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Chloe Smith was one of the senior girls who decorated their bags with their 'coronavirus' name.



International student Baoteng 'Lucas' Li hurries to the front of the library to draw the name of his prom date.

A Tradition You Can Count On

Aquin Holds Prom Draw



Junior Connor Senneff gets down on one knee to ask his date, senior Ashley Lamm, to go to prom with him.

It is a tradition that dates back nearly to the Spanish Flu pandemic, students at Aquin Central Catholic High School in Freeport drew their prom dates on March 23.

The elaborate event involves costumes, skits and "formal" requests to attend prom. Last year, the prom draw was conducted via Zoom and the prom turned into a day of socially-distanced volunteer activities called Bulldog Blessings.

The Aquin mascot is a bulldog.

This year, the masked students got together in person for the familiar routine.

Girls traditionally "dress down," hiding beneath blankets and paper bag masks for part of the draw.

Guy's are the ones who pull out the stops with costumes and skits.

On May 7, the students will have a group photo-taking event before dinner together and then come back to the school for the usual post-prom-type games and fun in fancy-dresses and tuxes.

There just won't be any dancing.

— Sharon Boehlefeld, features editor



(Photos provided/Laura Diemer)

Aquin history teacher Dale Gabel emcees the prom draw in the library. Junior Connor Senneff (in lab coat) waits to hear the name he drew.



Senior Aidan Curry (right) drew senior Leah Wilhelms as his prom date.



Chase McDermott on trumpet and Aiden Gassman on accordion hope the musical talents they showed off in their skit will impress their prom dates.



(Photos provided)

Happy to be "Together at Last," students at St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin pose near a welcome sign in front of the school. Junior boys standing behind the sign are (from left) Will Diamond, Max Kaufman, Jeric Cacal, Matt Novelli, Jake Breier and



Connor Weydert. Cheerleaders pointing to the sign on their left are (from left) senior Anna Draftz and juniors Kailey Treiber and Kate Draftz. The first day of in-person classes was March 29.

Reunion Hijinks Hit St. Edward CCHS

ELGIN—March 29 was unlike any other Monday students at St. Edward Central Catholic High School here have experienced during the 2020-21

school year. The complete normalcy of students rushing to classes before the 8:12 a.m. bell rang escaped no one.

The hill on Crosby Street was lined with cars. The student parking lot was filled.

The hallways were alive with chatter. The classrooms were

occupied with students engaged in full-time, in-person learning.

The hustling and bustling foot traffic ended 381 long days since the entire student body was last in the school building together.

But by April 1, they were ready to make some fun.

The mischievous nature of a few students and faculty emerged on April Fools' Day. The result? A school day filled with playful pranks and lots of laughs.

The shenanigans started with senior Nathan Mesina declaring during morning announcements that the school administration would be celebrating students' return to full-time, in-person learning with a day off on April 17 — a Saturday.

Teacher Megan Schmidt distributed an "F" schedule, as in

"fake," to her first hour students. Some were completely taken aback by a one-hour fourth period and an 18-minute passing period.

She kept the pranks going by inviting Assistant to the Athletic Director Mike Aydt to practice teaching seniors English "prior to his joining the English department for the 2021-22 school year."

Even Assistant Principal AnnMarie Woj-Dufelmeier, a 1998 St. Ed graduate, got in on the act by asking students in publications to write new articles meant to replace April Fool's Day content, which you can now read in this latest edition of the student newspaper *The Edge*. Read them at www.stewardedge.com.

— Michelle Kaufman



(Photo provided)

Teacher Megan Schmidt shows students her "F" schedule on April Fools Day at St. Edward CCHS.



(Photo provided)

St. Ed Scholastic Bowl Team Makes Regional Finals

This year St. Edward Central Catholic High School scholastic bowl team, coached by Jason Briski, made it to the final round of regional competition in the Illinois High School Association class 1A contest for the first time ever. The St. Ed team defeated DePaul Catholic Prep (530 - 170) and Elgin Academy (370 - 340) before falling to Timothy Christian in this final round. Team members are (from left, front) Danny Schuck, Joshua Schelonka, Ethan Wagh, (back) Jeremy Roldan, Joshua Roldan, Andrew Stapay, Ethan Olson, Evan Wagh, (not pictured) Raymond Alvaro, Louis Banet and Alissa Hill.

Don't Miss Bishop Malloy's TV Messages

TOP O' THE MORNING WITH BISHOP MALLOY

Weekday Reflection (about 6:58 a.m.)

on WREX-TV, Channel 13, Rockford or online at <https://www.rockforddiocese.org/>

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