class president J. H. and senior class vice president M. L. party it up at the Jingle Jam Dance on Dec. 1. The dance, sponsored by the senior class, served as a fundraiser for the class of 2008 graduation.

Photo by A. E.



Photo by N. A.

The commemorative shirt for Pasta Bowl II given to participants by Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick at the after celebration held in Club V for all Pasta Bowl Participants in Pasta Bowl II on the new field.

## Paper Machete Majors win Pasta Bowl II

By N. A.

Cougar Scene Staff

With the arrival of the new multi-purpose sports field, the second annual Pasta Bowl competition was held on Nov. 21.

Pasta Bowl II was a flickerball game between the two teams, The Iron Lions and The Paper Machete Majors. The Iron Lions consisted of Colonels, Senior Warrant Officers and Sergeant Majors. The Paper Machete Majors consisted of Majors and Junior Warrant Officers.

At each end of the field sat a post with a rectangle and a target. The object of the game was to get the most points and beat the other team. If the player got the ball through the hole, three points were awarded. If the player got the ball to touch the square, one point was awarded. A player could only keep the ball for ten seconds and could not run with the ball. The only thing one could do was lateral or throw the ball. It was a non-contact game with two 30 minute

quarters.

The captains for the teams were Maj. (P) Tom Belkoffer for the Iron Lions and Maj. Ryan Dillon for the Paper Machete Majors. The teams played all night, each trying to claim victory over the other. While the Iron Lions were winning at halftime, the Paper Machete Majors picked up in the end and won the game with a final score of 18-9.

After the players shook hands and left the field, an after-party was held in Club V, where participants were given free hot dogs. After eating, participants were also awarded with shirts commemorating the event and medals. During the awarding, Maj. Gen. Frank Helmick gave a pep-talk to the participants and announced that Pasta Bowl III will be held in April.

“Coach P. from the high school football team was a great addition to our team. He was going out for 70 yard catches,” said LTC Joseph Angyal of the Iron Lions, “It was a well-played game.”

The Cougar Scene is the unofficial student publication of Vicenza High School. It does not necessarily represent the views of the student body, faculty, or administration of VMHS.

Readers are encouraged to contribute Letters to the Editor. Letters should be signed. The Cougar Scene reserves the right to select and edit letters for clarity, taste and length. You may submit letters to Ms. C. in room 140.



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Co-Editor-in-Chief

C. R.

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D. S.

Page one

N. A.

Page two

A. E.

Page three

A. E.

Page four

A. C.

Page five

G. A.

Page six

J. G.

Page seven

R. M.

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S. P.

Sponsor

P. C.

## VICENZA MOVIE SCHEDULE

December 10: CLOSED

December 11: CLOSED

December 12: @ 1800 Good Luck Chuck (R)

December 13: @ 1800 Eastern Promises (R)

December 14: @ 1800 Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13)

@ 2100 The Heartbreak Kid (R)

December 16: @ 1500 Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13)

@ 1800 We Own the Night (R)

December 17: CLOSED

December 18: CLOSED

December 19: @ 1800 The Heartbreak Kid (R)

December 20: @ 1800 We Own the Night (R)

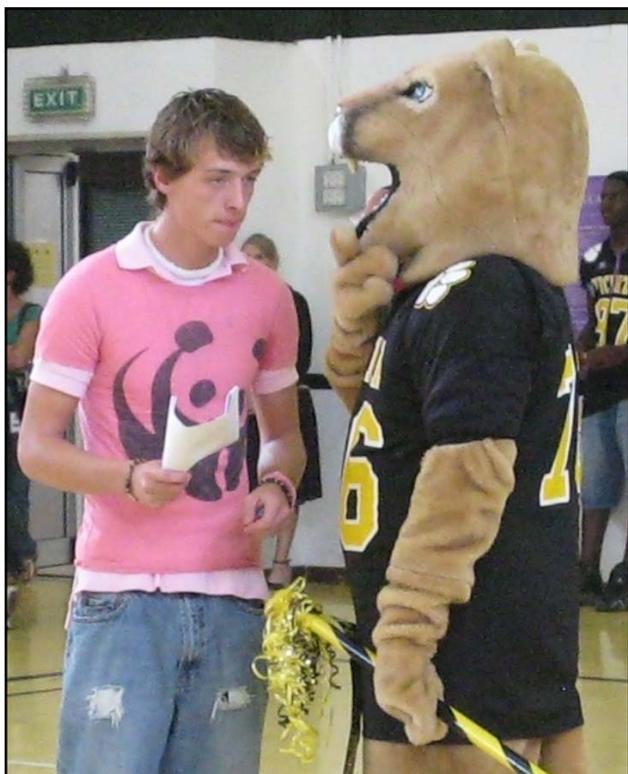


Photo by P. Cowles

Vice-President D. A. coordinates with the Cougar mascot during the fall pep rally on Oct. 4.

# What is Student Council?

By A. E.  
Events Editor

Student Council is an assembly of student-nominated leaders who lead various activities within the school such as school dances, spirit week, fundraisers, and pep rallies.

Student Council is largely responsible for keeping school activities running smoothly and ensuring that students have a voice in the school.

Student Council is broken down into two parts: the executive board and the class councils. The executive members of the of the 07-08 school year are: seniors President A. E. and Vice-President D. A., Secretaries P. O., senior, and S. M., junior; and Treasurer F. W., junior. Class officers are:

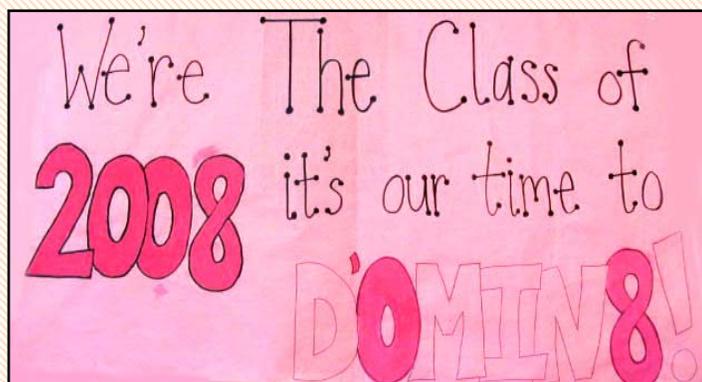
Senior Class President J. H., Junior Class President A. V., Sophomore Class President K. J., and Freshman Class President C. B.

“I think student council has come a long way this year because everyone is willing to participate,” said H.

This year, the Student Council has organized spirit week, a pie-eating contest, and is currently working on getting a new sound system in our gym.

“Student Council is a lot of work, but when everything works as you planned, it’s worth it,” said Vice-President D. A.

Student Council has many things planned for the rest of the school year. The motto of the year is: “Kiss Boring Goodbye,” and that’s what Student Council plans to do.



## STUDENT COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

**A. B.**  
*Sponsor*

**Q. Does Student Council have a positive impact on the school?**

**A.** Student Council does have an impact both on the spirit and climate of the school. It helps students see school as more than just academics. Student Council fosters leadership skills and helps students develop both school and class identities.

**Q. What are the biggest responsibilities student council holds?**

**A.** Student Council is responsible for giving a voice to the students about concerns they may have, and it also provides a way to create fun activities and build school spirit.

**A. V.**  
*'09 Class President*

**Q. How can a student get heard if they have an idea or a problem?**

**A.** Students can show up to an open meeting, filter things through their representatives, or write a letter and give it to a Student Council member.

**Q. How do you feel about your leadership position in the school?**

**A.** Being the junior class president is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun. We expect great things this year.

**Q. Who has the final say in the events of the school?**

**A.** Ultimately, Ms. Reiss has the final say with events in the school.

**S. M.**  
*Seminar Representative*

**Q. Have you been in charge of anything this year?**

**A.** No, but I’m looking forward to the opportunity for more responsibility.

**Q. What have you done in Student Council so far this year?**

**A.** I have helped come up with ideas for fundraisers and helped with the Spirit Week pep rally and lunchtime activities.

**Q. What is the most recent thing student council has done?**

**A.** Student Council developed activities for the holidays, like a pie eating contest and candy grams.

# JINGLE JAM DANCE



*They jingled and jammed all night!*

**By A. E.**  
Features Editor

In order to raise money for senior graduation the senior class held a winter dance in the VMHS gymnasium on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 8:00-11:00 p.m.

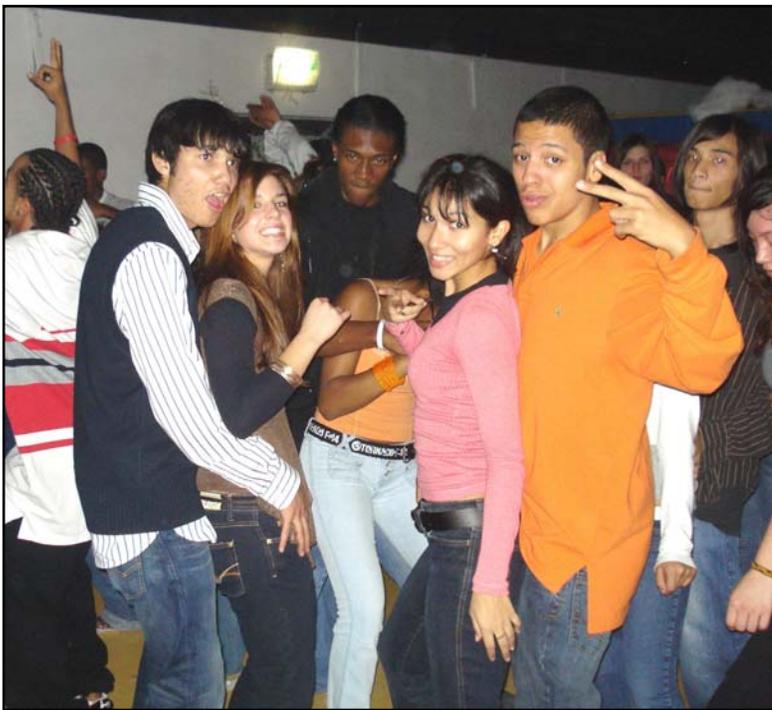
Students in grades 9-12 danced the night away to music ranging from rap/hip-hop to slower R&B songs from DJ's A. L. and W. R.

Senior parents chaperoned and provided all refreshments. Half of the gym was decorated in Christmas decorations, ranging from lights over the walls to spray snow.

"It was fun," said senior R. M. "We had a decent turn out and after a couple of songs people really got into the music."

The dance not only benefited the seniors financially, but also helped to raise the morale in their stressful final year.

From long trains of "Walk it Out" to solo dance offs and "Thriller" tutorials, the Jingle Jam was an overall success.



**Top Left:** Junior J. P. attempts to learn Michael Jackson's "Thriller" from senior S. P. during her much anticipated performance. **Bottom Left:** During the Jingle Jam, couples rock it out to some of the current hits and ancient wonders played by the DJs. **Top Right:** Some of the girl attendees posed for one of the many photo opportunities. **Bottom Right:** Senior Parents K. P., E. M., and J. K. dish out the grub provided at the Jam.

*Photos contributed by M. R., M. L., and A. E.*

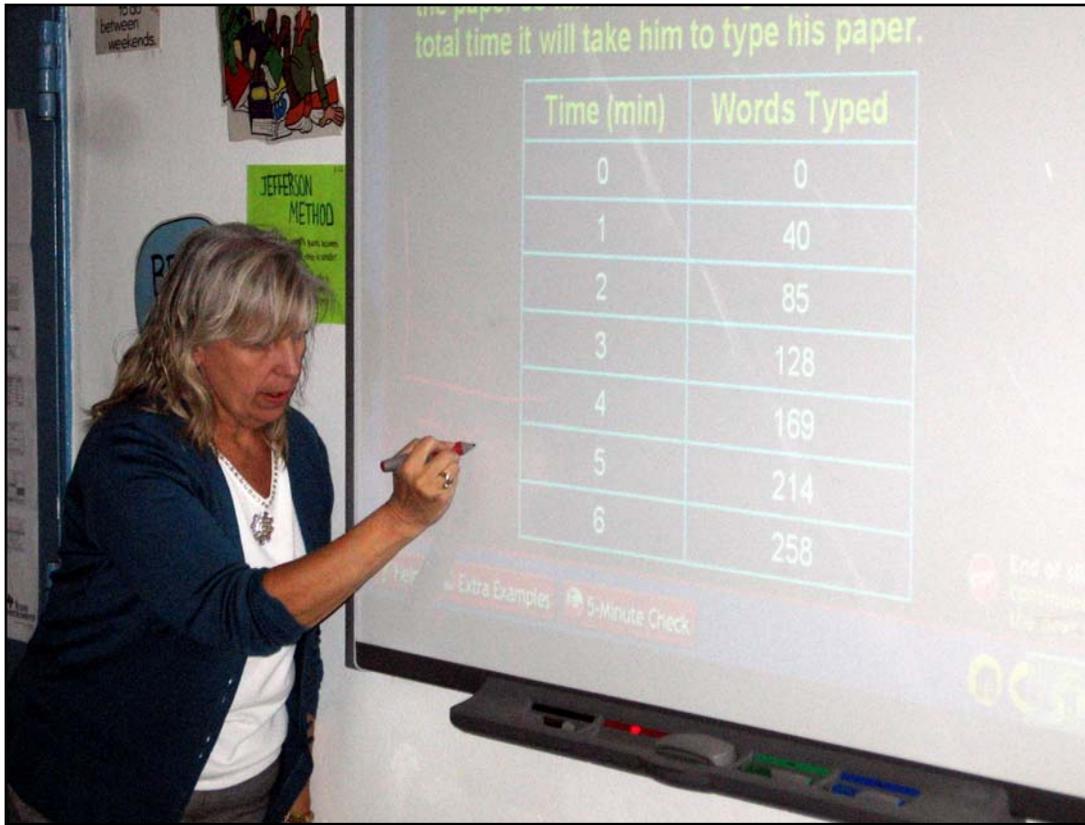


Photo by A. Calabrese

VMHS Math teacher L. A. takes advantage of SMART boards while teaching her class.

## Pride ignites in DoDDS education

By A. C.  
Cougar Scene Staff

VMHS takes pride in the quality of education its students are receiving. With the help of SMART boards, students are able to have a more organized and visual way of learning. The SMART board 680 series interactive whiteboard is a large touch-controlled screen that can be connected to a computer either wirelessly or through a USB cable and used with a projector to show what is on one's computer screen. Users can write, erase, and perform mouse functions with their finger. Whenever a tool is picked up the pen tray automatically detects which tool you have selected.

Buttons launch a pop-up on-screen keyboard in which users can type directly on the screen.

"SMART boards make a smoother interaction between teachers and students," said VMHS Education Technologist T. D. "Instead of the teacher being behind a computer teaching a lesson they are able to be in front of the classroom so there is greater student-teacher interaction."

The purpose of SMART boards is to ultimately increase the learning process of students.

"I believe it is important to increase students' learning using technology because students love it," said VMHS Italian teacher M. A.

Many believe that SMART boards make things easier.

"It's easier to learn stuff because the information is neatly displayed on the screen and it is easier to read," said sophomore S. H.

New technology is something that will encourage people to look forward to learning.

"SMART boards are more high-tech than other types of technology these days," said junior N. W. "They are more advanced and hands-on; they are better for teaching."

Many students are glad for a reason to participate in class.

"SMART boards are a great advance in technology and they are not too complicated to use," said junior R. G. "I like using SMART boards because they give us a reason to participate more in class."

### VMHS Featured Technology



VMHS students use COWs (Computers On Wheels) to do research and other work



SMART boards help the students of VMHS learn while making education fun.



Math teacher M. M. uses an Elmo to assist her while teaching students.



## The new phone ingenuity strikes

By D. M.  
Cartoonist

The Apple iPhone is the only phone of its kind and is helping bring people together worldwide. It can be used as an iPod, phone, and even a computer. It is a truly revolutionary mobile phone because it does everything wirelessly and has a touch screen.

Companies are aiming for greater heights of technology and making life easier for users worldwide. The iPhone can be used for video conferences and

other business affairs.

Some of the features of the iPhone are much like those of other electronics, except that it can do a little more than the average iPod or laptop.

It has a touch screen and it has the capability to play music, videos, and podcasts. The iPhone can also be used for its main intent, as a cellular telephone.

The current price for an iPhone is \$499.00 for 4GB and \$599.00 for 8GB. One can also trade in a cell phone of similar value and get an iPhone in return.



The new iPhone is the future generation of phones.



*Photo courtesy of G. B.*

Sergeant First Class C. W., First Sergeant J. L., Company Commander Andrew Woodard and Private First Class B. Q. assist with the floral decorations during the Veteran's Day ceremonial service in Florence on Nov. 11.

# Cadets attend Veterans' Day Ceremony

By G. M. A.  
*Cougar Scene Staff*

To the American people, Veteran's Day might be described as a day to honor and appreciate all of our service members.

To show their appreciation, this year the cadets from the 10<sup>th</sup> Cadet Battalion Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), conducted a Veterans' Day Ceremony at the Florence American Military Cemetery as part of a study trip conducted Nov. 10-11.

Cadets provided a color guard, and honor guard, presented wreaths, and read a message by the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

Overall, 17 cadets took part in the study trip. These included the Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Captain R.

W., and Cadet Second Lieutenants J. N. and D. M. The Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major Y. L. commanded the Color Guard and Cadet Corporal C. R. commanded the Honor Guard. C/CPT W. read President Bush's Veteran's Day Message to the audience.

Also participating in the ceremony were M. M., S. V., G. A., J. H., A. R., G. D., J. L., J.

R., A. W., D. C., M. M., and B. Q.. Several parents and service members participated during the ceremony, as well.

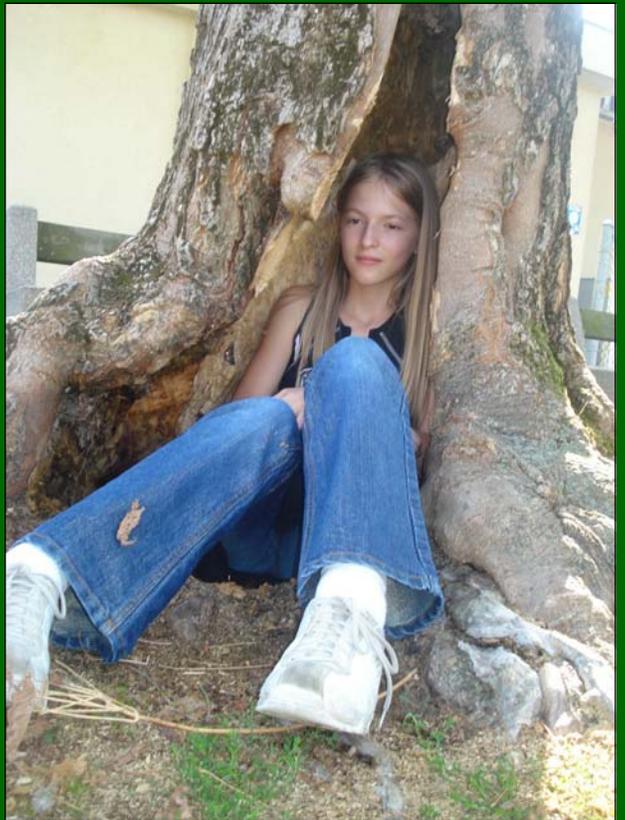
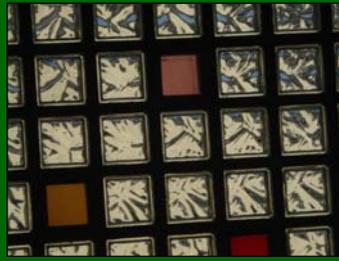
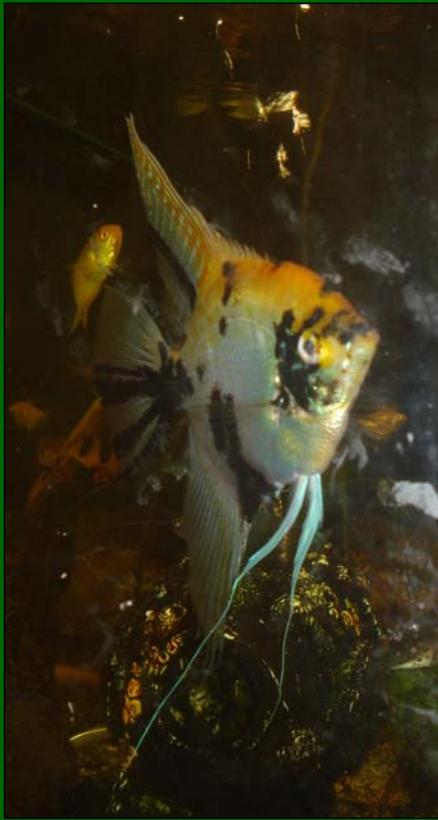
The cadets were billeted in Camp Darby on Nov. 10, and the ceremony took place the next morning at the Florence Military Cemetery. Cadets later traveled to Pisa for a cultural and educational tour.

"It was a great opportunity for the cadets to get out and experience the Italian culture while having the opportunity to spend Veterans' Day at the cemetery honoring those who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom," said C/Cpt. W..



Left: C/Sgm L. leads the Color Guard, C/Cpl A., C/2Lt. M., C/Pfc M., and C/2Lt. N., during their performance at American Cemetery in Florence.  
Right: Cadets who attended the ceremony stand at attention for a photo opportunity after the service.

*All photos by G. B.*



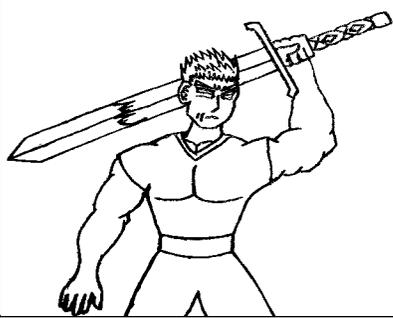
### Journalism students go on a Photo Safari

MS journalism students took artistic photos on a "Photo Safari" for their journalism photography unit. Photos include an elementary school fish, various views of VMHS (including a close up of a water fountain), and A. M. in a hollow tree.

THIS IS LORD DE MOUSESTAR HE HAS ALWAYS CAUSED TROUBLE IN THE NATION.

BUT THE TROUBLE HE CAUSED WASN'T EXACTLY THAT EVIL...

RECOUFVIC WAS ALWAYS LATE TO THE CRIME, BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP PURSUIT.



CANDY STO



Comic by D. M.

## The Knights of Vicenza

### CD Spotlight *Still Feels Good*

By C. L.  
Sports Editor

Rascal Flatts are back with their fifth album, and while *Still Feels Good* does not have the typical country influence, it won't disappoint either.

The listener can not only enjoy both an original country song with only a guitar and a good acoustic beat, but also enjoy a very nice blend of the country guitar with the mix of a positive and lively drumbeat.

The album begins with a very familiar song that most people have heard, *Take Me There*. This song has spent three weeks at the number one spot in all of Billboards Top 100 and five weeks in Billboards Top Country Music section.

The album *Still Feels Good* can be found online at any major record store, and will be available at AAFES soon.

### Book Review *Monster*

By G. C.  
Cougar Scene Staff

Jonathon Kellerman, once a clinical psychologist, has recently written the suspense crime thriller, *Monster*.

In this novel, Alex Delaware and his friend and partner Detective Milo Sturgis investigate a series of murders that resemble the crimes of a convict who is already in custody.

Chapter two starts off with the sentence, "Two corpses in car trunks." Kellerman uses sentences like this one to grasp the readers' full attention.

His expertise as a psychologist is an important factor because it gives life to his characters. Therefore, the book seems more realistic because of the actual experiences the author has faced.

As the story unfolds, the twists and turns will leave the reader asking: who is the real monster?

### Movie Review *The Simpson's Movie*

By C. L.  
Sports Editor

One of the more awaited movies this summer, *The Simpsons Movie*, finally hit theaters on July 27, 2007.

Based on the animated series *The Simpsons*, the movie was expected to be a big hit in theaters, and it did make a splash. On the opening weekend, the movie hit the U.S. Box Office big with \$182,511,152 dollars.

The movie is about Homer Simpson, who must save Springfield from a catastrophe that he created himself. All of Springfield is saved, and everyone is thankful for Homer.

The movie is a comedy that the entire family is able to enjoy, and it is rated PG-13 for crude humor throughout the movie.

The movie has an expected release date of Dec. 18.



Photo Courtesy of K. P.

Venture scout F. H., from an Italian school, prepares her own creative pizzas from a selection of toppings as a team building activity during the “scary” movie night on Nov. 1.

# Venture scouts prepare for activities

By C. R.  
Editor-in-chief

Hiking, camping, diving, paintball(ing) and go-karting— if you enjoy any of these activities then venturing is for you.

Venturing provides an opportunity for kids interested in the outdoors to engage in a variety of outdoor, indoor, and other productive events throughout the year.

To team building activities, to movie nights, bowling days, and cave exploring, members of the crew participate in these common monthly activities; however, not all events are limited to Italy.

One of the upcoming weekend long events is the Klondike Derby in Kandersteg, Switzerland at the home of the Kandersteg International Scout Center.

“I went last year and it was a

lot of fun,” said secretary C. N., sophomore. “It gives us a chance to interact with other scouts.”

Klondike Derby will run from Jan. 18-21. Another upcoming event is the Normandy Camporee in the spring.

“This event consists of cleaning up the Normandy beaches where D-day occurred,” said crew president S. P., senior.

This event will take place over Memorial Day weekend in 2008.

Members of the community ages 14-21 are encouraged to join and participate in the Venture Scouts activities. The crew three members meet once a week on Tuesdays from 16:30 - 17:30 at building 350 by the teen center or by the benches in front of the high school. For more information contact Price at sam.price@us.army.mil.



Top: Scouts S. P. and C. R. set up a tent during a camping trip. Bottom right: Venture Treasurer D. “Doormat” K. explores one of the caves on a hike in Luminagno. Bottom left: Venturing adviser Mike Morris from YS shows off his monkey skills by climbing a tree.



## Venture Cabinet



S. P.  
President



C. R.  
VP of Programs



C. N.  
Secretary



D. K.  
Treasurer

*A Cabinet is elected every year. Each member of the cabinet is responsible for what his or her job entails. The crew three cabinet is also responsible for organizing and participating in Venturing activities throughout the year.*