

Juniors

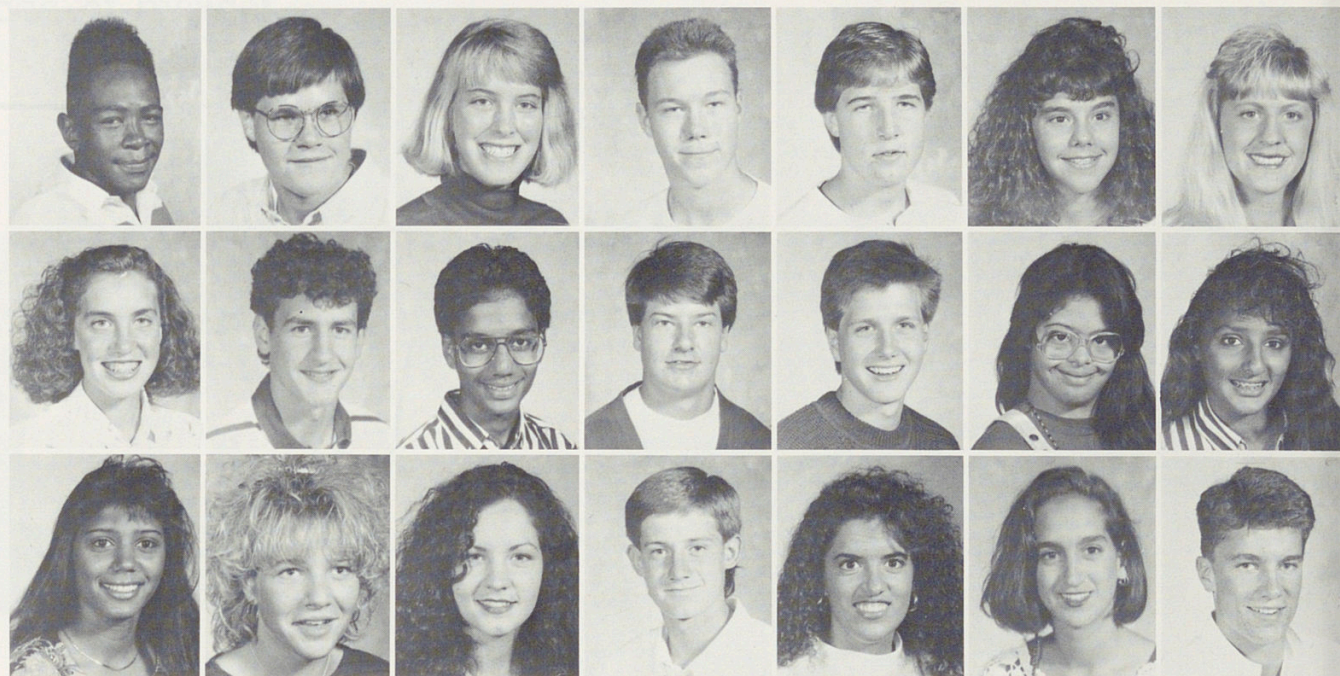
Juniors

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Dante Noble
Jonathan Obst
Molly O'Conner
Ken O'Day
Timothy Olson
Amy Orringer
Shannon Ott

Natasha Pace
Christopher Pantel
Samir Parikh
Jason Park
Scott Parrish
Gargi Patel
Nisha Patel

Shailee Patel
Lise Paterek
Karen Perkins
Simon Phillips
Elizabeth Pishotti
Ashley Pollack
Fred Pottschmidt



Friends of All Ages

Almost everyone has a sister or brother, don't they? You know, the one who steals your clothes or eats the last cookie. Well, that's not the one I'm talking about. The one I'm talking about spent time with an elementary student playing games, helping with homework, or just listening to them talk.

This year, Gene Donatell, the high school psychologist, began a Big Brother/Big Sister program. "Working with teachers at the elementary level, I became aware of younger children in need of attention and friendship," said Donatell. With this in mind, Donatell talked with the high school administration, the counselors of the high school and elementary schools, and other teachers to find out how to begin the program.

From all who volunteered at the high school, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters were selected by Donatell, English teacher and Volunteer Program Coordinator Sarah Alley, and the counselors. "There is an awful lot of talent to pull from our Sycamore students and they can also learn to give of themselves to help others," explained Donatell.

The elementary students in the program were chosen by many teachers and coun-

selors of each school that saw the children as having a special need of some kind. The students came from Maple Dale, Symmes, Greene School, and Blue Ash Elementary Schools.

Most of the big brothers and sisters from the high school visited their elementary friend once a week and spent about an hour with them. During that hour, they did homework or talked about school. "We work on my homework, sometimes have a snack, go to the library, and even play games," said William Makey of the Greene School whose big brother is junior Adam Rothwell.

Another Greene School student, Georgie Nienaber adds, "We play cards and talk about homework and how my weekend was."

The students gained friendship from this program. "I get to miss class while having fun and learning a lot too!" said Makey.

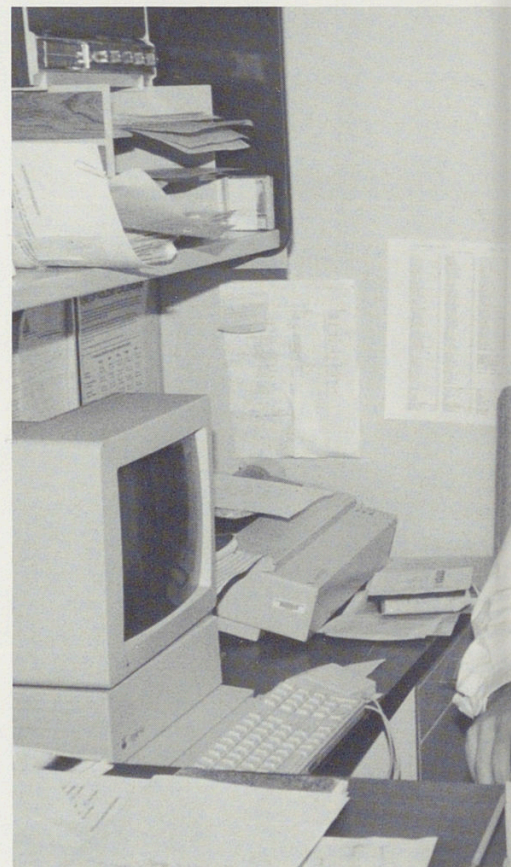
Rothwell adds that "Since I began visiting William I see things from a different point of view, I realize how much kids look at older people as role models and how we influence their lives."

Although this program is new, there has been a noticeable change in the elementary students. "According to teachers and counselors, as well as parents, many of the children have enjoyed having a friend come and visit them," said Donatell.

by Stacie Smith

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-Gene Donatell



As high school coordinator of the Big Brother/Sister program, Mr. Donatell spends many hours in his office choosing the perfect matches between the Little and Big Brothers/Sisters, ordering shirts, and planning meetings. When looking at how successful the program has been, it is obvious his hard work paid off.

