



## College visitations give advantage to selection process

by Lauren Ranzino

It is true, students, the scrolling announcements on the television actually do have significance – they are not just there for entertainment purposes during a dull class. Some of the most important of these announcements are the college visitation times and dates.

Many upperclassmen have already attended at least one college visitation in the College and Career Resource room and know how easy it is to sign up. Signing up necessitates a trip down to the Guidance Office and not losing the pass that must be presented upon arrival. The college visitations fill up quickly.

“The college visits are really informative. Even if you end up not liking that school, you can learn a lot about the process just by going,” said junior Abby Novak.

Advice to the underclassmen: start the college search as soon as possible. Though it may seem like the Penn State educational system is the only option, just know that there are dozens of other schools out there and researching schools early on is the best thing to do. Then, the college visitations that one attends will be so much more worthwhile and intriguing

because students will already have been familiar with the basics of the school and be able to ask all those burning questions.

officers is such a great opportunity, and it should not be compromised because of those students who merely wish to skip. At first, the visits can be quite daunting.

be attentive during admissions officers’ presentations. They are there to help and to help determine if the school is the right match for the student. Topics cover the spectrum from financial aid to the best local restaurants off campus. Many of the admissions officers who come to high schools may very well be the ones that will give interviews on campus.

The best part about college visits is that they are held conveniently right here. Colleges that visited this September, October and November have come from all over the country: Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia and Washington D.C. Even a Canadian school, McGill, made an appearance in September.

“College visits can be very helpful if the representative is enthusiastic and does a thorough job,” said junior Sophia Srinivasan, “Its really convenient as a way to get to know the school short of actually visiting it.”

Take advantage of these college visits. They are a great opportunity to see if a school is the right choice for you. The admissions officers will give information about how to pay for school, what scores and classes they are looking for with a student and what the college experience will be like.



photo by Lauren Ranzino

When students are not chatting with Mr. Roberts, they are researching schools in the College and Career Resource Room.

For those who have not attended a visit, here is an example of what it will entail. First of all, please have some integrity and do not just go to a college visit to get out of a class. Meeting with the admissions

As for many students, the pursuit to find a college is comparable to a life and death situation. To alleviate stress, let it be known that these visits should not be panic-inducing. It is a good idea to ask questions and

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes serves as social outlet

by Erica Shartle

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or FCA for short, is a relatively new club at Parkland High School. Supporting involvement with religion, and tying in fun with the cause, the club is popular among many students for several reasons. “It is really fun because even if you don’t know many people very well, you all can come together and play games and have fun,” said junior Katie Lantaff. Luckily, one does not have to be extremely religious to attend; some come to simply

learn new things about the faith and hear the details of Christianity.

Each meeting begins with an opening prayer, followed by a game or sport, a lesson and a closing prayer. Meetings are held on Tuesday nights and usually last



photos by Phil Riola

Members of FCA get to hang out together after a lesson.

about an hour and forty-five minutes, and the students have fun while

learning about their religion. After the lesson, the students usually discuss what they learned in small groups.

In the winter, when the weather is cold, the students usually stay indoors and play games like Mafia. However, when the weather is nice, they go outside and play sports such as kickball, tag and football. FCA is also involved with the dodge ball tournament this year.

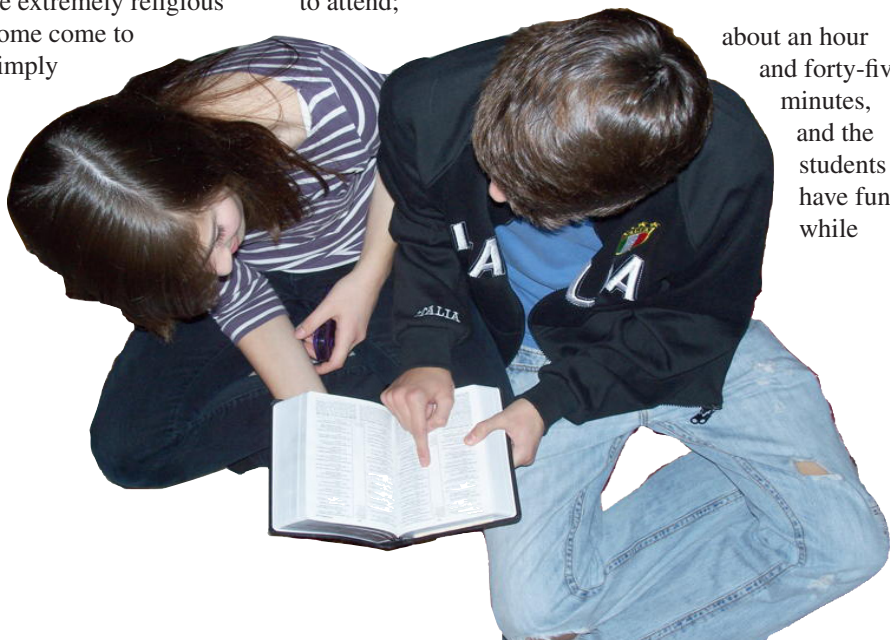
The students involved in this club are there to support each other with any problems they have. Members can be open about their religion during their meetings and not feel ashamed to talk about religion. They get to interact with each other, talk about religion and play sports all at the same time.

“FCA is a good time for

students to have fun in a friendly environment, build relationships, and grow spirituality,” said junior Robert Skinker. FCA provides this safe environment for the students to come and just have a good time.

One of the most important parts to some is all the snacks that are provided. For example, at a previous meeting, mini éclairs and crème puffs were brought. Other snacks include popcorn, soda, chips, cookies and other type of dessert.

Finally, the group usually concludes with a closing prayer. The students agree that this is a good way to end the session and start off their week. Overall, this club is widely enjoyed by a number of people. It offers a place to talk, play games, eat and just have fun.



Sophomore Emily McClenithan and junior Cain Azar sit and read The Bible.