

Interoffice Memo

The Glenbrook High Schools

To: Dr. Mike Riggle

Fm: Diane Freeman

Re: Students and Staff Who Excel

Date: April 13, 2009

The Glenbrook North 12th Annual Diversity Week was held March 3-6. A committee comprised of staff and students plan Diversity Week each year. The week attempts to build awareness and understanding of the many ways people can be different and how understanding and tolerance create a culture of inclusion. Many student groups/clubs plan events as well as the committee. Events ranged from Two Faiths, a panel discussion planned collaboratively by the Jewish Learning Club and the Muslim Learning Club, a Fashion Show by Indo-Pak, India and Pakistan, to international folk dancing to the North Korean crisis. Annually, the TLS basketball game is played, which this year pitted GBN against GBS. With the GBN band playing, the cheerleaders and poms cheering and a fairly full main gym, the game ended in a heartwarming tie.

The overall theme of the Week was “How has technology impacted Diversity.” GBN debaters grappled with the question of whether or not the Internet facilitates cultural literacy among American high school students. Although the arguments were well presented on both sides, GBN’s digital natives overwhelming (85-14) voted “yes,” the Internet facilitates cultural literacy. For the first time, the opening assembly featured Digital Storytelling. A compelling 3.5 minute digital story from the Assembly will be shown, which will also provide an opportunity for the Board to learn about digital storytelling.

Although the opening assembly is a school-wide event, followed by school-wide class discussions, most presentations were held during lunch periods when students could attend according to their time and interests. Some presentations were also attended by history and other classes. Response to the week’s event was unusually positive and favorable. Members of the diversity committee, students and staff, chairperson Kimberly Fisher, and technologist Stephanie Bitter, who facilitated the digital storytelling, will be on hand to discuss the impact of the week.