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# S.L.A.Y the New Year at ITM

By Ciara Irizarry

Ingram Tom Moore High School is a school with a proud dedication to the community. To further this community, ITM admin staff work together to create a motto every year to help connect with their students. Each year a motto is created to both motivate and bring the students closer together. When creating a motto, ITM Principal, Mr. Critt stated, "We want something catchy that the students can relate to too". Mr. Critt concluded using S.L.A.Y when he had heard students using it frequently and figured he could use this to his advantage. The use of a school motto gives the students a unifying element within their school. But, how does the motto S.L.A.Y help motivate and unify students?

The S of S.L.A.Y represents service. This section of Slay is a representation of the sophomores of our school. Service is the duties we have as students and how we, daily, can improve the image of our school. When talking with sophomores I got a range of responses about their goals, their service, and what S.L.A.Y means to them. For example, according to sophomore Alyssa Wyatt, "My service towards Ingram is being a dedicated cheer manager," along fellow sophomore student Jazmyn Trujillo stated "My service is to just continue being a dedicated student and cheerleader for our school."



Following this, when asking what S.L.A.Y meant to Alyssa Wyatt, she responded, "It's an acronym for things I follow during the school year, S standing for students, and so on." However, there are different thoughts on the creation and meaning of S.L.A.Y from some senior students. The L section of S.L.A.Y meaning legacy, is what could be related to the seniors and what the seniors wish to leave behind in remembrance of their time at Ingram.

Senior student Elijah Ozuna seems to have a slightly different perspective on the legacy he wishes to leave behind, "I think a legacy of good character matters more than achievements. I am not a star athlete or student, but I'm a friend you can trust."

However, Katelyn Clark, a fellow senior at ITM stated, "I hope to be remembered for being nice but mainly a hard-working and dedicated student, I love nursing and I hope I've shown that". Following this, when asking about S.L.A.Y, Elijah commented "I think it's a weird way to convey a more serious message," which is a slightly different look at it compared to most students.

Following the seniors are the juniors of ITM, who are represented by the A portion of S.L.A.Y. The A within slay means attitude, and how their attitude as juniors, who are nearly done with school, affects them and their school life. Junior year is the hardest year because of all the expectations and preparations a student goes through to be prepared for senior year and college"

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# S.L.A.Y cont.

By Ciara Irizarry

Following the seniors are the juniors of ITM, who are represented by the A portion of S.L.A.Y. The A within slay means attitude, and how their attitude as juniors, who are nearly done with school, affects them and their school life. Junior year is the hardest year because of all the expectations and preparations a student goes through to be prepared for senior year and college.

Another junior, Madelyn Eddie, stated "I just try to stay focused on my end goals and communicate well with my teacher, it helps keep me motivated, having support and envisioning me with my end goal". When asked about S.L.A.Y, both Violet and Madelyn stated that S.L.A.Y worked as a way to remind them to keep their attitude on the right path. "It's a nice reminder of how my attitude can affect me and my work," says Madelyn Eddie.

Finally comes the Y of S.L.A.Y which represents the freshman of ITM, who are the foundation for the future of ITM. The Y means you, meaning where do freshmen believe they stand in Ingram and what are their goals by the end of the year? Freshman, Victor Caral, said "I want to work toward being an outstanding student and even working towards varsity."

Along with this fellow freshman Izabella Aleman stated, "I want to work to build my impact by continuing to focus on my good grades and being a good student." When asked about S.L.A.Y, Izabella responded, "It's a reminder to focus on me and my goals".

The mottos created every year are a great way for staff and students to unify and understand each other. S.L.A.Y shows that the staff and principal of Ingram Tom Moore High School care about their students and want them to stay motivated toward their goals.

## Returning to Ingram

By Layla Deluca



Ms. Foster is the Algebra One and ACT prep teacher for this academic year.

She chose teaching as her profession because she wanted to make a positive impact on students' academic and personal lives, striving for a meaningful and helpful role in their education. Interestingly, her least favorite subject in school used to be history, mainly due to her difficulty in remembering dates.

However, she discovered a passion for math and finds it enjoyable. In her experience with teaching math, she's noticed that many students encounter challenges in the learning process, particularly when it comes to finding the most effective teaching method for each student, especially when dealing with the same concept.

In her leisure hours, Ms. Foster enjoys playing softball and volleyball in her free time. An interesting detail about her is that she once dressed up as a teacher for her first career day event.

## New AVID teacher at ITM

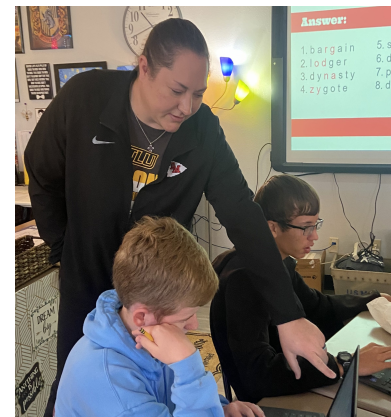
By Layla Deluca

Coach Bigott is one of the new volleyball and basketball coaches of this year. Her passion for coaching came from previous coaches who nurtured and instilled a deep love for the sports, and now she plans to impact our school by inspiring the students here.

One of the challenges she faces when she coaches is the current work ethic that many students exhibit because they believe that they should be rewarded instead of putting in the necessary effort.

Instead of leading them with that mindset, she plans to prove to them and our team by teaching them life lessons such as "dedication, teamwork, and hard work."

Outside of coaching, she indulges in her love for travel. She has explored various countries, including Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Spain, and others. Notably, she used to run a photography company, but due to her coaching commitments, and family responsibilities, she had to close down her photography business.



## Teens Texting and Driving

By Courtney Woolls



Young adults and teenagers everywhere have one thing in common: their constant usage of cell phones. To some, their phone may just be a form of communication, but to others it becomes the reason for a fatality. The common sense to put the phone away and wait until the destination is reached is lost on a lot of teen drivers. Texting while driving has become a very common reason for car accidents. Whether these accidents are as simple as a fender bender, or something as fatal as a pile up, the driver behind the wheel was unnecessarily distracted.

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# Football Tackles District Undefeated

By staff reporter



The ITM football team is starting out the season with a 4-0 record after some 4th quarter comebacks. Coach Hinton, offensive coordinator “We have accomplished what we set out to do and have been successful in the non district part of the season. We are carrying a lot of confidence into the district and have found out who we are as a team.”

The Varsity team has had some impressive wins which have led to Kye Hightower and Zeph Priddy hyping up the crowd and bringing the energy. Senior, Priddy says “The start of the season is very positive, it is more of a family now and we have a good relationship as a team. There is a lot of emotion in the locker room.”

The Warriors play San Antonio Cole high school on October 29th and the Luling Eagles for homecoming on October 6th.

## “Set” up for Success

By staff reporter

The Lady Warrior volleyball team has a 16-11 record for preseason. They have had impressive sweeps against schools such as Harper (3-0), Marion (3-0), Incarnate Word (2-0) and Fredericksburg (3-0). Coach Errington wants the team to think of the season in 3 parts, pre season, district, and post season playoffs. As of right now, with district starting on Tuesday, September 19th, the team stands at 0-0.

Senior, Kiley Goodman, stated “I think we have put in the word that needed to happen to prepare for district and be successful. We have gotten better every practice and have learned how to work better as a team. We are prepared and ready!”

With Comfort being the first district game of the season, Maddison McClintock, a senior, said “It is bittersweet to start my last district season, I think we have a good shot at playoffs this year and it’s fun to do that with a team that I love.”

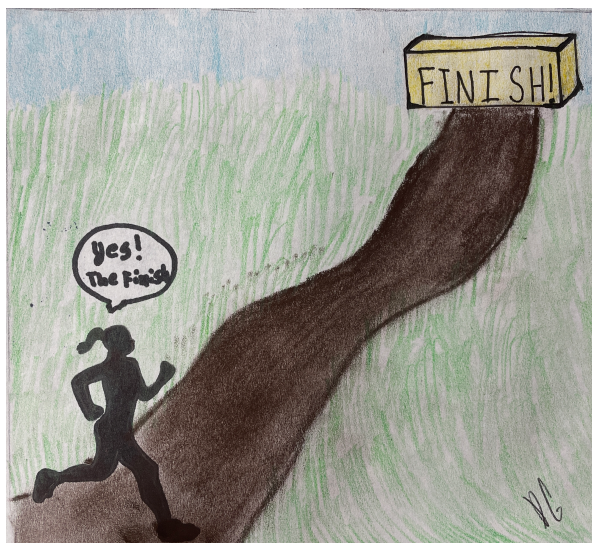
The Lady Warriors dominated Comfort winning in 3 sets. District standing 1-0.



## Unstoppable Steps

By staff reporter

The Warrior cross country team has started out strong and the team is looking forward to district. Senior, Luke Wrase placed 3rd place on Saturday September 16th, running a 16:45 for a 5K. He feels “confident that the team will go to regionals” and he is “confident that he will go to state this year.” Varsity girls finished first place with freshman Lily Rumbo finishing first and Varsity boys second place overall with six team members placing.



# Coach Errington Joins the Team

By Layla Deluca

Another new addition to our school is Coach Errington, who serves as the head volleyball coach.

His coaching journey was driven by wanting to help young people discover their passions and assist them in overcoming the challenges of their favorite sport.

One of the primary issues he encounters while coaching is that players often prioritize individual performance over teamwork. According to Coach Errington, he is confident that our volleyball team has made significant improvements, so he intends to focus on enhancing their collective skills.

Outside of the court, he is a sports enthusiast, he enjoys watching and playing various sports. Additionally, he likes to travel with his family, with Gatlinburg, Tennessee, being his favorite destination.

An interesting fact about him is that he has reached level 10,563 out of the 14,870 levels of Candy Crush. Thankfully, if he catches up to all the levels there are still 10,030 levels of soda saga.

Anyone think they can beat his Candy Crush score?



Cartoon by Daniela Guevara



# Island Ablaze

By Madison Collins

Maui, Hawaii - In recent weeks, the picturesque island of Maui has been ravaged by a series of devastating wildfires, leaving communities in distress. While the island's residents unite to combat the blazes and aid one another, there's growing concern over the level of federal support received compared to other global issues.

The Maui fires, which erupted in late summer, have posed significant challenges for local authorities and firefighters. Dry conditions and strong winds have exacerbated the situation, making containment efforts arduous. Homes have been destroyed, and thousands of acres of lush landscapes turned to ash.

Amid the turmoil, some residents have expressed frustration at what they perceive as an inadequate federal response. Comparisons have been drawn to the considerable financial aid allocated to international matters, such as the situation in Ukraine, as opposed to the support provided to families affected by the Maui fires.

While it's crucial to note that the allocation of federal resources involves complex decision-making processes, the perception of disparity has fueled conversations about disaster relief and government priorities. President Biden's administration has indeed committed substantial financial aid to foreign nations, including Ukraine, to address pressing issues.

While supporting other nations in current distress is important, I also believe that United States citizens should be a priority. If we cannot take care of ourselves, how can we possibly assist other countries? The U.S. government has sent billions to Ukraine in the last 2 years, with good intentions of course. I believe most people would not disagree with the U.S. assisting another country that opposes Russia.

However, the government can only spend roughly 700 dollars for each family affected by the fires in Maui.

This isn't only unacceptable, it's appalling. Especially considering the history the U.S. has had with Hawaii. Hundreds of people had to swim into the ocean to escape the wild flames. Many roads were blocked off by authorities to ensure fewer people were in harm's way, which caused people to take the ocean route. Yet, federally, we barely give them enough money to start over with or move their entire lives.

Local communities in Maui have demonstrated resilience and solidarity in the face of this disaster. Neighbors are helping each other, and volunteers are assisting first responders. But, these cannot be the only ones helping, 49 other states could be assisting them in even the smallest of ways. With climate a popular current issue, one would believe more people would be trying to help aid in this disaster.

As the Maui fires continue to be battled, discussions about disaster relief funding and federal priorities are expected to persist. I believe it's the perfect reminder that communities need support during their times of need, and that support is a complex matter that requires ongoing attention and consideration from all levels of government. I do not believe it looks good to be ready to help save the world like our own citizens go down in flames.

I hope not only do the people of Hawaii come back from this. But this horrible event became the breaking point for the government to look at its citizens and act on something. From shootings to railroad disasters, they haven't gone the extra mile to solve, let alone address these issues.



## Texting and Driving cont.

By Courtney Woolls

There is a group of people who inhabit the roads that see no issue with being completely immersed in their phone while operating a motor vehicle. Driving past them and seeing them take selfies or record videos are just small glimpses into their inattentive nature. What these people don't see is the danger they are not only putting themselves in, but the drivers around them. Taking your eyes off the road for a split second can result in you missing simple things such as an animal crossing or a yield sign; however, much more serious threats can arise, like a stop sign or a car quickly braking. All of these simple things paired with an inattentive, distracted driver, can result in a fatal car accident.

The question at hand is, why are the dangers of texting and driving not being spoken about? Entire seminars were put together to speak on the dangers of driving intoxicated. Student drivers are asked to view a video about the potential aftermath of drinking and driving, before receiving their license. The issue of texting and driving could easily be spoken about within those presentations. These terrifying fatal accidents could be easily prevented with simple educating.

Many apps have jumped in to help resolve this issue. For example, Spotify has created a car mode. This mode essentially limits all app functions, and allows drivers to remain completely focused while playing music in their vehicle. Many car companies have also tried to resolve this issue with hands free features in their cars, forcing drivers to limit all screen functions while in motion. If these multi million dollar companies can see a growing issue, why have schools and other public services not taken action to speak out and educate young people about this topic.

Everyday, thousands of fatal car crashes occur, and many can be stopped if we just work to put an end to texting and driving. Young drivers need to be educated on this topic, to help make our roads safer. We must all work together, to end the rise of texting while driving.