

# Minuteman

Adlai E. Stevenson High School

September 2009

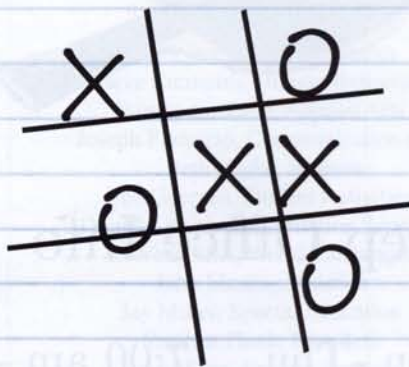
## Back to School Issue

Adding Common Sense to  
page ~~12~~ 14 College Admissions

Remember to check Faber College app deadline!!!



Pick up new & improved  
PPA Directory at open  
house! p. 21



Smartest  
Senior  
class  
Ever? p. 4

Show these to Mr. Loch

# Holocaust Survivor Speaks to Students

Holocaust survivor Aaron Elster was a guest speaker at SHS on May 28. Elster captivated, challenged and moved a packed audience of Stevenson history students. He recounted his boyhood years of the Nazi invasion of his hometown of Sokolow, Poland.

The audience was touched with his vivid descriptions of life in the Sokolow ghetto, his immediate family, and eventual liquidation of the ghetto's residents. His moving recollection at times had the audience close to tears as he recalled his fear of dying, watching his family being rounded up by the SS, and his father whispering in his ear to run away. His story of living in an attic, alone, for more than two years captivated the students as they envisioned a young boy, scared, lonely, starving, covered in lice and grappling with the idea that the only reason he had to live that way was because he was a Jew. Elster remained in the attic until the end of the war.

He challenged the students to remember that the saying "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me" is a lie. Words are powerful and the hurt never goes away. Physical wounds heal, but the message that emotional wounds may not heal had a resounding effect on the listeners. He pleaded with the students to choose their words carefully; to remember they are going to be



Aaron Elster speaks to students in the West Auditorium. (Photo by Sue Breckheimer)

the decision-makers of the future; that they can accomplish whatever they set out to do.

Elster is the grandfather of Sarah (Class of 2006) (the same name as his younger sister, who did not survive the occupation) and Allison (Class of 2009). He is the co-author of *I Still See Her Haunting Eyes*. To learn more about Elster, his work and speaking engagements, visit [www.aaronelster.com](http://www.aaronelster.com).

— Sue Breckheimer

## Parent Brings Holocaust Exhibit to SHS

In addition to the appearance by Holocaust survivor Aaron Elster, students on May 28 had the opportunity to examine a unique Holocaust exhibit. Stevenson parent Danny Spungen's exhibit, provided by the Spungen Foundation, is one of

the largest Holocaust private exhibits related to stamps, postcards, letters, bank note forgeries, and manuscripts from concentration camps and Jewish ghettos. Unlike many exhibits, Spungen encourages students to pick up and examine artifacts. For more information on the Spungen Foundation, visit [www.spungenfoundation.org](http://www.spungenfoundation.org).



Sophomore Leanna Spungen (second from left) holds a piece of the Torah that was torn to construct an envelope. She is surrounded by her father Danny (left), her mother Debbi (second from right), and her grandmother Florence (right). (Photo by Sue Breckheimer)