

## Halfway mark means little these days

**Mary Zakheim**  
Staff Writer

Here we are; halfway into the school year, surrounded by the familiar February chill, trudging through puddles and mud on our way to the same classes we've had all year. We should be used to change, after all, we're in a completely new setting this year, and still, it was disconcerting to know that we wouldn't be switching lessons come January 26<sup>th</sup>. All thanks to the newly imposed six-period day. A change, the students were told, that was widely encouraged from parents and teachers. For the students, this would cut back on electives we would be allowed to take, and for teachers, it took 1 ½ hour and 45 minute classes and transformed them all into an even 55 minutes to each course.

"I like how fast it goes, but I want to switch classes for the second half of the year," junior Morgan Romey said.

Support for the six-period day does not run short, 32% of students approve and like the change, according to our school-wide distributed poll. The students who enjoy the new schedule said that school seems to go faster because of the six-period day and that classes seem shorter. They said the old block schedule made lessons drag and go on forever and that the new schedule is a big improvement.

Teachers are not crying foul either; quite the contrary, most are glad to have the ex-

tra 10 minutes that they get going from a 45 to 55 minute class to squeeze more learning into their students' minds.

Some have mixed feelings, though the short classes are drawn out longer, the reverse must be put into effect as well. Quite simply meaning, the long classes are cut shorter, creating a mixed-bag of emotions for teachers who had both types of classes.

"It's a nice change and the day goes faster, but I can't go as in-depth into lessons," Spanish teacher Nate Bartlett said.

However, the other 68% of students have their views too, most notably the students who now cannot make up a failed class in a timely manner. As one senior remarked in the poll, "It messes with our semester grades."

In the past, had we failed a class at the half-year mark, we could retake the class immediately in the second semester. With the new schedule; though, students will have to wait a whole year before making up classes they hoped to do better in, and for seniors, that option is out.

Some teachers also do not like the day because they had their AP classes cut 35 minutes short. Though they have the whole year now to teach, their block-schedule lesson plans no longer apply to the new 55 minute classes.

Proclaimed as an improvement to our education, the decision was passed by our school board, proposed by staff and parents two years ago. The

school held staff and community meetings where parents could lend their thoughts on the subject. Freeman also conducted extensive research to find a new schedule that would satisfy the teacher's needs of the perfect length of a class. Some teachers were complaining about how 90 minutes was too long and 45 minutes was too short to effectively teach a subject.

But still, though research was conducted and parents added their knowledgeable input, our research points to the fact that some people just don't like the change. It might sound silly, fantastical even, but shouldn't a verdict that cuts 8 credits out of a student's high school career and diminishes educationally-furthering elective choices receive some input from those who it affects? A student, who perhaps would want to take a choir, art, or an extra science class, in order to suit their interests and personal goals, will have restricted options in an effort to satisfy the limiting factors of the 6-period schedule.

"There's only so much a student can take in over the course of a certain amount of time," Principal Dave Smith said, though he also admits, "I don't think it's the perfect schedule. If we need to change it, we'll change it."

And change it, they might. Smith added that the school is considering adding A and B electives, classes that can be taught in half a year so that students could switch electives

at semester. He said he has noticed the animosity towards the new program expressed by the students and wanted to take further steps in order to soothe the hostility held by the students towards the schedule change. Were the school district to add this option, the main concerns surrounding the six-period day would most likely lessen or altogether disappear.

In the end, it was Smith and the staff who made the final call and the school board who put their stamp of approval on the schedule change. It's true, people don't like change, and change can be hard to adapt to, but when this change consists of employing a schedule which thins the student's options for their studies, especially considering the percentage of students who are against it, that's when the school should bring their extensive research and studies to the high school which it will concern.

While they studied the effects of the schedule in other school districts, they failed to ask students at Freeman what we thought, they failed to effectively alert us to meetings where students could voice their concerns, they failed to include our thoughts in their decision. We were handed extra responsibilities this year due to harder classes and less time in school to complete homework, and yet, were left out of the choice that decided that.

## More important: privacy or safety?

**Mary Zakheim**  
Staff Writer

Everybody's talking about the changes being made to travel; the security's being tightened, more checks are being carried out, but one thing has the public up in arms: scanners that provide a 3-D image of your body. You'd think that any way America can prevent another attack would have the masses singing praises. Think again.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which was created in 2001 to protect traveling Americans after 9/11, has been developing two valuable pieces of equipment to help advance our search for protection from attacks: backscatter technology and millimeter wave imaging technology. Both can identify a wide variety of threats to airport security that the usual detectors cannot pick up. Introduced in

2007, these innovative and state of the art advanced imaging technologies have been used in 19 airports nationwide. Although these detectors are currently being used as secondary screening instead of a pat down, more and more airports looking for superior levels of safety and security are considering putting this highly effective technology to work in their buildings.

Some civil liberties groups who oppose the scanner because of its invasion of privacy have a valid point. After all, the whole objective of the device is that it has the ability to sense and see everything a potential terrorist could be hiding, including those few rolls an average citizen wishes to hide. They call instead for these scanners to

eliminate genitals and other "private places" from the scans or for a traditional pat-down once someone has been found with a contraband item.

This would work if the metal detectors we have currently in use were stopping potential attacks. I believe these groups are forgetting the Christmas bomber who managed to sneak a bomb hidden in his underwear onto a flight headed to the United States. He hid the bomb in his pants; isn't that what officials want to take off of the image? He snuck past a metal detector; isn't that what they're counting on to uncover a contraband item in order to conduct the traditional pat-down search? To want the part



of the body taken out of the scan where a man hid the weapon he planned to bomb America with is ridiculous. It gives the potential attackers a wide range of options to strike the heart of the United States once more.

To satisfy those proclaiming loss of privacy, the TSA introduced a compromise; they are offering a pat-down procedure option instead of using millimeter wave technology to ensure the safety of US citizens and our nation.

Expensive? Yes, these machines cost up to \$100,000. But that's not even close to cost of the wars we're fighting because of an attack we weren't able to prevent.

Invasion of privacy? Yes, but that's something you agree to when you buy a plane ticket. And more than that, your privacy is a small price to pay for the safety of our nation.

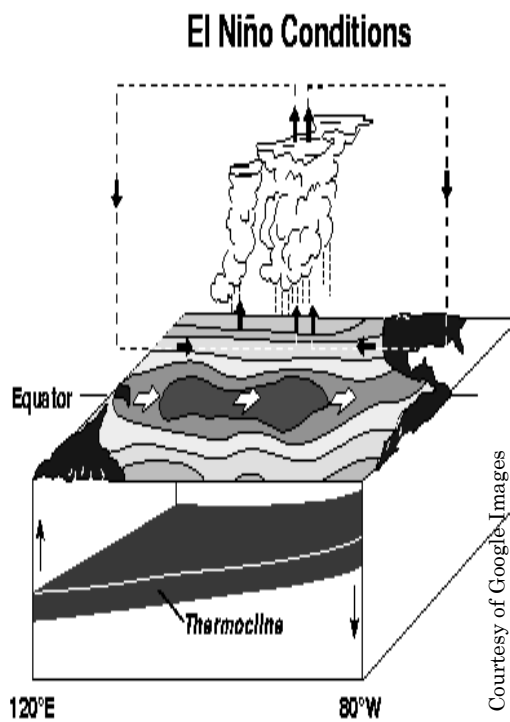
## No snow winter: Could “El Nino” be the cause?

By Erica Patterson  
Staff Writer

You would think that winter in Spokane means harsh and massive snow storms like we’ve had for the past two winters, right? Surprisingly, Spokane has been pretty lucky so far this season. People have been wondering where the snow has gone and why the ground is not covered in mountains of it.

For the past two years, Spokane has been slammed with more than its share of snow. In 2008-2009, Spokane had to deal with a dreadful 97.7 inches of snowfall and 92.6 inches the year before. This year, Spokane has only had 11.5 inches of snow so far this winter.

The federal government might have found a possible reason for why we have been having such a bare winter lately: El Nino. El Nino has been brewing in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is thought to bring temperatures above normal and less snow to the Inland Northwest. El Nino (meaning “little boy” in Spanish) is a term derived from South America, where it can



An illustrated diagram shows the effects of El Nino.

cause storms and a disruption in fishery.

El Nino has affected Spokane in the past. A strong El Nino occurred in Spokane during the winter of 1997-1998, bringing a snowfall of only 15.5 inches. A more moderate El Nino returned in the winter of 2002-2003 with a snowfall of just 20.5 inches at the airport.

The average winter snowfall in Spokane is 47.6 inches. El Nino usually causes Pacific storms to move south and around California and the Great Basin states, thus giving the Pacific Northwest fair and moderate weather conditions. El Nino experts believe we should expect more rain than snow this winter.

The Farmer’s Almanac doesn’t seem to be buying it, predicting cool weather and average precipitation to be the cause of this mild winter. As far as summer and spring being affected by this winter, the predictions are unknown for the time being.

No matter if The Farmer’s Almanac is correct or if El Nino is the cause, this calm



Piles of snow cover the grounds of Riverfront Park during one of Spokane’s massive winters.

and mellow winter is indeed an unexpected one. Some people enjoy it, and others want the snow to come to be rid of the warm winter. Whatever is ahead this winter season, we know that it lies completely in Mother Nature’s hands.

## Freeman FBLA Kicks Off “2010 Burgers With A Heart”

By Scott Moore  
FBLA Advisor

On Tuesday, February 2, Freeman FBLA kicked off the 2010 “Burgers With A Heart Program” at the final regular home basketball game of the season. This is a program where community members have the opportunity to donate \$1 or more to purchase paper hearts to help raise funds for the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery (VBCN).

The Crisis Nursery helps to provide a safe haven for abused and neglected children and gives parents a place to turn to when in need.

Freeman competed with other high schools in the area (“Spirit With A Heart”) to see which school could raise the most funds for this cause.

Freeman is the four-time defending champion after raising \$1553 in 2009, \$1449 in 2008, \$1994 in 2007 and \$1343 in 2006!

The FBLA chapter set a goal of trying to raise over \$1750 this year. They worked hard at selling these hearts and worked two nights at the Valley Red Robin, February 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, to help raise funds.

On their first night, the Freeman community packed the valley Red Robin, had a good meal, and purchased \$653 worth of hearts, a new

single night record for hearts sold! Overall, Freeman raised \$1637 for the VBCN!

“It’s really fun,” said junior Mackenzie Deruyter. “Not only are we helping kids in need, but we are having fun raising money at the same time.” The contest ended on February 22.

The final results will be announced in the next edition of the Freeman Bagpiper. If you missed out and would like to donate to this great cause, please contact Freeman’s FBLA advisor, Scott Moore, at the high school (291-3721, ext 201 or smoores@freemansd.org).



Photo courtesy of Mr. Moore

Freeman FBLA students, along with “Red”, had a great time working at the Valley Red Robin to raise funds for VBCN.

## Allie Bruneau: Inspired artist of Freeman

By Carlie Dickson  
Staff Writer

Junior Alaska Bruneau, or Allie, has been chosen to design spirit t-shirts for the high school this year.

“The T-shirts were Chelsea’s [Ayers] idea, considering she is the junior’s president; I just wanted to make a hard-core Scottie dog for a hard-core school,” said Bruneau.

Bruneau is not sure what she would like to pursue as a career in the future, but she would like it to be art-related. Along with drawing people and tattoo designs, Bruneau likes to draw fashion. She also happens to be a fan of *Project Runway*.

People have asked her ‘how can you draw like that?’ or ‘wow, I wish I could do that!’

“I really don’t know how long I have been able to draw,” Bruneau said “I think I have been able to draw since I was born... that’s what I tell myself.”

Bruneau gets her drawing talent from her mother, even though she doesn’t draw a lot, and her inspiration from everyday life. She believes that no

day is the same, and that each day should be experienced for its full potential.

Best of luck with all that you will achieve in your artistic future, and follow your dreams.



Photo courtesy of Allie Bruneau

Bruneau shows off her artistic talent by wearing her junior spirit shirt design.