



HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL

Academics & Activities

Mr. Keith Anderson and the Community Relations Committee conducted a stirring assembly titled *Inspired By Our Past – Committed To Our Future*. The program included speeches from Illinois' 15th District Senator Napoleon Harris, minister, community activist and cousin of Emmet Teal the Reverend Wheeler Parker Jr., and Village of Hazel Crest President Vernard Alsberry Jr. In addition to the speakers, the program included a tribute to Maya Angelou, Andrae Crouch and Michael Jackson. The tribute to Michael Jackson was performed by Hillcrest junior Everett Little. Music was provided by the Hillcrest Choir, Band and an awesome Jazz Group consisting of Hillcrest staff members Keith Anderson, Ocie Booker, Cornelius Crossley and Michael Shehan.

Hillcrest has been quite busy participating in SSC Events (South Suburban Conference). Student Council members and the National Honor Society leaders traveled to Evergreen Park High School to participate in team building activities as part of the SSC Student Leadership Workshop. The students were joined by leaders from 12 other SSC schools. The groups discussed current issues in their schools and enjoyed sharing positive events occurring at their schools. Students were able to collaborate on skit writing and the portrayal of school issues. The skits dealt with bullying, sexual harassment, drop-outs, homelessness, lack of participation, race issues, vandalism, exclusion of underclassman, and empathy for education. To add to the busy day, students watched a moving motivational presentation on "Being the Catalyst for Change" by Scott Backovich. The day culminated with a discussion on the reasons why high school students do not participate in their schools and the leaders provided ways to increase participation in school events.

In additional SSC news, seven Hillcrest High School Band members were selected to participate in the Annual South Suburban Conference (SSC) Music Festival. The event invites students from across the Conference to be recognized as the best amongst their peers. The students had the unique opportunity to work with Dr. Peter Griffin, Music Department Chair and professor of Music at Elmhurst College. The representatives were: Ava Grandberry, Angela Guyton, Karly Kos, Jarryal Montique, Kevin Moore, Alexis Simmons and Autumn Smith.

The Step Team displayed their talents at the *Stomp the Hill* step show, held at Hillcrest High School. The event drew a large crowd. Teams from various schools competed. Bremen High School won the contest. This event is held by the Hillcrest Parent-Principal Advisory and the proceeds support the PPA Scholarships.

Business Professionals of America (BPA) students recently competed at the State competition in Oak Brook. At the State event, students were able to attend leadership activities, compete in over three dozen business related contests, and network with

other BPA students from around the state. Senior Kennedy Warfield competed in Graphic Design Promotion and Desktop Publishing; Junior Atia Taylor competed in Human Resources Skills and Advanced Interview Skills; and Sophomore Kyra East competed in Management Marketing, Human Resources, and Financial Math and Analysis Open events.

The Mock Trial Team competed in the Cook County Circuit Court 6th Municipal District's annual Mock Trial competition at the Markham Courthouse. The students reviewed the case *People v. Jones* which dealt with charges of home invasion and aggravated battery. During their first round, attorneys Darlena York and Japhe Jelks defended the accused defendant *Casey Jones* played by Darnell Gilton. Moriam Yarrow was the expert witness. Taylor Winbush functioned as the timer. In the second round, Tondalaha Davis and Akiyah Lee prosecuted the case with victim *Kelly Morgan* played by Danielle Jenson. Eniola Awoniyi served as the detective. Delvonte Brame functioned as the timer. The Hillcrest team won Fourth Place out of 12 teams that the presented cases. Tondalaha Davis won outstanding attorney among 50 attorneys that tried the case.

The HAWKS program recently partnered with Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center's WIA (Workforce Investment Act) program. WIA provides opportunities to teach our youth skills that are essential to achieve success in both the academic and professional arenas. In addition to providing employment services, the program provides tutoring, studying skills, pre-employment skills development, paid work experience, comprehensive counseling and summer employment.

Athletics

March Madness is upon us! Hillcrest hosted the Boys 3A Regional and defeated Oak Forest for the Regional Championship 53-44. It was a great atmosphere for basketball as the stands were packed and great sportsmanship was demonstrated by both players, coaches and spectators. Hillcrest defeated Rich East at the Rich East Sectional Semi-Finals on March 11 by a score of 78-63 and also defeated Lincoln-Way West for the Sectional Championship. The Hawks move on to the Joliet Central Super-Sectional on March 17.

Congratulations to Taylor Adway, DeAngelo Isby, Cornelius McIntosh and Myles McCoy for earning All-Conference Honors in Boys' Basketball. The Varsity boys were perfect 13-0 in Conference play and won their 27th consecutive Conference Championship. Taylor Adway was named the South Suburban Blue Division Player of the Year. Congratulations are also extended to Mr. Don Houston, Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach and Jake Mooney, Wrestling Head Coach, for earning the Sportsmanship Award in the SSC Blue Division.