



Students smash pies in the faces of teachers during halftime at the boys JV basetball game. This was the first time the F.A.V.O.R. club had such an event. Ben Ziliak photo.

First year teacher arrested

Andrew Schmal

On February 9, math teacher Sameer Thakar was arrested at his home in Fishers and charged with dissemination of matter harmful to minors.

Thakar, a first year teache, was accused of sending at least one sexually explicit image to a teenage girl in Oregon in 2014 via Skype. The girl was 16-years-old at the time.

It was made clear by Washington Township that no students from North Central were involved in the scandal.

The district also ensured that Thakar did not have access to his email and his district computer was confiscated. Thakar was released from jail on a \$5,000 bond.

Thakar's arrest occurred in the wake of the arrest of former Park Tudor basketball coach, Kyle Cox. Cox was arrested for sexual misconduct and exploitation of a minor earlier in February.

The arrest came as a shock to many students at NC, including sophomore Benny Solomon who had Thakar for geometry.

"I would not have expected something like this to occur," Solomon said.

In Thakar's absence, there have been multiple substitute teachers filling in his position.

"The substitutes typically just hand out papers instead of teaching the actual curriculum," Solomon said. "My class definitely learned more when we had a permanent teacher at the position."

Principal Evans Branigan III sent out a voice message and email to families in the district on the day of Thakar's arrest, informing them about the allegations.

Though administration followed protocol in accordance to the law, Branigan did not suppress his disappointment regarding the situation.

"The allegations are disheartening, to say the least. It's embarrassing that someone who works with our kids is accused of such actions, even if the actions occurred back in 2014, two years before [Washington Township] knew who Mr. Thakar was," Branigan said.

Branigan also commented on how incidents like Thakar's arrest can cast a negative shadow on all of teachers, not only those involved in criminal activity.

"I value the profession of teaching. All of the faculty will tell you that I often bring up 'protecting this profession of ours' during meetings," Branigan said.

"You would think that someone would enter this profession with the most noble of intentions. Even from the allegations alone, I feel a sense of betrayal," Branigan said.

There has been no court date set for Thakar's case.

Participants shaky on MYP projects

Angie Vargas

This year, several students began piloting the MYP personal project on a trial basis. The project is completely voluntary and is not for a grade, and recently many of the students ceased to attend meetings and complete assignments.

"Students stopped going to the meetings because it is not for a grade so no one really cares," participant Taryn Johnson said.

If students attempt to meet the requirements of the personal project, they receive a certificate at its conclusion.

There is no grade for the project and it's not required for graduation or any other merit, however, it is expected that sophomores will participate.

"It's a good project for students to learn new things but trying to keep students from not going is out of [a mentor's] way, [and] since it's not for a grade or requirement a lot of students chose not to do it," mentor Bruce Quilling said.

Next year the personal project will be instituted for all sophomores, who will stay after school to work on their projects on early release days. Plans are still being finalized on how all of this will be handled.

Teachers take a pie for charity

Ben Ziliak

"I just have one thing to say...Revenge!" Evans Branigan III said while covered in dripping whip cream.

Branigan, along with 12 other teachers, participated in the Pie In The Face charity event on February 12. The goal of the event was to help fight hunger through donations for The Hunger Fight, a charity that collects money and food for those in need.

The event was proposed by sophomore Grace McIntyre.

"I wanted to give back to my community by raising money to help fight hunger," McIntyre said.

Helping McIntyre was math teacher Katie Cluver.

"There wasn't a set goal, we just wanted to make as much as possible," Cluver said.

The process of selecting teachers is one of the things Cluver would change in the coming years. This year, a council of four students asked teachers if they wanted to participate, and teachers then expressed their interest in the event.

"I would ask more students to nominate teachers rather than a group of

four students" Cluver said.

Currently, it's unknown whether or not they will repeat the Pie In The Face event next year.

The event itself was received well by attendees. Participating teachers came out in plastic sheeting and the crowd at the JV boys basketball game against Pike applauded their halftime entertainment. Participating teachers enjoyed the event as well, and smiled and laughed after being pied.

"I didn't have dinner so it worked well," math teacher Leo Hodes said.

The students who got to pie their favorite teachers and coaches enjoyed the event as well. Freshman baseball player Mike Grueninger pied baseball coach Phil McIntyre.

"That was wonderful, but we may have to run more at practice," Grueninger said.

As for his coach, he was more than willing to face a pie.

"They asked me if I wanted to volunteer and I was happy to, anything I can do to help," Phil McIntyre said.

Teachers, students and fans alike enjoyed the event and supported the cause, leaving the school to wonder if being pied for charity will become the school's next memorable tradition.

School shoe selling on the rise

Adam McGoff

Although unseen by many, the secret trade of shoe-selling thrives at school. While it is legal off-campus, the school handbook states that "All selling of any kind is strictly forbidden unless it is a school fundraiser approved by the principal or designee." The shoe sales may not be permitted, but plenty of students have proceeded to do so anyways.

"I've been selling shoes almost two years now," sophomore Xavier Broderick said. "I mostly sell retro Jordans, Adidas and Lebrons. I got into selling because I love shoes and if you have a product [that] everyone wants then people will come with money."

Shoes are harder to conceal than other products, and many students tote their extra baggage.

"I have seen kids walk around with shoe boxes in the hallway and haven't thought much about it," sophomore Jacob Lough said. "Kids trade shoes at lunch but I've never seen a teacher do anything about it."

Many student-marketers at NC think the no-selling rule is unnecessary for items like shoes.

"That rule [shouldn't] apply to every-

thing that is sold by students inside NC. I believe as long as it's not something illegal everyone should be able to do what they need to do to make money" Broderick said.

Other uninvolved students agree that a rule against shoe selling is unnecessary.

"It's an ingenious way to make money without having to work," junior Will Keedy said. "I would say it's a great side hustle."

Shoe-sellers don't hesitate to market their products on school grounds, and most deals take place in a school bathroom. The bathroom environment may not be ideal, but it successfully blocks an administrator's view of most exchanges.

Unfortunately, these bathroom shoe transactions can also go awry.

"During freshmen year I [was] scammed for some fake Yeezy Red Octobers" Broderick said.

"I lost around 1.5k but after about three months I made most of my money back."

Despite the deterrents, shoe-selling is becoming more popular throughout NC. Without regular administrative surveillance in school bathrooms, shoe-selling could very well maintain its popularity among students.



Shoe junkies collect shoes of different shapes, sizes and brands. Some students have taken to selling shoes at school. Photo courtesy of Xavier Broderick.

The Northern Lights turns

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