



Despite Yearbook Cost, Memories Priceless

by Adama Diallo

The High School Welcome Center is going to have a yearbook for the first time in its history. There is a lot of work to do to get the yearbook done but two classes, taught by Mr. Smith, will be working hard second semester to make it a reality.

What is a yearbook?

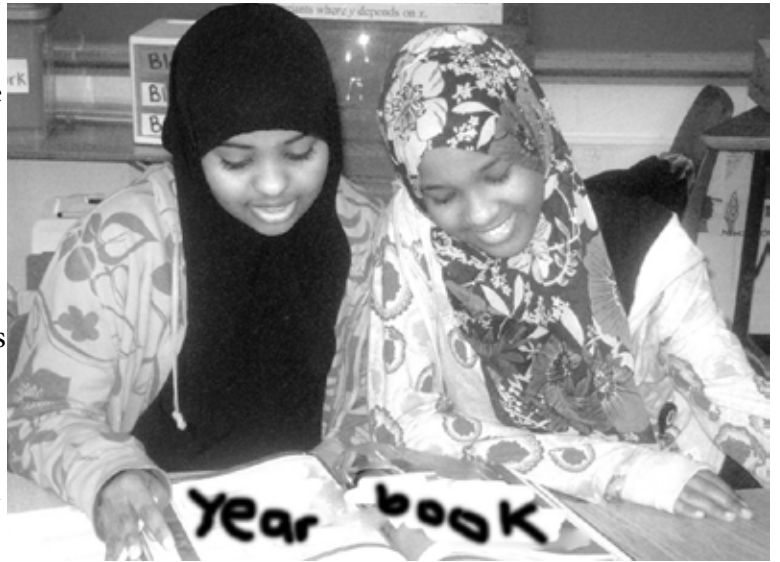
Many of the students don't know what a yearbook is. A yearbook is a record of the year for the school. It contains the pictures of all the students of the school and also the information or news of everything that happened during the school year.

The yearbook is like a souvenir book of the school year. The only difference between a yearbook and a student souvenir book is that yearbooks have the picture and information of everyone and everything that happened during the school year. See how cool a year book is!

How to pay for the year book?

The yearbook will be very expensive. Our high school students should pay for the year book like any other high school students in the USA.

We have two options for it. The first is the year book with hard cover and color pictures, which will cost up to \$3000 for 100 copies. That means each student would pay \$30. The other option is a year book



We should have a real yearbook to read about and remember the year.

with magazine cover and black and white pictures for about \$1000 for 100 copies so each student would pay \$10.

To make the price a little bit cheaper, the newspaper class decided to sell the newspaper for 25¢ and also to try to organize a party to raise money. With the opening of the school store we will ask Ms. Lance to help us bake cookies and sell them in the school store so that we can make some money and decrease the price of the yearbook for the student.

The Four Rs: Rigor, Relevance, Relationships and Responsibility

by Job Gacia and Mariam Diallo

Everyone who walks into our building has probably seen the wall drawings featuring the 4 Rs. Have you wondered what they mean?

Well if you do not know then you probably are not listening to Mr. Woodard because he emphasizes their importance a lot. Rigor, Relevance, Relationships and Responsibility, or as he likes to call them: The 4Rs. These Rs will guide us on the road to academic excellence. They are the keys to academic progress.

What do these words mean? We offer for you a quick definition, as found and adapted in the



The 4 R are on the wall!

dictionary, and some applications to our daily lives as students.

Rigor: The action of taking great care and being thorough in making sure that something is correct. This means we need to work hard and be very careful in completing our work correctly.

Relevance: Relating to the subject or problem being discussed. This means we should try to connect our studies to our lives so we can see how what we are learning will affect our future.

Relationships: The way in which two people or groups behave toward each other. Building relationships is part of a quality education. We should build positive, professional relationships with our classmates, our teachers and the entire school community.

Responsibility: A duty, to be in charge of or take care of something. We all are responsible to be in school and to do our best. We must take our studies seriously.

Mr. Woodard is a wise man. He is the force behind the W.C. So, if he thinks that Rigor, Relevance, Relationships and Responsibility are the keys to success then we should all take them seriously.

Students React to Obama Victory

Bisharo Ahmed



Some WC students have mixed feelings about Obama.

What do the students at the Welcome Center think of Barack Obama winning the presidential election? We wanted to find out, so we asked a few students what they thought about the Obama victory. One thing is certain the historic night will always be remembered.

One student was unhappy about an Obama victory. Yacuba Niane said, "Barack Obama is a great speaker but Obama lacks experience. A lot of people are hoping that Obama will turn the nation to a better situation, that's only hoping. He made a lot of promises in his campaign and I don't think he will fulfill them all." Yacuba thinks that Obama will not be as good of a president that a lot of people think he will be. The Republican Party shares the same view as Yacuba.

Other students have different opinions. Hawa Salad is happy for an Obama win. She said, "Obama won because a lot of people wanted him to win. I believe he will bring peace and stability around the world. He is young and has a different way of thinking then the older presidents. I believe he will bring back the troops home like he said he would in his campaign. He will improve health care and make college affordable. That mean I have to pay less money in the future!"

Job Garcia shared with me the reason he thinks Obama won. He said that, "Obama promises to create new Jobs and lower middle class taxes and a lot of people wanted that".

Regardless of what you think about Obama, he will become our president on January 20, 2009. Let's hope he does an amazing job and helps America in these difficult times.

Issue 75 Promises Many Improvements

by Hawa Ba

Issue 75 passed and money will soon be coming in. How will this change our school? What can we look forward to?

The success of the levy and bond issue was well deserved. According to the Columbus dispatch, "The district has made a huge progress with limited resources in recent years, increasing each graduation rate from 54 percent to 73 percent improving state ranking by two grade and increasing daily attendance to 94 percent this impressive progress for any school district."

According to superintendent Dr. Gene Harris, Columbus City Schools will work to provide its entire students with the education they need and to deliver an excellent value to taxpayers.

The passing of the levy should help our school obtain even better access to the Internet and it should help prepare us for the 21st century.

The levy will also help us to have more books and extra hours to stay in the classroom. Especially for the ESL students we will get more dictionaries and more help for the OGT.

Additionally, the levy will provide new buses with heat or air conditioning in them. It will also help pay for after school program which will help us with our homework and tests to study for the OGT.

Thanks for all the citizens who voted for issue 75 and thanks a lot to Dr. Gene Harris who worked

hard for this issue to get passed. According to the Columbus dispatch with this 6 great point for us.

- It will increase the number of science, technology, engineering and math offerings.
- Provide students with an extra hour everyday in class time.
- Replace or renovate at least 10 academically obsolete building.
- Equip school with modern science labs and internet access.
- Increase security for student's teachers and neighbors.
- Buy new buses, books and computers.

Hopefully we will get the money soon and we will see the changes. Our school is something we all care about and we are all excited to see what we can do with the new resources.



Under superintendent Dr. Gene Harris' leadership our school district passed its levy and bond issues.

Students Asked to Keep School Clean

by Mustafa Ashur



Student volunteers help clean up the cafeteria.

One of the biggest problems we have at this school is our fault. That is students not keeping the school clean. Places, such as the cafeteria, bathrooms and walls are often dirty because of student neglect.

This is serious problem in our school. The leaders and the volunteers of the school are working hard to make the students understand their responsibility in the school. They address this problem with the students couple of times. Nevertheless, the dirt seems to continue in our school.

The cafeteria is the main problem that the leaders and the volunteers are concerned about the students to keep it clean and pick up their trash. However,

some students are not paying attention in to this problem. Alternatively, maybe students do not understand why this is a serious problem.

Also, we talked to some students and they told us the girls' bathrooms are disgusting. Sometimes there is poop in the toilet and they use paper towels to clean up the wet edges of the toilet. In addition, the paper towels stuck in the toilet. Moreover it will not flush. These cause more problem work for the volunteers to clean up the mess that the students did.

In addition, the students were concerned to keep the walls clean. Even knowing our school is old, the walls are clean. Remember Mr. Woodard said "people say positive things about our school but nothing else." However, some of the students do not understand why important it's to keep the school clean. Some of them write things on the walls and making the walls dirty.

In the morning before the students come the school looks clean and neat. However, in the afternoon when the students are leaving, the school looks dirty. Moreover, we realize it is the students who are not keeping the school clean. The students must understand this is their school and they need to keep their school clean. And thanks to our staff who keeps our school.

Ms. Martin Helps Us in Many Ways

by Marvin Mejia

Ms Martin has many challenges in her job. She has to work with the students and she said, "I manage various form of data to keep families informed so that we have a great school- home partnership.

She also said, "I make sure the student's parents understand. And then I process the paperwork and do the computers work." In addition she said, "High School Welcome Center Students get information about the school year from calendar, grade report, and fliers about school closings, bus route information and lunch applications."

She is happy about what she is doing for the school and she said, "I enjoy being resourceful and working with our families."

I also asked Ms. Martin how she gets to know more about the students in the school. She said, "I usually only work with students' names, but I mainly work directly with students' parents."

I asked her, what are two important things that students have to know in the school? And she said, "One is to follow the rules of the school and two is to study hard to pass all of your classes and graduate".

I ask Ms Martin the connection between her job and the school, she said, "My connection to the school comes in many forms. One is registrar, another grade keeper, coach, attendance team leader and office

manager."

She also does the list for the students who transfer from another school. She said, "I have a checklist which includes dates, time, place, person involved and materials needed."

For the students it is important information. Ms Martin is doing a very important job for us in the office.

Sometimes Ms. Martin is an important part of the Welcome Center. Students go to look for her in the main offices for help. And I suggest that all the students of High School Welcome Center to go to main office for any question you need. But please, make an appointment with your homeroom teacher first.



Ms. Martin is an important part of the Welcome Center.

Middle School Welcome Center to be Housed in Linmoor Next Year

by Yacouba Niane

Do you want to ride to school with your little brothers and sisters? You may be eating lunch and breakfast with middle schoolers next year when approximately two hundreds of them join us next year. What will the lunch be like next year? There may be three different lunches: lunch A, B and C.

Did you know next year we will have grade six to twelve here? Mifflin Middle School and High School Welcome Center will join together next year as one School.

What will be the School be called next year? We don't think it will be the High School Welcome Center anymore. Maybe it will be the middle and high school Welcome Center? Who knows?

Things will get little bit tougher next year. Having kids with young adults in here may be challenging. This may be the first time to have middle and High School together in CCS.

I talked to senior Mubrak Ashur to ask him how he feels about have middle schoolers here next year. He said, "Yacouba, I'm glad I won't be here next year. Dealing with kids here next year, I'm not in to that. I can't attend the same School with my little one. I mean, come on. What I hate about this is I don't want to eat lunch with them, or ride the bus with them, or even use the same restroom."

I asked our assistant principal, Dr. Custodio,

why we are joining middle school and high school together.

Dr. Custodio said, "We want all the welcome center students together in one building. Teachers can work with students in from sixth to twelfth grades."

She added, "They don't know yet what will be the school name next year."

She admitted that she believed, "the middle school students will be very happy. I don't know about the high school welcome center students."

She continued by saying that we wanted both schools together ten years ago when we started and now that is finally going to happen.

I interviewed sophomore Jo Jo Politesse about how she feels about the middle schoolers coming here

Politesse said, "it feels pretty good having kids here. It is very nice."

She added that she loves kids and having the chance to go to school with them is awesome. She said she would love to come here next year and help the young kids develop just like she did a few years ago.

Well next year will be a different story here. Love it or not there will be kids here with you. It may be challenging to deal with kids but it's something to look forward to for those here next year.

Welcome Center a Good Choice for Many Students

by Foli Gabianou-Adjanoh

The Welcome Center is a place where students from other countries learn how to speak English. However we wanted to know how it compares to other schools. And why do some students stay at the WC and others move on.

According to Hawa Ba, who once went to Walnut Ridge High School and came back to the WC, "The difference between WC and walnut ridge is that WC has 78-80 minutes classes and they have 45 minutes classes and they have more activities than us but the school program is almost the same." She also added that she came back to here because WC provides more help than walnut ridge.

Senior Gerald compares WC and regular schools by saying that "to me WC and regular schools are same but the difference is that there are no Americans at WC and I came here because I'm trying to get my diploma so I can get into the college". He also said that "WC is a great school and its staff focuses on students a lot to learn English and give them the opportunity to obtain their diploma".

Ousman Chafi was a WC student last year and has moved on to Northland High School. He said that the WC prepared him for that school because he can



Gerald finds the Welcome Center a good choice for his school.

now understand and do all his work by himself, but Northland offers high courses and the WC does not offers advanced and honor level classes.

Chafi stated, "I didn't come back to WC because I actually got the chance to take advanced classes".

I hope all this information will show students that WC is not only about teaching people how to speak but comparatively to other schools, it provides more help and has a great staff.

Seniors Must Prepare for College

by Mustafa Ashur

The welcome center high school has many seniors this year including this writer. Every senior is getting ready for college. However prepared we are, I am sure we need more information and experience to go to college. In addition, I know that we all need to continue to improve our English skills to compete with the American students. I want to let the seniors know there will be nobody to help you in the long run and that you must be prepared to work hard.

The students know that they are ESL students, and they know that they need more help than regular students might need. In addition, they have nobody to blame if we have less education.

Once the seniors done with high school they will have nobody to help once they go to college. They will face many real world problems. Moreover, the world will challenge them.

To prepare and get ready for those challenges you will have to follow some rules. Ms. Turner and Ms. Lance are preparing the students for colleges. Ask them everything related to college. Get the information you need from them. They want you succeed and they are there to help the students. Especially they are here to help the seniors and juniors.



Students have a lot to do and learn before college becomes a reality.

Choosing the write school is frustrating. Moreover, filling the FAFSA is scary, too. Nevertheless, you have to be confident and be your self. Do not be scared when the world challenges you and you compete with hundreds of students.

I am one of the seniors this year. But I am not sure if I am graduating this year because I have not passed part of the Ohio Graduation Test. However, I hope that I will be graduating this year. And I am writing this because I want every senior to get ready for college and to be ready for the real world problems. Just like a soldier. Get enough training and get ready and do not be scared.

Why Columbus Has a Welcome Center

by Mubarak Ashur

The welcome center was founded in 1999, in Columbus, OH, at a time when many students from other countries were dropping out of school. In order to keep those students in school Mr. Woodard started this program called the Welcome Center.

This program was founded as a one year program. After a few years it expanded to a two year program. It now offers all the classes a student needs to graduate from high school.

It's a program that improves the English of the foreign students and prepare them to go to regular high school. And the only students who can attend

this school are listed below. As the high school welcome center page said:

- Students who are at the beginner ESL proficiency level.
- Students who are recent arrivals in the United States.
- Students arriving from a refugee camp or country torn apart by war or natural disaster.
- Students with little or no formal education.
- Students with little or no literacy in their native language.
- Students with high school transcripts from their home country who are over 18 and who can graduate before their 22nd birthday

I had a chance to ask questions of Dr. Custodio. I asked her where welcome center began and she answered, "The first welcome center was at North Adult High School."

The second question I asked her was how many students attended Welcome Center in first year? And she responded " We had about 50 students."

Compare to that to this year's students. The population of the WC wasn't even a quarter of this year's enrollment of students!

The reason I'm writing about the beginnings of the welcome center is that there seems to be a lot of students in this school who don't know much about the school they are attending. I hope that they will learn something about their school now and appreciate it more.



Dr. Custodio explains how the WC got started.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON: Mr. Hassan

Bisharo Ahmed



Mr. Hassan encourages his students to spend more time reading..

Q = What is your name and what is your role at the High School Welcome Center?

A = My name is Ali Hassan.

Q = Where are you from and where did you grow up?

A = Somalia & I grew up in Somalia.

Q = What was your favorite subject in high school?

A = Math and science.

Q = Where did you graduate from high school?

A = Somalia.

Q = What did you get your

degree in at college?

A= Bachelor of Science.

Q= What was your favorite band in high school?

A= Kooxda waaberi (waberi band)

Q = What is your favorite movie? What do you like about it?

A = I do not have time for movie.

Q = What is your favorite color?

A = Blue (sky is blue)

Q= What are your hobbies?

A = Reading.

Q = What is your favorite book?

A = My trouble is my English.

Q = What is your favorite kind of food?

A = Rice.

Q = What is your favorite sport?

A = Soccer.

Q = How do you spend your time in weekends?

A = I do have another Job.

Q = If the school had unlimited budget, what would you want them to buy for us?

A = Science lab equipment.

Q = How long have you been working in education?

A = Four years.

Q = What your favorite part of your job?

A = Helping students to succeed.

Q = What advice would you give to your students to help them succeed in school?

A= I encourage my students to spend more time reading, doing homework and working in groups.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON: Mr. Vickroy

by Yacouba Niane

Q: What is your name and what is your role at the high school Welcome Center?

A: Mr. Vickroy-math and social studies teacher.

Q: Where are you from and where did you grow up?

A: From Lancaster and grow up in Lancaster Ohio.

Q: What was your favorite subject in high school?

A: History

Q: Where did you graduate from high school?

A: Lancaster high school.

Q: What did you get your degree in at college?

A: Capital University

Q: What was your favorite band in high school?

A: Nirvana

Q: What is your favorite kind of music?

A: classic rock

Q: What is your favorite TV show? What do you like about it?

A: Seinfeld, it is very funny.

Q: What is your favorite's movie? What do you like about it?

A: Pulp Fiction. It's funny and has a lot of actions

Q: What is your favorites color?

A: Blue

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Home remodeling, watching movies.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: War and Peace by Tolstoy.

Q: What is your favorite kind of food?

A: Thanksgiving food... turkey, stuffing. Mash potatoes, gravy...

Q: What is your favorites sport?

A: Football

Q: What are you pet peeves?

A: When people scrape their fork on their teeth. That sound drives me crazy.

Q: How do you spend your time on weekends?

A: With my son and wife. Watch the Browns lose every Sunday.

Q: If the school had unlimited budget, what you want them to buy for us?

A: Laptops and a refrigerator for my class. Right now my lunch is hanging out the window this system work only in the winter.

Q: How long have you been working in education?

A: This is my six year

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: Seeing progress by students, meeting new personalities every year.

Q: What advice would you give to your students to help them succeed in school?

A: Remember school is short term; however the benefits last a life time. Get as much out of school as you can while you have the privilege.



Mr. Vickroy needs a refrigerator!

Ask Mariam by Mariam Diallo

Need advice? Do you have a question that needs to be answered? Do you need advice about your relationships?

Good news! Now at The Welcome News we are offering a new column, an advice column where students can express themselves and receive personal advice for their problems. If you need advice please drop your questions in the box in Mr. Smith's room, room 13. If you don't want your name to appear in the paper please let me know so that I won't put it.

Question from Students

Juan: Hey Mariam I have a question. Over the past couple weeks I was thinking about a new girl in school. I'm kind of confused I don't know what to do. Right now I am kind of getting to know her little bit, so what should I do. Do I need to let her know that I like her or wait for a while? Other thing, I think there is another boy that likes her too. Help me what should I do.

Dear Juan: I think it's a good thing that you are getting to know her. It's a very important part of a relationship. I also think that it's very important to show her the romantic side of you so that she won't take you as a friend. Also, try to know how she feels about you before you

tell her anything. Ask her what she likes to do for fun, find out what you have in common then invite her. For the other boy he is your competition. If you really like the girl then don't back off take it like a challenge let the best man win.

Anonymous: Hi Mariam. I have a question for you. If you don't like a girl, she is always following you all the time because she likes you. I really don't like her, and I want her to live on her own, but I don't want to be mean to her. Please tell me what to do.

Dear Anonymous: I can see that you are a very nice guy, and you care about people's feelings. I will advise you to call her privately and tell her how you feel. Make her understand that you just want to be a friend with her. You are nice I am sure you will find the right words.



Plan or Not, New Years Should be Fun

by Asmaou Diallo

The New Year break is coming up soon. All schools in the United States will be closed, including the Welcome Center High School. Students will be given two weeks to celebrate the New Year.

At the Welcome Center High School, students are pretty excited about it. During this New Year break some students have already planned how they will spend their break. Others have not planned anything special to do.

Senior Mubarak Ashur mentioned that, "in my New Year break, I will be preparing myself for the March OGT. I will also spend some time with my family and my girlfriend. Also work hard in order to save some money."

Some other students like Senior Yacouba Niane

and senior Adama Diallo have also planned to work during their New Year breaks.

On the contrary, some other students plan to travel to different states and others to their countries.

According to senior Hawa Ba, "My plan is to go to New York. Have fun and close the books for two weeks." She also added, "if I have my own choice of spending my break I would go to my country for the New Year and celebrate it with my friends and family over there."

Unfortunately, some other students have not decided what they are going to do yet. According to Veronica Corona, "I have no plan yet, probably the only thing I will do to work hard and have some money." She also added "if I have my own choice I would enjoy my break with my friends instead of working."

Students don't forget to have the most fun of your life if you have a plan. If you didn't plan, try to have a lot of fun and don't just watch TV and sleep.

The Welcome News is a publication of the High School Welcome Center. Please put any corrections in Mr. Smith's mailbox in the main office.

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Intramural Games Energize Students

by Micheline Manirambona

Some students are playing intramural basketball and volleyball at lunch time and are really enjoying the

would be sad. I am very happy, to be part of a team. I like to play basketball. Aminata Ba is a valuable person” She is from Senegal.



The second student I talk to is Gerald Lusmat. He said, “you need a ball, a rim and a court to play on, Mr. Sain is running these games. I like playing. I feel good now I can show off my skills, Yes, I would like to make the team, I like to play basketball. I think that I’m the most valuable person on the team.”

Because all students I talk to said Mr. Sain is running the games, I talked to Mr. Sain to get some information.

Mr. Sain said, “We plan for the games to continue all school year. Students love Basketball and volleyball. We started the games the first

games. I talked to some students from lunch A and Lunch B about how things are going with the games.

Darida Ciza said, “If you need to play volleyball you need to be stronger and to have energy.” She also said, “Mr. Sain is running to those games we have now, he is help them to be safe in the game.”

Ciza is happy to be playing volleyball now, because it is fun. She would feel bad if there was no games at HSWC.

She also wondered, “Why we don’t have a sports teams at the HSWC To play with others Schools? I like to play Volley ball Because I know how to play.”

She said she used to play volleyball when she lived in Burundi.

The second student I talked to was Rigo Vargas, he is in lunch B.

He said “if you need to be in the game, you need to have good energy.”

Vargas is excited to be playing. When there are no games he feels bad.

He too would like to play other schools. “Why don’t we do a selection at HSWC to play against other Schools?” he said, “I like soccer and volleyball because Boonrit and I we are valuable person to play this games.” He is from Mexico.

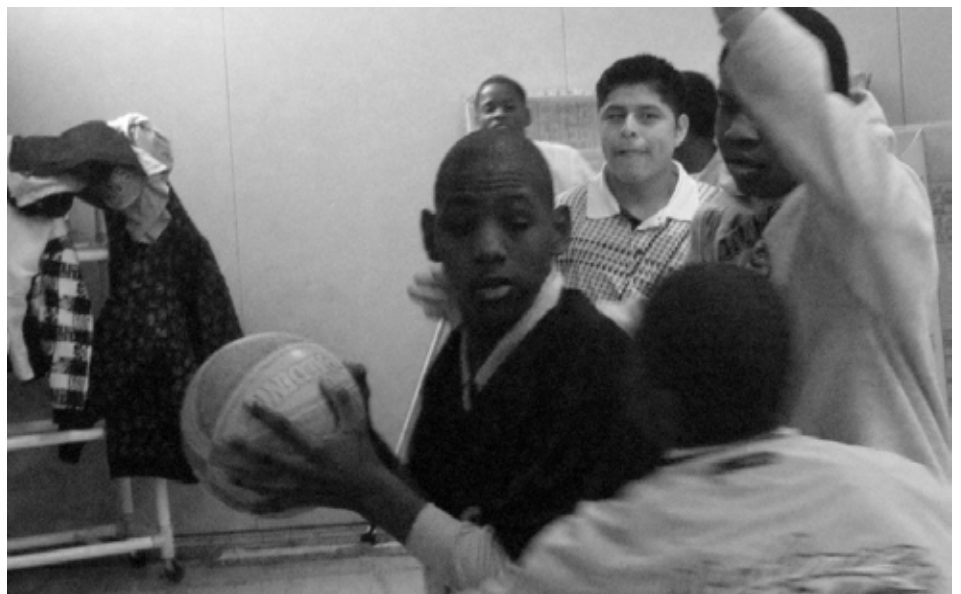
They students from lunch A that I talked to is Aisha Samba and Gerald Lusmat. Aisha Samba said “ if you need to get in the games, you need to be good player. Mr. Sain is running these games and he will help you join.”

Asked what she would do if she couldn’t play and she said, “I



week of November. We had a sign-up sheet for basketball and volleyball, All games take place in the Gym. We will end the games in late May”

If you have any questions about these games, either basketball or volleyball, please see Mr. Sain in his office.



Welcome Center student have fun at lunch playing intramural basketball and volleyball.