

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

## The French exchange students



### ÉDITO

Les voyages sont l'occasion de contextualiser les langues et de s'éprouver face à l'autre. Les échanges apportent ce plus qui permet de vivre une véritable expérience culturelle. L'accueil apparaît ici tout aussi important que le voyage en lui-même.

Les articles journalistiques présentés dans ce journal sont le reflet de l'expérience culturelle de l'immersion des élèves dans des familles américaines et à la High-school de Evanston (Chicago). Souhaitons que cet échange leur ouvre de nouveaux horizons.

Marcos Stephanie  
Brûlé Laurent

1. **Cover**
2. **Photos**
3. **Wishes after school**
4. **Patriotism in the USA**  
**Halloween**
5. **Willis Tower**
6. **Yamo**
7. **A day at Northwestern**
8. **French Stereotypes**
9. **Buildings in Chicago**
10. **Sport in highschools**
11. **Pomkits**
12. **Photos**

### ELEVES JOURNALISTES

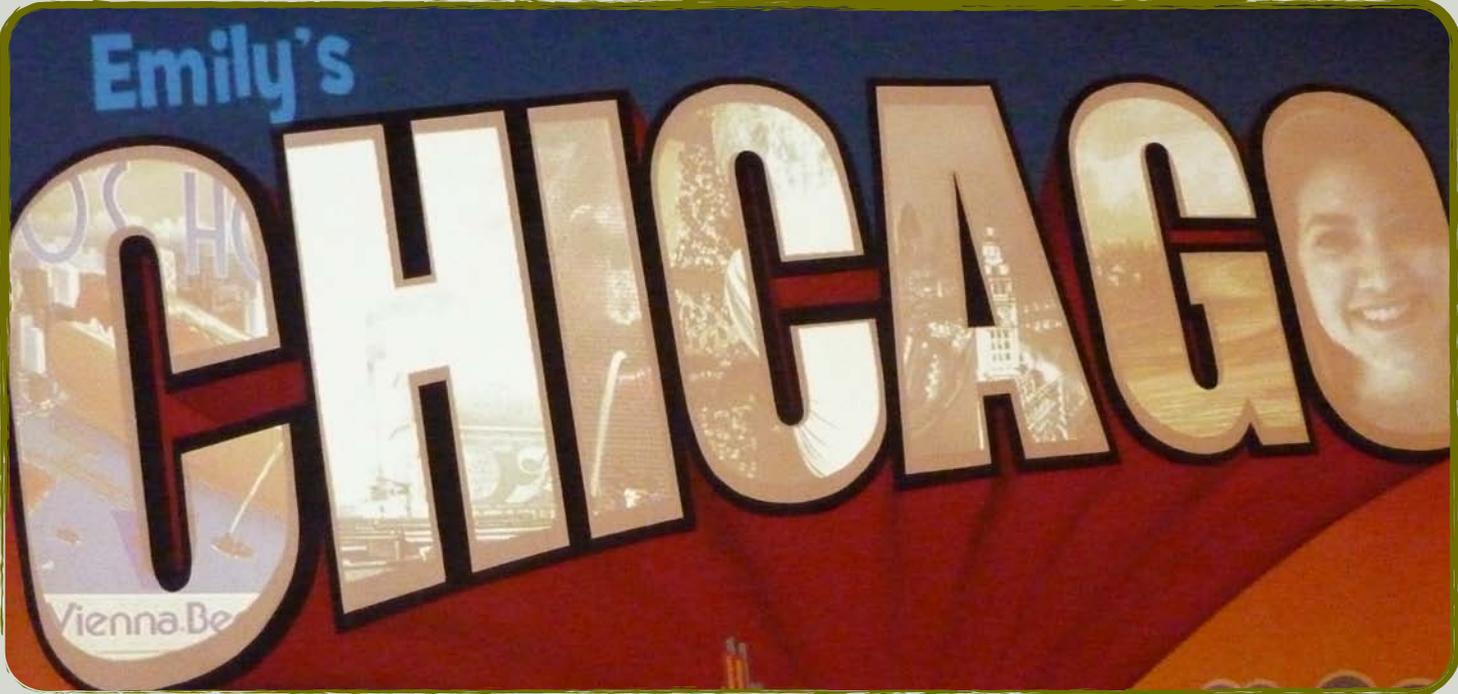
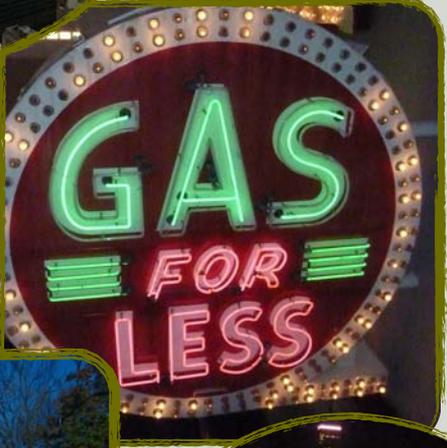
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# CHICAGO

## Exchange trip :

A group of French students in Evanston and Chicago tells us about their experience

## WISHES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL : GOING TO COLLEGE

*Hey guys! We interviewed some students from Evanston Township High School about their future and what they wish to do. We are going to talk about one girl called Molly and one boy whose name is Nehemie.*



Evanston Township  
Hisghschool



### Question 1: How much does it cost per year at the university you want to go to?

*Molly:* The university I want to go to is Stanford and it costs 40, 000\$ a year. Moreover I want to study there for 4 years.

*Nehemie:* I wish I could go to a university called Iowa. It costs 30,000\$ a year and I also want to study there for 4 years.

### Question 2: Which subjects do you want to study?

*Molly:* I want to study mathematics and international relations.

*Nehemie:* On my mind, I will study law, history and mathematics because I want to become a lawyer.

### Question 3: Where will you live while you study at the university?

*Both:* I will live in a dorm on the campus

### Question 4: Do you have options other than the university? What will you choose?

*Molly:* I could do a gap year in an orphanage but I prefer going to college.

*Nehemie:* I could play football but I think I don't have the level so I would like to go to the university.

Thanks to their answers we can notice that going to a university costs a lot of money and it's the same everywhere. But the price can decrease with a scholarship or if you succeed in a subject or a sport (Ice Hockey, Soccer, Football...) or even if you play an instrument at a high level.

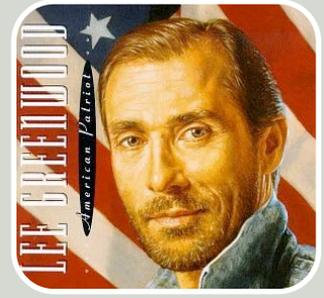
Students who leave the High School also have to write admission essays to the college they want to go to. It's a way for the universities to select their students.

Moreover, living in a dorm is compulsory the first 2 years, and then you can live where you want.

*Cécilia and Marine*



# PATRIOTISM IN THE USA



**In a world where globalization takes up more and more space, American people are proud to show they like their country, evidenced by a strong patriotism, which punctuates their life. From high schools to artists, everyone demonstrates that the United States of America are beloved.**

“I think that American people are even prouder of their country since the eleventh of September in 2001” says an American student from ETHS, looking at the American flag in front of a house. “I like wearing clothes from my high school, and I think that students from ETHS who wear them are able to prove that they’re happy to be in them.”

These words reflect the mentality of the high school. In ETHS, students wear caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, have thermos, cups, scarves with the color of their school or of the high school American football or baseball teams. This shows that these students do not only go to school, but that they belong to a real vibrant community full of activities they like to participate in. They live, act, create, and play together.

In the streets, most of the houses are decorated with a blue and red starry flag. The American flag is another representation of this patriotism. “Showing the flag of my country enables me to tell the

neighbors I do like where I live. It doesn’t only show the fact that I like my nation, but it also means that I like my neighborhood, my house, that I am proud of my family and proud of myself.”

And we will close this patriotism parenthesis with some lyrics from the song of Lee Greenwood ***Proud to be American*** which by the way has been remixed by the famous pop singer Beyonce : “*And I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free. And I wont forget the men who died, who gave that right to me. And I gladly stand up, next to you and defend her still today. Because there ain’t no doubt I love this land, god bless the USA*”

The least we can say is that American people know how to spread the love they have for their country. And this is certainly why the USA are so beloved in the entire world.

*Alexandre and Clément*

## HALLOWEEN: GOOD-NATURED PARTY OR COMMERCIAL EVENT?

Every year, on the 31st October, Halloween is one of the greatest traditions in the United States.

It dates back to the third century before Christ. This festival marked the coming of the "dark season ". Priests moved from house to house to demand offerings and even human sacrifices to their god. If people refused, they hurled curses with pumpkins and death over their homes, hence the Trick or Treat!.

Today, Halloween isn’t as gloomy! 41 million people aged five to fourteen years old go to the streets with a costume ringing to others’ doors saying “Trick or Treat”.

Furthermore, each house is decorated with diverse things:

pumpkins of course but Americans don’t lack imagination to add accessories like gravestones, skeletons, big spiders, baby vampires, strange noises, lightings, etc....

This is also a good trade event for companies with around 24.7 kilos of candies, which are consumed per capita each year, and about 1.719 costumes, which are rented each year.

Unfortunately, people do the party to keep the tradition without knowing how it appeared.

This is a picture of a house in Evanston, it shows the importance of the money spent on a single party, but also the difference of the impact of this tradition between France and the United States.

In France it is very unusual to see decorated homes, in the United States, and more precisely in Evanston for our experience, this is very common.

*Jodie and Laura*



## An experience that we'll never forget on the top of the tallest tower in the United States of America.

\*\*\*

During the exchange between Touchard High school and ETHS, our group of twenty French students had the opportunity, on Thursday, October 27th 2011 in the morning, to go up into the Willis Tower, (formerly known as the Sears Tower), in the Chicago business district, called the Loop.

In 2009, a new company bought this building, which was renamed the Willis Tower.

The Willis Tower was built from 1970 to 1973. For 22 years, it was the tallest building of the world. Nowadays, it is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.

The Willis Tower architecture is composed of steel. Indeed, after the burning of Chicago, at the end of the XIXth century, began a new era where buildings were made of steel. It took a year to dig the foundations. Two floors were built per week. So, the construction was very fast. The weather of the beginning of the day we visited the tower was particularly not mild. We decided to make a

vote to know who wanted to go to the top with the risk of seeing anything, because this skyscraper is composed of 110 floors and with the clouds we couldn't see the town. The majority said that we would go to the top of the Willis Tower anyway.

We took the elevator in which we felt like if we were pushed toward the floor because of the speed we climbed. We arrived in 45 seconds at the 103th floor. It corresponds to the Skydeck, which is the Willis observation point. We discovered Chicago and the area as we had never seen them before. There is a wonderful view of Chicago, Lake Michigan, the Indiana and Wisconsin states. A little while after we had arrived, the clouds went away and enabled us to admire the beauty of the place. We went to the glass balconies, we took many pictures and everybody enjoyed this moment.

Except for the Skydeck, this business building is mainly composed of law offices, insurance and other financial companies. At the top, there is a radio antenna.

It's an unforgettable experience, so awesome and incredible! This is definitely an essential place to visit in Chicago !

*Laurianne and Maud*

## WILLIS TOWER



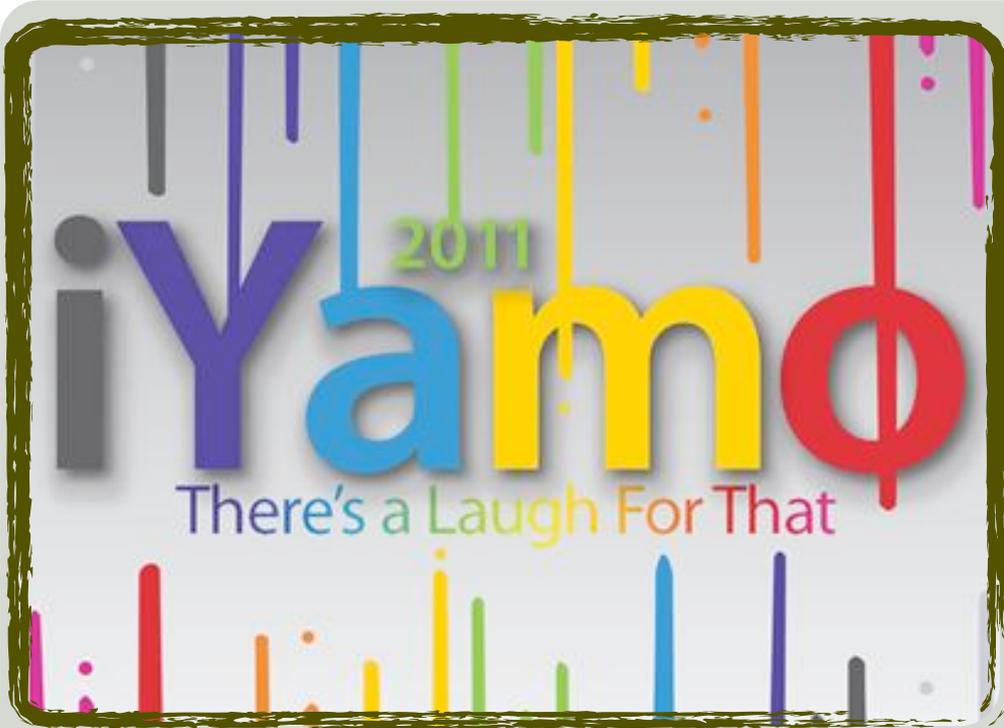
### Glass Balconies on the 103<sup>th</sup> Floor !

The Willis Tower with the 3 glasses balconies on the 103<sup>th</sup> floor, seen from the Chicago River.

For more information :  
[www.theskydeck.com](http://www.theskydeck.com)



One  
of the three  
glass balconies  
on the 103  
floor.



## ETHS' MUSICAL-COMEDY

### EXTRAVAGANZA

YAMO is a show, a big comedy, performances in 3 weeks. Every year, ENTIRELY made by the pupils of ETHS. YAMO is so successful that all the

The dialogs, the costumes the direction, everything is made by the students. For instance one of the exchange students is the head of lights.

This comedy is composed of many little funny sketches (37) about the teenagers' life.

The actors dance, sing and play roles. There is also an orchestra that plays between each sketch and during some sketches.

This year it was the 54th YAMO and it was entitled "iYamo - There's a Laugh for That". This is to remind Apple with all the iPhone, iPad, iPod, etc. and their catchphrase : "There is an app for that".

The main subject of the sketches was the new technologies. They were 7



performances are sold-out.



Every sketch is very funny and they are caricatures of the society. The students are excellent actors and they sing and dance very well.

It is very different from France, because the students are very involved in this show and in France we haven't got any extravaganza like that in our school.

If you are interested in finding more about YAMO, you can visit YAMO's website, where you will be able to watch all the photos of the show: <http://www.ethstheatre.com/>

*Quentin and Théo*



# A DAY AT NORTHWESTERN



The Arch



The new library



Inside the old library

During the trip in the United States, we have been surprised by the college of Evanston: Northwestern University.

Northwestern University was founded in 1851. It was named after the Northwest Territory. It's the second best University of Illinois and the 14th in the United States. One of its founders is John Evans.

At first, we visited the oldest building of the college: University Hall. University Hall became a part of Northwestern in 1877. Now this building is a library. We saw two libraries: the old library (in University hall), which reminded us of Hogwarts and a new library. The new library is beautiful: it looks like a shelf with a lot of novels. However lots of students don't like this one. The university has more than 4 million books.

Then we went to the campus. Sorry, one of the two campuses. The main campus is 240-acre parcel in Evanston, along the shores of Lake Michigan. People here study economy. The second campus is in Chicago and it's for people who study law and medicine.

On the campus we saw students who were doing sport. Northwestern is well

known for sport: It's a kind of sports university. For example: The female Lacrosse team of Northwestern is well known in the USA because they won five consecutive NCAA national championships. Another example: Northwestern is in the big ten conference, which is an old group working on sport competition.

There are 8,367 undergraduate students and 8,108 graduate students. There is a total of 16,475 students in the university. Northwestern has more than 2900 teachers and 5600 employed people.

Like other colleges Northwestern has a mascot, a color and a slogan. The mascot is a wildcat. The color of the school is purple (hence the purple line of the CTA).

Moreover Northwestern has two slogans :

- The first one comes from Latin : "QUAECUMQUE SUNT VERA" , "Whatsoever things are true"

--The second one comes from Greek : "ο λογος πληρης χαριτος και αληθειας", " the words are full of grace and truth"

However Northwestern university is an expensive university , the tuition costs \$41,592 a year.

*James and Ismael*



# FRENCH STEREOTYPES BY AMERICANS



**Elizabeth Stover**  
Secretary



**Chris and Tim,**  
Salesmen in Beck's shop



**Sugandhi and Nory**  
Teacher and Nurse

## 1st question : Quote one of your stereotypes about France.

I guess French people smoke a lot: in France, the streets are really dirty because of cigarette's butts and when you walk in the streets, almost everyone's got a cigarette in the hand. But except for that French people are really pleasant in different ways, for example when us Americans go there and we've got difficulties to speak, they help us, making efforts to understand us.

*Chris:* I think that they have a lot of cartoons in France and the one which is the most famous for us is «The Looney Toons».

*Tim:* For me, French women are really soft and charming but also kind of tantalizing, for example by the way they are dressed.

*Sugandhi:* In my mind, France is really popular for the good food even if sometimes French people eat strange things like frog legs or snails but except that, other things are really good.

*Nory:* Everything is pretty in France like the architecture but the clothes are the prettiest things.

## 2nd question: What do you think about it, do you believe in it?

I think more laws should be voted in France about the cigarettes even if I don't say that people can't smoke but in some places, cigarettes should be prohibited.

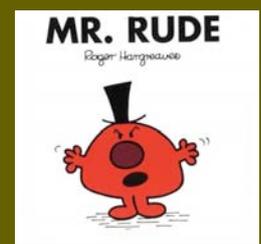
However French people are really open minded and very sympathetic, they welcome you very well.

*Chris:* These cartoons are really laughable and they represent very well the mind of French people.

*Tim:* I think that the French culture is really based on sex, because everywhere you go, you can find references to sexuality, if I can permit myself.

We would like to go to France because French guys know how to dress well, and they look really better than the American boys. We also think that it's surprising that the French boys like to go shopping but it's thanks to that that they look better.

*Malwina and Mégane*



# HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS IN CHICAGO

## CHICAGO IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SKYSCRAPERS

The Chicago Architecture reflects the architecture of Great American Cities, unfortunately much of the buildings were destroyed in the “Great Chicago Fire”( except the Water Tower Place ). After this tragic event, it was an opportunity for the architects to modernize the city: they understood that wood was obsolete and had to save space.

Therefore they turned to tall buildings. It was also an opportunity to reorganize the city. They could then build more housing on a smaller space. The first skyscraper was built in 1885 by a famous American architect: W.LeBaron Jenney (who is considered as the father of skyscrapers).

Following this, the constructions succeeded with many new buildings that we will present and the way that they were built.



### The Water Tower Place skyscraper:

This building was built in 1975; the complex includes a skyscraper and a large shopping center, in which we have been several times to buy clothes or souvenirs. This latter includes a lot of clothes stores and some food stores. The interior is very luxurious and extends over seven floors. This complex is very impressive, both outside (with a big white concrete skyscraper) and inside (with the seven floors of stores and restaurants).



### John Hancock Center:

This huge black building topped with two antennas was built in 1970, with 1500 feet high; it's one of the most famous towers in the city. It's also one of the highest of the United States. When the construction was completed, it was the tallest building in the world outside New York. Like the Willis Tower, there is an observatory at the top where we can see the downtown of Chicago. We can find many shops at the base of this tower, like “Best Buy”. This skyscraper gives a strange feeling when you are at the bottom: you feel tiny.

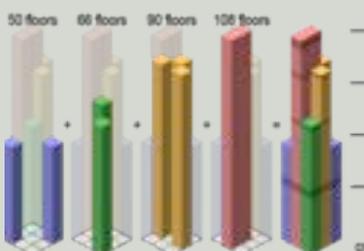


### Trump Tower:

The Trump Tower is the second highest building in Chicago. Its name comes from Donald Trump, an American billionaire. The construction was finished in 2009, the skyscraper is 1389 feet high and there are 96 floors. At the beginning it was supposed to be higher but because of September 11, the tower is smaller and many changes were done. Like the others, each floors has a different width.

### Willis Tower:

The Willis Tower (in the past Sears Tower) is the highest skyscraper in Chicago. In 1982, antennas were added to the building increasing its total height of 1,704 feet (527 meters). It was a record for 25 years from 1973 to 1998. Then it was the Petronas towers in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, which were the highest of the world. Bruce Graham designed the Willis tower. He decided to divide his work into 9 parts where each one stops at a different level and to use steel and glass. Willis tower is the name of the company, which is installed in this building: Sears, but now the company has left the place.



# SPORT IN HIGH SCHOOL : A KIND OF IDENTIFICATION FOR

As we were able to see it, sport is something really important in ETHS, the high school in Evanston. Indeed, almost all the students support sport teams, going to see games and wearing the colors of ETHS for example.

We interviewed three people to answer our questions:

- Andrew Levin, boy, 17, hockey player
- Drew Levin, boy, 14, soccer player
- Xotchil Patino, girl, 16, volleyball player

**Is sport an important thing in high school ?**

Andrew: Yes, sport in high school is very competitive so people want to see you.

Drew: Yes, because the system helps you become a better athlete, as well as a better student.

**Why do you practise a sport in your high school and not outside?**

Xotchil: It's a kind of tradition, every teenager is a member of a different team like music team, dance team, football team. In our own high school, it's a way to support it. We are proud of our high school and we show it.

**What are the different kinds of sports?**

Andrew: US football, soccer, basketball, baseball, hockey, tennis, golf, bowling, gymnastic, swimming, track, lacrosse.

**Why did you choose this one?**

Xotchil: I practise it because I like playing volleyball, but also because it allows me to meet people, to create relationships and to be accepted.

**Do you think belonging to a team is a way to become popular in high school?**

Andrew: Yes, because people want to see you if you are a good player, and if you are good, people know you.

Xotchil: It depends what kind of activity you practise. American football and cheerleaders are well-known, but it's sure we are more famous when we practise an activity, but that's not the reason which pushed me to play volleyball.

**How many practices do you have a week?**

Andrew: 3 practices a week.

Drew: 6 a week.

Xotchil: Everyday after school. And our games are often during the week, it lasts about 2 hours.

**So it takes a big place in your high school life?**

Xotchil: Yes but it's normal for us and even though trainings are exhausting, it happens in good atmosphere.

**Do you think winning a game brings a good image of your school?**

Drew: Absolutely. Because we want to be seen as winners.

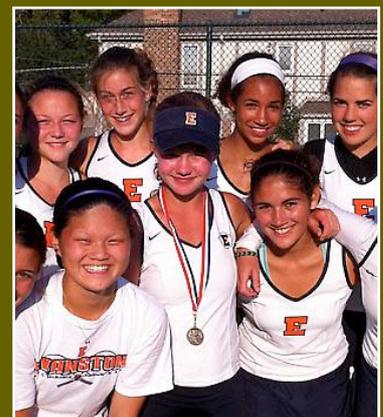
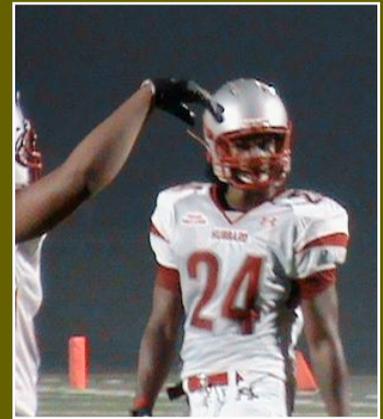
Andrew: Yes, because people respect the school more.

*Guénaëlle and Ophélie*



**Hockey Game  
at ETHS**

## SPORT



# POMKITS

We interviewed two girls from the pomkits, Sarah Denton and Moira Mcshane's: They are both 17 and senior at ETHS, Sarah 5 years of experience, Moira 8 years of experience, she is the captain of the team.



### *Could you describe us your activity briefly ?*

Sure, our activity is dancing on HipHop music, at the moment we dance on a Kanye West song : Who gon stop me ..... But there are different HipHop dances as Krump, Tutting, Ticking...

### *How many times do you practice a week ?*

It depends if there is a show in the following weekend or not because our representations are only at homecoming games, so from 3 times a week to 5 times a week when we have a show. Normally a practice is 3 hours long.

### *What about your shows ?*

Well, our shows only take place for Football (American Football) and basketball games. During the season we have 6 representations at football games which starts in September and finishes in December then starts the basketball season with 8 representations and which finishes in March.

### *Is it your main activity ? Why do you like it ?*

For sure, we both are in the Urban Bit Dance club of Evanston, it's a Hiphop dance school, to improve in hip hop dance and get more skills.

Sarah : I also practise softball which is a kind of baseball for girls (bigger ball for example).

Moira: It's my only activity but because I'm captain I also work on the choreographies. We like this sport because we are fond of dance, moreover we are a group of friends so there is a good atmosphere in the team. It's a lot of fun and a real pleasure to represent ETHS colours.

### *Can you explain us the difference between a Cheerleader and a Pomkit?*

Yes, at ETHS we have a team for each, and it's very different, the Cheerleaders do dance, song and gymnastic shows during the games to keep the energy up in the crowd, they are in front of the crowd not on the field whereas the Pomkits do their show at the half-time, in the middle of the field.

### *Does a Pompomgirl competition exist ?*

Yes of course, each year there is a national competition which takes place at Disneyland in Florida. But we participate in this competition only every other year because it's very expensive. We have to raise 30000\$ to go there. To raise this money, we take many steps for example: organizing car washing ,candies or discountbook selling ... We have also donations. The national competition will take place next year in February 2012. Four years ago ETHS team finished 6th in this competition. That's why we are very motivated!

### *Do you think we have Pompomgirls in France ?*

-Yes sure!

-No unfortunately, there isn't. Do you think we should have some?

-YEEEEESSSS !

Thank you Sarah and Moira for taking the time to answer our questions and thanks to all the team for letting us come at a practice. Now we wish you a good season and success at the national competition.

*Guillaume and Tizian*



## Who are the pomkits?

Pomkits are girls who dance for sporty events, during the half or quarter times to motivate their team and keep the energy up in the crowd. Their name comes from the word « pompoms » which are the objects held in the girls' hands during the show. It's a very famous activity in the United States, which is practiced at all age. Almost every pomkit represents her school and its sport teams. But this activity doesn't exist in France. That's why we decided to interview two members of the Pomkits, which is the ETHS school team.



**EVANSTON POMKITS**  
**JULY 9**

**CAR WASH**

**KINGSLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
2300 Greenbay Road, Evanston  
(Corner of Greenbay Rd. & McCormick Blvd.)

Saturday, July 9, 2011  
9AM-4PM  
\$10 Donation

Help the Pomkits raise \$30,000 for the National Dance Team Championships and UDA Summer Dance Camp.



**FLAG OF CHICAGO**

In 1917, a new flag was chosen to symbolize the city.

**W**hen William Hale "Big Bill" Thompson took office as mayor of Chicago in 1915, he appointed a special commission to oversee the creation of a new municipal flag. Chicago author and lecturer Wallace Rice was asked to devise a set of rules for selecting the flag. Hundreds of designs were submitted to open competition, including Rice's own, which he had apparently spent six weeks making, trying "more than 300 combinations

