

New LEDs will light OHS pool

Sebastian Carrier

Staff Reporter

OHS is taking initiative to fix the environment and improve the lighting in the school. Light-emitting diodes, or LED lights, were recently put on the schedule to be installed above the swimming pool.

Isabella Morris, a water polo player, said she is satisfied with the lights.

“The light doesn’t affect swimming as much as someone would think, but for water polo it definitely affects your view,” Morris said.

Morris added that the previous lights in the pool would flicker during practice, and half wouldn’t even turn on. The lights were newly replaced with incandescents, but there will be LEDs in the future.

The primary difference between incandescent and LED light is that LEDs use a lot less electricity for the same light. The new lights cost more when purchasing them up front, but over time they make up for the price in energy saved.

However, according to an article from Ross Greenberg, Director of Lighting and Electrical Programs for Ferrandino & Son Inc., LED lights are not all beneficial.

“Over time, some LEDs that have a poor design can begin to flicker, and might even provide uneven light,” Greenberg said.

New LED lights in the pool will use only an eighth of the power of the incandescents, according to Dave Chapman (Science).

“By switching to the new bulbs, we can save a large amount of money for the school district,” Chapman said.

Currently our school classrooms use fluorescent lighting; in order to switch over to LED inside the classrooms, we would have to tear out the fixtures and replace them with fixtures that would support the LEDs. This process would be less efficient than using the fluorescents on their own.

“The change of lights was implemented by the school solely to save energy,” Chapman said.

Every step the school takes to be environmentally active is a step in the right direction.

Climate change may threaten coffee supply

Miles Bolton

Business Manager

Land suitable for coffee growing will be reduced by 50 percent by 2050, according to a recent report from the Climate Institute.

This would cause shortages of coffee around the world, making the cost of the global drink rise significantly.

Erratic rainfall and rising temperatures are causing problems like the fungus Coffee Leaf Rust and the coffee-killing Coffee Berry Borer to spread and destroy coffee crops around the world. Just last year a drought in Brazil lowered coffee production by 30 percent in the major growing region Minas Gerais.

Coffee is widely available in Okemos, offered in supermarkets such as Meijer and Walmart as well as coffee shops, (four of which are within a two mile radius of OHS), around Okemos.

Meghan Corbett (12) is an avid coffee drinker.

“I have at least two cups a day, and this bums me out,” Corbett said.

Coffee has become increasingly common in high schools, its caffeine buzz helpful for early mornings and late nights of school and homework.

Zoey Williams (10) is another coffee drinking student.

“I have coffee five out of seven days



Illustration by Adanya Gilmore

of the week,” Williams said. “I’d probably drink it as often as I do now if the price went up.”

Corbett expressed a similar attitude.

“Maybe I would change the amount of times I drink coffee a

day, but I wouldn’t stop drinking it.”

Both Williams and Corbett said they will pay more attention to climate change because of its threat to coffee.

Droughts in Brazil, a major exporter of coffee beans, have caused three years of lowered production and farmers are

worried that coffee will disappear from the region if this continues according to NPR.

While farmers can take steps to manage the problem, like purchasing equipment to monitor climate so they can know what measures to take before

a potential drought, the real issue is climate change itself, according to The Guardian.

Larry Erdman (Social Studies) is a coffee connoisseur and daily brewer.

“I drink it all the time, I’m addicted to coffee, and I love it in all its forms,” Erdman said.

Erdman said that he’s noticed an increase in price already.

“The prices have gone up per pound since I started drinking coffee in my teens. I can see that skyrocketing because, from an environmental standpoint, coffee is exhausting to the soil and with these changes I can see prices going up.”

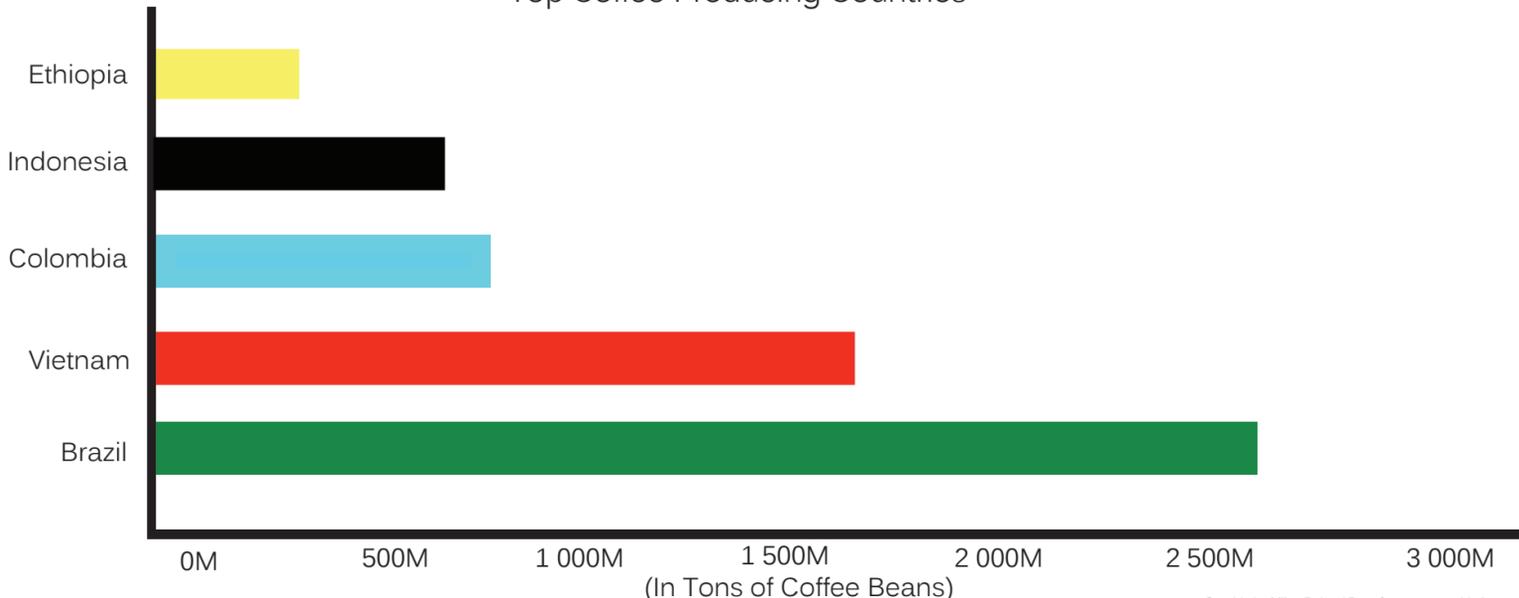
Erdman is also going to reevaluate his habits towards coffee.

“I would, I’m actually starting to change my habits even now, because as it’s become trendier it’s also gotten more pricey,” Erdman said.

Erdman said climate change would grab people’s attention when it has a personal impact.

“When climate change starts hitting people in the habits they have, the things they enjoy, when it starts impacting them, yes, it will bring it to their attention,” Erdman said.

Top Coffee Producing Countries



Graphic by Miles Bolton/ Data from www.worldatlas.com

Paris takes car-free day to bring attention to air pollution

Madeline Robins

Social Media Specialist

On Sept. 25, the streets of Paris were filled with locals and tourists alike, all enjoying the city without the usual traffic.

From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on that day, the majority of the streets in Paris are blocked off from all motorized vehicles, aside from public transportation and emergency automobiles. The ban applies to 648 kilometers of roads, making up 45 percent of the entire city, according to Nature World News.

The ban was passed by Mayor Anne Hidalgo, who vowed to improve the city’s air quality when she

took office in 2014.

The Champs Elysees has had car-free days one Sunday every month since May 2016, for Parisians and tourists to enjoy to the 1.2 mile walk en route to the Arc de Triomphe. With the success from the Champs Elysees, the ban was expanded to include practically every neighborhood in Paris on Sept. 25.

Camille Norris is a student at Montpellier University in France, and has lived in France on and off for her entire life.

“As a Parisian, I always seem to notice the difference between the air in Paris and how bad it really is. I think now since more Parisians are up to date on this issue, progress will take place very soon,” Norris said.

For Parisians, the ban did not make

much of an impact on their daily travels, due to their lack of regular car use in the city.

However, a study done by a French polling company, Ifop, found that 55 percent of citizens support the day without cars.

“People who live in Paris don’t have cars anyway; there is no need for them to have a car,” Melissa Samluk (World Language) said.

With the well-established system of public transportation throughout the city, people needing to go places will take a bus regardless if there is a ban or not.

The goal of the event is to raise citizens’ awareness

about the different transportation methods the city has to offer. To further promote the event, streets that would otherwise be filled with traffic will be holding free outdoor activities.

“I think [the ban] will help people become more aware of how much the air pollution affects them, so that they may take individual actions to keep their cars repaired so they run more efficiently,”

- Larry Erdman (Social Studies)

Aside from the car free day and the ban at the Champs Elysees, since July 1, no cars registered before Jan. 1, 1997 are allowed to drive through the streets of Paris from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Although this law brought controversy, it is expected to be tightened by 2020 to all cars registered before 2010. To identify the old cars, all city registered automobiles will have window stickers classifying them by their pollution levels.

Dave Chapman (Science) said he thought the ban would be helpful in tackling pollution.

“I think [the ban] will help people become more aware of how much the air pollution affects them, so that they may take individual actions to keep their cars repaired so they run more efficiently,”

Chapman said.

France’s air pollution, much of it coming from fine particulate fuel emissions, is estimated to kill 48,000 people per year, according to a study published by France’s public health agency.

“I think [the car free day] will help even if it’s a small amount; it will add up no matter how big of an impact it is day to day,” Amy Potchen (12) Earth Club Co-President said.

With car free Sundays on the Champs Elysees, the ban on outdated cars and the second day without cars throughout the majority of the city, Paris is making great strides toward reducing the effects of air pollution throughout the city.



Illustration by Bernice Gajda