



MRGO— Going, Going, Gone? By Caroline Hall CHS '10

No one can forget the disastrous consequences of Hurricane Katrina's tidal surge on St. Bernard Parish. A major factor in the inundation of Chalmette and lower St. Bernard was the shipping channel known as the MRGO.

The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet is a man-made channel; it is the connection between the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway that allows easier access for deep draft vessels to our city of New Orleans. The Outlet's surface width is 650 feet, and the bottom width is 500 feet. The MRGO is 36 feet deep, and it is a gigantic 76 miles long.

Approved by congress in 1956, the MRGO didn't truly start until 1958. The canal that would eventually ruin homes all across the New Orleans area cost a staggering \$92 million to build. Maintenance costs associated with this waterway include \$22.1 million per year for dredging, or \$12,657 per day for each deep draft vessel.

The MRGO impacts St. Bernard Parish in many ways. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates the parish has lost nearly 1,500 acres of cypress swamps and levee forest, over 10,300 acres of brackish marsh, 3,400 acres of freshwater marsh, and 4,200 acres of saline marsh as a direct

consequence of the MRGO. The lost scenery is not the only problem Louisiana faces with MRGO; the lack of land is allowing an increase of flooding risk. Soil erosion is also a major problem. MRGO also causes shifts in wildlife habitat due to increased salinity.

History was made December 16, 2008. The Army Corps of Engineers gave a contractor permission to proceed with construction of the dam to close the MRGO. The structure, which is being built by Pine Bluff Construction, will cost \$13.6 million. It will be 950 feet long. This massive structure will require more than 430,000 tons of rocks at

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Cheerleaders win National Championship

By Katy Swafford, CHS '11

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Chalmette students have a great reason to cheer this semester—a national championship for our cheerleading squad! The National Cheerleaders Association Sunshine Classic was held on January 17, 2009 in Kissimmee, Florida at the Silver Spurs Arena. After winning first place in the Large Varsity division of the regional "Mardi Gras Events" competition,

the team set their sights on their next goal-- Nationals.

The team left for Florida January 13 with Mrs. Licciardi and Ms. Watson, the team sponsors, ready to represent their school. The cheerleaders practiced hard perfecting the routine, but unfortunately Anna Evans hurt her ankle during a stunt. Katy Swafford, the alternate, then learned the routine for nationals.

"She was nervous that she would mess up and ruin the team's chances of winning," said her mom.

Led by Captain Jene Gioe, the cheerleaders did their best and wowed the judges, winning 1st place in the Large Varsity High School division, beating Florida's Wolves, who won 2nd place. Anna Evans said of the Wolves, "The other team was good and they looked like they

MRGO Closure cont.

Bayou La Loutre. The closure will be 12 feet wide at the top and 450 feet wide at the bottom. A storm surge would have to rise 7 feet above the water surface to breach this wall. The project will be funded by the Federal Government, but after construction, the state will have to pay for maintenance.

The closure of the MRGO, which will have a huge impact on both the environment and the safety of the citizens of St. Bernard Parish, still leaves many questions unanswered. Among these are how this project will affect fishing in the area, its impact on boating access to both Lake Borgne and the bays south of Delacroix, and how increased freshwater marsh area will affect duck hunting.

The closure may be years too late to have prevented Katrina's disastrous aftermath, but in the case of shutting down a floodway, late is better than never.

CHS Post Student Survey- Katrina Response

In his farewell address to the Washington Press Corps in January, President Bush said that the Federal Government reacted quickly to our victims of Hurricane Katrina. The survey question in this issue of the CHS Post is:

Do you think that the Federal Government reacted quickly to our victims of Hurricane Katrina?

Overall –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Freshmen –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Sophomores –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Juniors –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Seniors –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Fresh Boys –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Fresh Girls –	Yes 0%	No 100%

Soph Boys –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Soph Girls –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Junior Boys –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Junior Girls –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Senior Boys –	Yes 0%	No 100%
Senior Girls –	Yes 0%	No 100%

The results are not surprising given the destruction here in Chalmette. Next month, we will have a question that will yield more varied results.

—Aucoin, Hall

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates the parish has lost nearly 1,500 acres of cypress swamps and levee forest, over 10,300 acres of brackish marsh, 3,400 acres of freshwater marsh, and 4,200 acres of saline marsh as a direct consequence of the MRGO.

The erosion caused by the MRGO is clearly visible in this aerial photo. A drive down Judge Perez Highway also reveals all of the damage done to the cypress swamps of St. Bernard Parish.



Krystal Boothe leaves TV for CHS

By Brittne Aucoin, CHS '09

Students may notice a familiar face as they walk the hallways during spring semester. Krystal Boothe--WWL TV traffic reporter--has returned to Chalmette High School as a member of the faculty. Boothe announced to viewers on December 19, 2008 that she would soon be leaving WWL to come teach at Chalmette High School. Mr. Warner welcomed her back and assigned her a teaching position. The CHS Post sat down with Ms. Boothe to talk with her about this change.

When did you decide to leave WWL-TV and come to Chalmette?

In December of 2008

What helped you make your decision to come to Chalmette High?

The faculty and St. Bernard Parish School Board staff. My grandfather is a school board member who taught 35 years in St. Bernard Parish Schools. He established the "Terrific Kids" program. I didn't want to go anywhere else; I wanted to help my community.

How does being a teacher differ from being a traffic reporter?

I am in front of a live au-

dience and not a camera. There is more audience interaction. Both are very fast-paced, and I use the same communication skills.

What courses are you teaching here at Chalmette High?

English I and Broadcasting.

Why did you choose Chalmette High?

I wanted to give back to my community in a system that I am familiar with.

How is your schedule now? Is it more flexible?

Yes! I can sleep more! I used to wake up at 2:00 A.M. for the job and go to bed at 6:00 P.M. Now I spend more of my off time doing lesson plans and I can sleep until 5:30. I love getting more sleep.

Did your schedule before affect your personal life?

Absolutely.

Did you study broadcasting at Chalmette High?

No, but I worked a lot with PEN-TV. I was involved with Gifted and Talented Music (voice, piano, saxophone) and drama. I was also in a number of taped skits.

What changes or plans do you have for the

broadcasting class here at CHS?

I will work with students on script-writing skills and on-camera delivery. Also I can help with the news delivery format.

How will your experience at WWL affect how you teach your class?

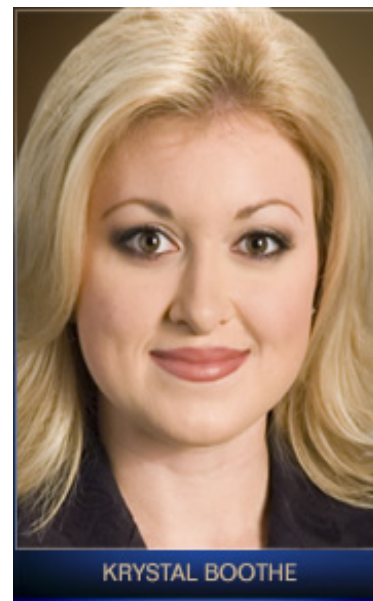
I have a news background with experience in speech, particularly voice and articulation.

Are there any teachers here at CHS now that you remember from when you were a student?

Plenty! Mr. Warner and Ms. Mundt were both administrators. I will always remember when Mr. Warner gave me a CD of Linda Ronstadt's music. He highlighted "When You Wish Upon a Star" and he wrote me a note that said, "Your dreams will come true. We believe in you." I couldn't believe that a principal cared so much about just one student and that he would do something so thoughtful for me. I still have that CD.

How long do you plan to be teaching broadcasting here at CHS?

I don't really know. I will see where I am needed. I am very excited about this opportunity!



KRYSTAL BOOTHE

Krystal Boothe left the bright lights of television behind in order to take a teaching position at CHS.

"I didn't want to go anywhere else. I wanted to help my community."
-Krystal Boothe

"I will always remember when Mr. Warner gave me a CD with an inscription...I couldn't believe that a principal could care so much about one student."

Krystal Boothe

St. Bernard Fish and Game Report

by Eric Gilmore CHS '09

Hunting Report- The duck hunting was good this year when the water was high, which was not all that often. The tides were very low much of the winter, so it was impossible to get to the ponds where the ducks were feeding. When I was able to get to the ponds, I used the mechanical "Mojo Duck" decoy to bring in the high-flying birds. It works great!

Most of the ducks I killed were black ducks and teal, but I also got some widgeons and grey ducks too. I shot a banded black duck, so I am going to call in and get all the information on where it was banded and how long it took to get there. The bands are placed on the ducks by the government to provide information on the migratory patterns of wild migratory waterfowl.

The rabbit hunting has been great this year. I mainly hunt the woods in lower St. Bernard parish.

Fishing Report- In the month of January, the best fishing has been for black drum and redfish migrating through the deep passes between Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne.

Fishing Tips- The best way to get to the big drum and redfish is to fish on the bottom with either market

shrimp or cracked blue crabs. Dragging a Deadly Dudley lure with a 3/8 ounce jig head also works. It simulates the action of a dead minnow rolling along the bottom of the canal or lake. The Rigolets and Unknown Pass have been particularly productive. Redfish are also holing up in the dead end canals off of Geohagen's Canal behind the Rigolets Marina. They can be caught on the bottom with dead shrimp in the ends of the dead end canals. There are also some very nice speckled trout in those canals on certain days. The best time to fish seems to be in the morning until around 10:00 A.M.

Big freshwater blue catfish have been running in Catherine Pass off of the Rigolets. They are usually in the dropoffs at a depth of about ten feet.

Here are the hunting dates and bag limits for the seasons that remain open:

<u>Species</u>	<u>2008-2009 Dates</u>	<u>Bag Limits</u>	<u>Possession</u>
Quail	Nov. 15-Feb 28	10	20
Rabbit	Oct. 4-Feb 28	8	16
Fall Squirrel	Oct. 4-Feb 28	8	16
Spr Squirrel	May. 2-24	3	6
Deer	Nov.8-Jan. 25	1 buck	1 buck

Chalmette News of Note

by Jared Lebouef CHS '10

Suspect Returned to SB

On Tuesday, January 13, Charles Richardson was taken into custody and returned to St. Bernard Parish to be booked with the first degree murder of his step-daughter, India Mahoney, a Violet 18 year old and student at Warren Easton High School. Richardson also allegedly shot his wife, Elizabeth Richardson, in the face. She has undergone surgery at University Hospital and is recovering. The suspect was tracked to Missouri, where he was arrested and extradited to Louisiana.

"India was a very intelligent student and friends with everyone," recalls Ms. Morales, who taught India at Trist.

The Post asks all students to keep this St. Bernard Parish family in their prayers.

Youth Mardi Gras Ball

On Friday, February 20, at the Civic Center Ball Room in Chalmette, there will be a Youth Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball from 8 P.M. until midnight. All high school students living in St. Bernard Parish are invited to attend. A king and queen will be chosen at the ball. CHS students will be able to nominate their peers for King and Queen during lunch at school, and the final vote will be at the entrance of the Ball.

Dress for the ball will be formal, and the wearing of masks is strongly encouraged. Tickets for the ball will be sold at lunch. Tickets are \$12 for a couple and \$7 for a single at lunch and \$15 for a couple at the entrance for the ball and \$8 for a single at the door. Start getting your tuxedo and ball gown ready and select a mask so that you won't miss out on the fun.

Boys' Hoopsters Play Tough for Coach Stockton by Brittne Aucoin '09

The boys' basketball team, coached by William Stockton, is 15-13 as of Post deadline. Their last eight losses were all by fewer than three points, including a last-second loss to one of the top-ranked teams in the state—Lafayette—on January 13th.

These student-athletes work very hard dividing their time between studies, practice time, and games, so be sure to go out and give them your support at their remaining games.

Boys' Basketball Schedule**February 2009**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jan. 30	St. Augustine	Home	7:15 P.M.
Feb. 3	Jesuit	Jesuit	7:15 P.M.
Feb. 10	Brother Martin	Home	7:15 P.M.
Feb. 13	Rummel	Rummel	7:15 P.M.
Feb. 17	St. Augustine	St. Augustine	7:15 P.M.
Feb. 20	Jesuit	Home	7:15 P.M.

Coach Stockton hopes to see his team in the district championship game on February 24th.
—Aucoin

CHS Kicks off Inaugural Bowling Season by Brittne Aucoin '09

CHS has added varsity bowling to the athletic department this season. The girls and boys' bowling teams are coached by Coach Koontz. The boys opened their season Jan. 26th

against Holy Cross and the girls at Academy of Our Lady. We're all looking forward to seeing how the CHS bowlers compete against other teams this season.

CHS February Bowling Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>
Feb. 2 (Girls)	St. Scholastica	Tiffany
Feb. 5 (Boys)	Shaw	Bowling USA
Feb. 5 (Girls)	Cabrini	Bowling USA
Feb. 12 (Boys)	Bro. Martin	Bowling USA
Feb. 12 (Girls)	St. Scholastica	Bowling USA
Feb. 16 (Boys)	Holy Cross	Bowling USA
Feb. 16 (Girls)	AOL	Bowling USA

Casbon All-State By Brittne Aucoin CHS '09

Senior Kayla Casbon, who has played volleyball all four years that she has attended Chalmette High School, was named to the first-team All-State volleyball team. Kayla played a large part in the success of the district championship team this season.

Volleyball is not the only sport that Kayla excels in. She is also an excellent basketball and softball player, a real triple threat!

The CHS Post, students, and staff of Chalmette High School all join in congratulating Kayla on her amazing accomplishment.



First-team All-State Chalmette High School volleyball player Kayla Casbon digs in to set up her teammates for a kill on the court this year.

Lady Owls Basketball off to a Great Start by Brittnie Aucoin '09

Whoever invented the saying "Ladies First" must have had our Lady Owls in mind! Here at Chalmette High, the Lady Owls basketball team is one of the best sports teams this year. The Lady Owls, coached by Coach Guy McInnis, have an impressive 18-6 overall record as of this month's Post deadline.

The junior varsity, coached by Ms. Miller, are also playing very well so far this year.

Lady Owls Basketball Schedule February 2009

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Feb. 3	Mount Carmel	Mount Carmel	5 P.M.
Feb. 5	Academy of Our Lady	Home	4:30 P.M.
Feb. 9	Dominican	Dominican	5 P.M.
Feb. 13	Chappelle	Home	4:30 P.M.

Next stop for the Lady Owls will be the playoffs! The Post urges all CHS students to get out and cheer for the Lady Owls in their final games.

Cheerleaders Win it All cont.

. They were good competition." And what did she think about her fellow cheerleaders? "We had a lot of fun and did really great in competition," says Ms. Evans. The cheerleading coach Mrs. Licciardi was proud of her girls. The members of our national champion

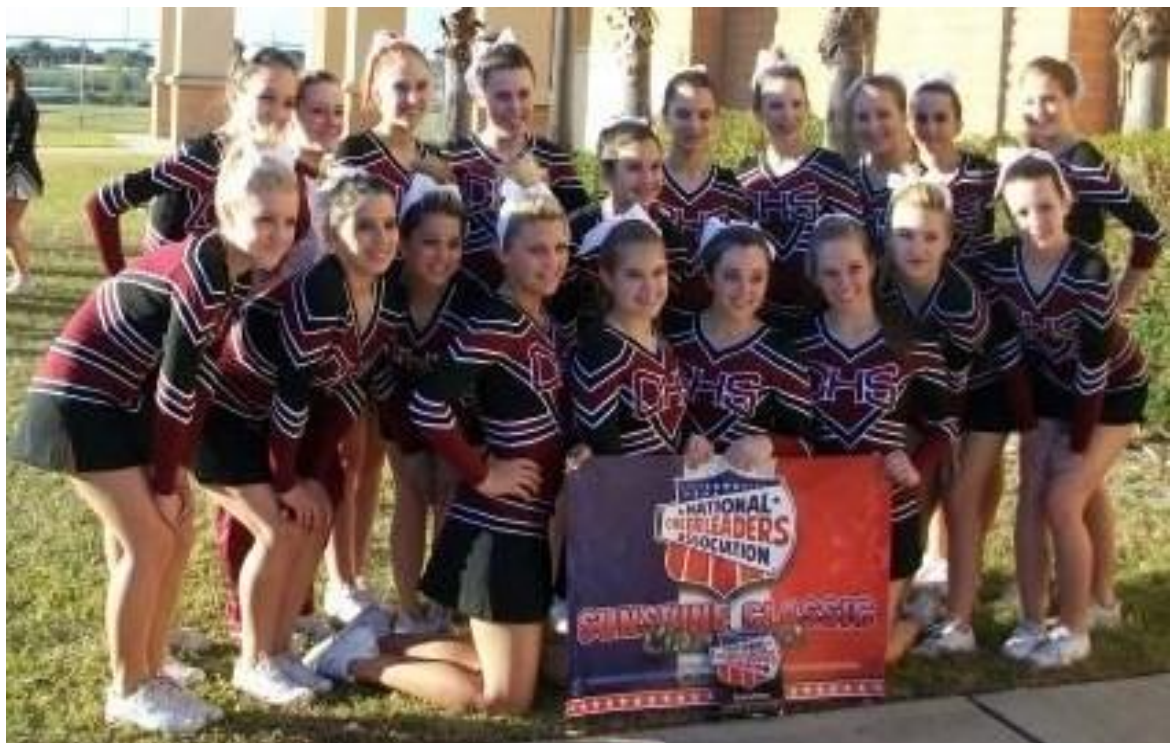
CHS Cheerleading squad are Jessica Clark, Jeanna Acosta, Rebecca Noto, Kelsey Acosta, Alexis Salazar, Anna Evans, Christine Assevedo, Courtney Nunez, Taylor Wood, Karli Bernard, Brianne Boos, Cara Varnado, Rhiannon Locatto, Sydni

By Katy Swafford CHS '11

Fornos, Anna Evans, Katy Swafford, Haylie Fanz, Tiffani Hamilton, and Jessica Uli. With a national championship to kick off January, it looks like 2009 will be another great year for our cheerleaders!

Hail to the National Champions!

The CHS cheerleading team is pictured here at the National Cheerleaders Association competition in Orlando, Florida in January. The CHS Post congratulates the girls and coaches!





CHS Post Editorial Page by Katy Swafford CHS '11 Editor, Vol.

Students and Stereotypes

There is a problem that many teenagers, if not all, face everyday at high school, at the mall, and even in their neighborhoods. It's a way to feel safe—to make one feel more superior. Although it may seem right in some situations, it's something that hurts and can cause many social issues further in life. That "it" is called stereotyping, and it should be stopped.

You hear it everyday in almost every high school. These titles that kids are grouped into—prep, jock, ghetto, scene and drug head—are as ridiculous as they sound. I understand that kids have their friends and their groups that they hang out with at lunch, but is it absolutely necessary to label? I have been called a few things and it is just a pathetic way to make someone feel bad.

These labels are usually determined by how someone dresses, where he shops, who he is friends with, and what types of music he listens to. I listen to a lot of different music, hang out with tons of different people, shop at a million different stores, and wear so many different clothes. So, what am I? I am me, and you are you. We are not a label on a soup can at the Winn-Dixie.

Conventional wisdom says that high school is supposed to be like this, but that is not true. Before the 21st century, it used to just be the "popular kids", the "normal kids", and the "unpopular kids". This was bad enough, but it was life. Where did these stereotypes come from--thin air?

One may not think that calling someone one of these labels is really affecting them, but how would he know? How would you like it if you were called "a big-headed jock" just because you are on the football team? Or maybe your favorite color is pink, so people call you "a ditzzy prep". Maybe your style lends you to being called a "stuck up scene kid." It doesn't feel so great, does it?

The world is full of teenagers who are different. Who would want the same kind of kids all around the nation? That would just be boring. An individual's unique style makes him special, and if you strip them of that, what is there left? In my opinion, with all the war in the world, there should be at least some peace somewhere. Why not start here in Chalmette? Or are you just "too cool"?

Be a leader and start a new trend called "being nice to others." When you are forty years old and going to your high school reunion, you do not want to be burdened with the regret of labeling kids in high school when you could have had a great friend?

—Swafford

"The world is full of teenagers who are different. Who would want the same kind of kids all around the nation? That would just be boring."

"Be a leader and start a new trend called 'Being nice to others.'"

-Katy Swafford

When the lights came back on, the six boys were in multi-colored underwear.

From Legends to Nancy plays next on January 30th at the Bedico Community Center in Pontchatoula.

Chalmette Music Scene by Caroline Hall CHS '10

Last weekend Chalmette High's very own From Legends to Nancy played at The High Ground venue in Metairie. Everyone remembers when FLTN was disqualified from the talent show just a short year ago. The boys have come so far, playing at House of Blues and headlining many of their own shows. This past weekend FLTN played with Hey, Caesar, a local Picayune band. Although Hey, Caesar had a few technical difficulties and took a little bit longer than they expected to start, they

played amazingly and stayed around to watch the rest of the bands and talked to all their fans. They signed the CD's the fans brought and were more than happy to take pictures. When it was time for From Legends to Nancy to hit the stage, they told the crowd they had a surprise; they turned off the lights and when the lights came back on the six boys were in multi-colored underwear. Playing in their underwear must boost their confidence because it was their best show

that I have been to yet. I'm so proud of From Legends to Nancy and happy to call the members of this magnificent band my friends. The next show From Legends to Nancy has is January 30, 2009 at Bedico Community Center in Pontchatoula, Louisiana. The cover is \$5. The next Show Hey, Caesar plays is February 13, 2009 at Club Rush in Picayune, Mississippi. Go out and support your local musicians and students!



From Legends to Nancy features several Chalmette High School students. The band's members are (front row l to r) Nicholas "Spanky" Roberts CHS '11, Cody Palazzolo CHS '10, Taylor Capielano, (back row l to r) Jesse Rogers CHS '10, Ryan Henriquez, and Mitch Ruibal.

9th Grade Academy On the Way

by Jared Lebouef CHS '10

Students may notice the construction across the street from CHS and wonder what is going on.

Chalmette High School Ninth Grade Academy is going to be opened next year. The construction has been progressing well this winter, and the walls are now being filled in with blocks. It will house all the freshman classes as well as a new state-of-the-art 400 seat theater that Ms. Babin and all of the drama sponsors and stu-

dents are looking forward to.

Our students are looking forward to seeing what the new building will be like for many reasons. First, it should be a huge improvement for the student population problem, and this will be a welcome change for all CHS students and teachers. When this building is done, it will relieve the current overcrowding in the hallways, classrooms, and parking lots. We will be able to move more swiftly, and the trailers will finally be gone!

Many of the teachers currently do not have their own classrooms and have to "float" between classrooms, often pushing their files, textbooks, and computers on the carts that we all see in the library.

Moving the ninth grade students and teachers across the street will also keep the younger students separate from the much more mature upperclassmen. That should be a welcome change for both groups of students!

Drama Program Headed "*Into the Woods*" by Caroline Hall CHS '10

All of your favorite fairy tales are coming to Chalmette High in just a few months. "Into the Woods" is a musical with music and lyrics written by [Stephen Sondheim](#). It is a mixture of Cinderella, Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk all wrapped up into one. This play is based on the book by [James Lapine](#); not only is the story entertaining, but the great actors are the people you see everyday in the hallways.

The play will be performed on April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2009. The place to catch this play is in our "igloo theater."

Not only will you be watching the kids in our school act, but you can enjoy the sounds of our very own Chalmette school band directed by Mr. Rusk. The Production team of this fairy tale dream play includes Chalmette

High teachers Ms. Babin, Ms. A. Cassar, Mrs. P. Cassar, Ms. Hock, Ms. Lord, Mr. Turgeon, Mr. Siegel and super-talented musician and CHS student Devin Burgess.

The scenery in the play will be constructed by CHS woodshop teachers Mr. Chauvin, and Mr. Woodin and their students. Mr. Loria, the art teacher, helped with the scenery as well as some of his art students.

You will doubtlessly recognize some of the names of the students who portray the main characters.

The narrator will be Daniel Flattman. Rapunzel's prince will be played by Corey Cruse and Cinderella's Prince by Stephen Bradley. The lovely and talented Josee Thornton is going to be Cinderella. Her evil step-Sisters will be played by Rachel Flattman and Rachel Merkle. The Witches are portrayed

by the very un-witchy Megan Alfonso and Nancy Che. Justin Bennett plays the unifying role of the Baker, and his wife is played by Renee Hebert. Carol Ann Ortego's Red Riding Hood will match wits with the Wolf, acted and sung by Alan Roca. Jack, who always has his head literally and figuratively in the clouds, will be played by the high-energy Cody Sires. Jack's exasperated mother will be Alison Hemstreet, and the Steward will be played by Chris Burke.

The music for "Into the Woods" is some of Sondheim's most challenging work. Be sure to turn out and cheer for all of these students and their characters' shenanigans in "The Tent" in March!