**Women's Soccer Kicks Off Season**

With new players, a new JV coach, and new strategies, the women's soccer team starts off its season.

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**Private Schools vs. Public Schools**

Find out what two Norrix students discovered about the differences between Kalamazoo Christian and Loy Norrix.

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**Project GRO**

Learn about what it's like to be an international student at WMU and what life is like in their countries of origin.

*INSERT*


# Knight Life

The Voice of Loy Norrix High School

Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo MI 49001 — Volume 48 / Issue 5 / April, 2008


## NEWS BRIEFS

### WMU Aviation Open House

WMU's College of Aviation is having an open house this week from 10 a.m. to noon. The campus, located in Battle Creek at the W.K. Kellogg Airport, is encouraging attendance from local high school students. The open house will include speeches and presentations by members of the financial aid staff and other college faculty. It will also include a guided tour and a question and answer session. For more information students can reach Marnie Harris at marnique.harris@wmich.edu or (269) 964-9319.

### Man Faces Prison for Iguana Smuggling

Jereme James from Long Beach was acquitted of smuggling iguanas in his hollow, prosthetic leg on April 11. Although acquitted on smuggling charges, he was found guilty of keeping and concealing Fiji island banded iguanas, an endangered species. He has admitted to selling three iguanas for $32,000, and a search of his house found four more iguanas. He now faces a maximum possible sentence of 20 years in prison.

### No New Curse for The Yankees

A worker's attempt to jynx the new Yankee stadium was foiled when Red Sox player David Ortiz's jersey was removed from the ground on Sunday, April 13th. With the jynx removed, construction on the new stadium can now be completed.

### Jay Z and Beyonce Finally Married

The couple tied the knot at Jay Z's Tribeca penthouse apartment located in New York City. It was supposed to be a private wedding, but the details spilled out to the public during the weekend. The wedding took place on Friday, April 4th. It is said that about 50 to 60 thousand orchid blooms were flown in from Thailand for the wedding.

# PeaceJam Members Read Their Way to Change

**Elizabeth Houghton**
Business Manager

On a Friday afternoon while most students are getting ready to leave school and start their weekend, a group of students from the Loy Norrix Peace Jam, headed by teacher Sveri May, travel to Edison Elementary. Waiting for the Peace Jam students at the school are a group of fourth graders ready to improve their reading skills with help from the high school students participating in the Edison Literacy Project.

"From a high school standpoint, it's helping them to give back to their own community and school district," May said.

Peace Jam is an international organization that focuses on making positive changes around the world with small steps. LN Peace Jam has done many global and local projects, all with the purpose to make a difference. LN Peace Jam makes local changes a primary goal by working to aid people in the school district and community.

"There are needs in our own district that we need to adhere to," May said.

Some past Peace Jam projects include: collecting shoes, soap and shirts for homeless shelters, collecting and sending medical supplies, books, CDs and DVDs to Afghanistan and Iraq, ringing bells to raise money for the Salvation Army and sponsoring the Pumpkin Painting Party which spreads cheer to around forty-five local agencies.

The Edison Literacy Project has been a work in progress for many years and is finally happening. The project parallels Peace Jam's purpose because it is about making a positive change in the kids' lives, a task Peace Jam students are eager to help with.

The purpose of the project is to increase the literacy rate of the fourth graders at Edison. Peace Jam students hope to help the kids become better readers by improving their comprehension and word pronunciation, but most of all they hope to show the kids that reading can be fun.

May said that she would like the Edison students to, "have fun, using reading as the vehicle to get there."

On Wednesday mornings from 7:00-7:30 Peace Jam students are coached on reading techniques and ways to spark conversation about reading by literacy coach Nancy Lechota and Sveri May.

Sitting in May's classroom early in the morning, the students smile and have fun while practicing their reading skills with partners, bringing them back to their elementary school days.

SVERI MAY / GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

**Freshman Marissa Wilson reads with her fourth grade reading partner on a Friday afternoon in Edison's library. Students from the LN Peace Jam worked with fourth graders to help increase their reading skills.**

Peace Jam students enjoy reading with the kids and learning about their personal reading styles. "It's cool to see what their reading levels are like," said junior Claire Dandois.

There are three reading techniques Peace Jam students are taught. Partner reading is where you take turns reading and summarizing. Choral reading is where you read at the same time, and echo reading is where one person reads aloud and then the other person will follow by reading aloud the same part. These techniques are meant to improve the kids reading abilities. Peace Jam students are also taught how to help improve comprehension, which can be done with questions and discussion.

The students travel to Edison Elementary February 22nd, 29th, March 7th and 14th to read to the kids and March 24th is the book fair. The book fair is for all Edison students. During the book fair each kid can choose one book to take home. New or used books are donated to Peace Jam who collects and sorts the books based on grade level. So far they have collected over 1,400 books and still have more coming in.

At Edison Elementary, Peace Jam students are paired with one or two fourth graders who are at the same reading level. The students spend 30-35 minutes with the Edison fourth graders using the reading techniques they learned. They work to engage the kids in reading, asking questions that require the kids to really think about what they have read.

"[The project] gives our students the opportunity to talk with someone they can look up to and just hang out," Principal of Edison Chuck Tansey said.

May, Lechota and Peace Jam students say that they are already seeing a positive change taking place. The Edison students are eager to learn and excited to have high school students helping them, as any kids would be.

"I really, really like when Sam [her partner] comes to read," said fourth grader Taija Campbell, "before she came I was having trouble reading."

The kids look forward to the time they get to spend with their high school partners.

"Even after just one time, my student said that she wished everyday was Friday," Dandois said with a smile.

The goal of this project is to help the kids become more efficient readers. This project gives them the opportunity to excel in their reading and see that higher reading levels are attainable.

"It gives them a better point of view," said Dandois, showing what their reading can become.

The Peace Jam students and fourth graders are really enjoying this project, as they see a difference being made in a fun way.

"They help us read and get better," fourth grader Char'Quon Barrett said, "its fun."

Peace Jam students are not just role models for these kids, they are teachers. The goal of the project is change, and Peace Jam students are surely making a difference with small steps that are leaving big prints.

SVERI MAY / GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

**Junior Claire Moyet has fourth graders from Edison swarming around her eager to learn and increase their reading skills.**

### Peace Jam Donations

- New or used elementary school level books (K - 6th grade)
  - Over 1,400 books have been collected so far
- Shoes, soap, shirts
- Medical supplies, books, CDs and DVDs (Afghanistan and Iraq)

Send donations to Sveri May's room

**M-10**

337-0220 ext. 2301
MaySS@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

# A Matter of Security

**Jason Koole**
Staff Writer

Security in Loy Norrix High School may not be an issue for some teachers and students, but for others it is. In the school students often cause disruptions and fights that are harmful to an otherwise healthy educational society. Sometimes it is just not possible to catch the student that started the ruckus.

The library at LN has been a place where troublesome students hang out and disrupt other students, as well as a place where many students skip class. Also with two entrances, the library staff is not always able to notice a student or group of students entering the library unauthorized.

"The lack of security is kids not being where they're supposed to be," said Pam Landis, a library assistant at LN.

"If we had cameras, then not knowing who pulled the fire alarm, or who is entering the library would not be a problem," Landis said.

The school loses property from the lack of security as well. At times students are able to get away with stealing. Landis also said. "Last year we had a student steal a computer, but it wasn't under my watch."

Students being able to do things like entering the library unauthorized represents a lack of authority on the school's part. The security guards can only do so much to prevent inappropriate behavior. Additional security at school could also help prevent these altercations.

"I think kids would be more aware," said Loy Norrix Principal David LaPrairie about the effect adding security cameras would have on students. "The cameras will be able to pan and zoom, some will be motion activated and we will also have no problem telling students where the cameras are located."

Some students believe that the original security cameras have never even worked in the first place, and many others just don't generally care.

"There will be security cameras outside," said Principal LaPrairie. "The cameras will be strategically placed where students are at, for safety reasons. I would want to share with everybody that we have no problems telling students where the security cameras are. No tricks involved."

Although security cameras will be placed in most places that students gather, they will not be placed in classrooms.

There is the idea that the cameras will allow students to consciously make better decisions on what they are doing, compared to the students' original idea that security cameras never worked. If the student body knows these cameras work, they will make better choices.

David LaPrairie believes the same. When comparing the new cameras to the old ones, he said, "Surveillance will be 24 hours, so if there was a break-in after hours they [the cameras] will be able to pick up the motion. Basically the cameras are new and improved."

Needless to say that the cameras are necessary for the halls and the library, but how do teachers feel about it?

"I do believe that security is a problem since we have so many windows and doors," said Katherine Williamson, an English teacher at Loy Norrix High School. "Generally I think that most of the students are well-behaved and respectful. There are a few students who are disrespectful."

Security cameras being placed in the school may help deter crime, but what about the classrooms?

See **SECURITY** page 2

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Super Saturday**

Come support our spring sport athletes all day on April 19.

GO KNIGHTS!

**"The Royal Ball"**

Junior & Senior Prom
May 10 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Tickets available from Ms. Young starting April 28

**IGNITE**

The last mentor to mentee time is Thursday May 8 from 9:10 - 9:40

**AP Exams**

| | |
|---|---|
| Biology: | May 12 (a.m.) |
| Calculus: | May 7 (a.m) |
| Chemistry: | May 13 (a.m.) |
| English Lit: | May 8 (a.m.) |
| European History: | May 9 (p.m.) |
| Physics: | May 12 (p.m.) |
| U.S. History: | May 9 (a.m.) |