

The loss of a caregiver

Allison Shipman

We all have different kinds of parents, but what if you lost a parent?

Some have those crazy bizarre, maybe embarrassing parents. Others have the ones who push you to do your absolute best. The true thing as a child you should appreciate everything your parents do for you. It's rare for a kid to lose a parent in their teenage years, but it happens more than you would probably consider.

"You really don't know what you have until its gone," Cody Pagles said.

Cody is currently a junior who lost his father, Rob Pagles, to cancer and passed June 3, 2008. His dad was coach of the wrestling team and had always been there to help him.

"I miss him most during wrestling season, and not being able to learn from him.

I remember riding snowmobiles around my house with him," Pagles said.

It can be the simple things your parents do for you everyday and you don't realize what you really have in your parents.

"I will always remember my dad's stupid jokes," Blake Haas said.

Blake Haas is also a junior who lost his father, Kevin Haas, to kidney failure on March 22, 2007, his 51st birthday.

"I remember getting a call from school that he wasn't doing good, and that night is when he passed. I was pretty pissed, and didn't really know how to deal

with it. With it being his birthday it made it a little tougher to take," Blake Haas said.

Pagles and Haas both lost a parent at a young age. Pagles was 15, and Haas at only 13 and in the eighth grade. Losing a parent makes a big impact, and a lot of things change in daily life.

"All I thought was where do you go from here? I was just staying busy with all the work that had to be done. It drew me away from all that had happened. It was a lot different. Everything changed. Like moving out of the house," Pagles said.

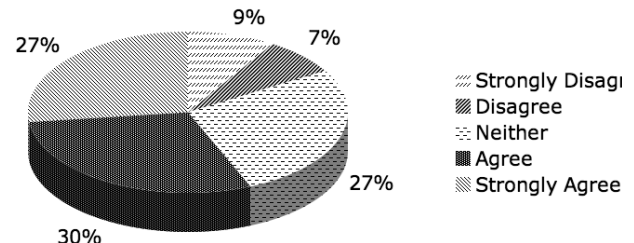
Haas also felt the change in his life.

"It felt weird I guess. I don't know how else to explain it. Not coming home and seeing him there is different. I don't get to do many guy things unless by brother's around; that's the biggest difference," Haas said.

Being teenagers, some of us have parents who push us to our limit of tolerance and drive us crazy sometimes. Take it into consideration though you even have a parent who cares as much as they do for you. Pagles and Haas both had this and lost it. When you go home to your parents every day, and they start to get on your nerves, remember they know what is best for you, and they know what it's like being a teenager. They were young once too.

As teenagers we want to become independent, and get

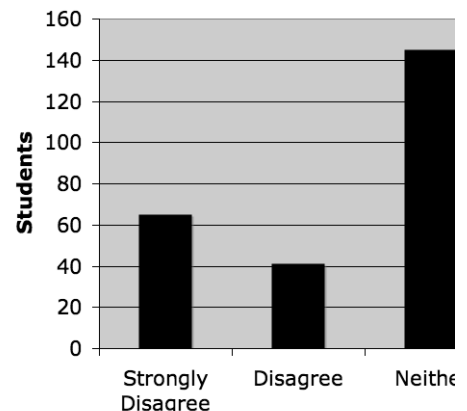
Academics Will be Better with Parental Involvement



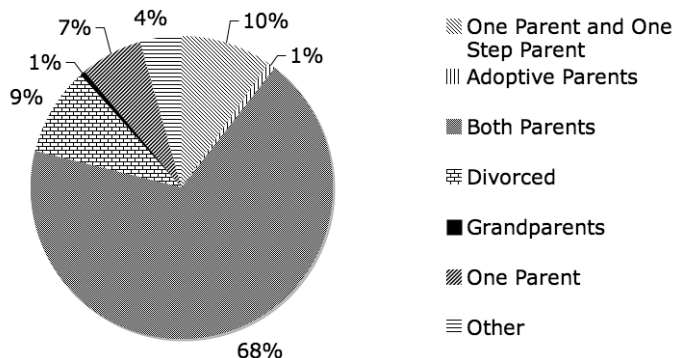
ready for our lives ahead of us; but at the same time we all want to be taken care of whether we realize it or not. Your parents provide you with a home, food, clothing and most important the care they have for you in your life. Parents they pretty much live and work to support you.

"Going to the races with him every weekend down in Beatrice was my favorite memory with him. I miss him the most when I go race every weekend. You need to appreciate your parents, they do a lot of things for you and you need to appreciate what they do for you," Haas said.

Parents Should be More Involved in Student's Life



Parental Living Situation



Top: Shows that 57% of students think they would do better academically with parent involvement.

Middle: Show that most students are indifferent to having parents more involved in student life.

Bottom Left: Shows that almost seven out of ten students live with both parents and that almost one in every ten students have parents that are divorced.

Bottom Right: Shows that a majority of students that aren't indifferent Agree to some degree that parents should be more involved in the extra curricular activities that their kids are involved in

New environments

Zach Tegler

Every year, thousands of students from countries around the globe converge in the United States as part of a growing foreign exchange student program. The experience for these students is unforgettable, and they learn about a new culture in a totally alien community. But all of these visitors need places to stay while in the U.S. That is where host parents come in.

One such example of a host family is Amber and Bryan Conklin, who are hosting German exchange student Julian Karras for a semester here in Waverly. Amber worked at AYUSA, one of numerous student exchange programs in the country, for a few months. Rachael Blaske,

the Regional Director of AYUSA and a host of other Waverly exchange students (most recently, Martin Netopil from Slovakia), convinced Amber to host a student.

"She insisted," Amber said. Amber and Bryan are hosting a foreign exchange student for the first time, in addition to raising two daughters of their own.

"Seeing what Julian is going through with school is showing me how to prepare my girls for school," Amber said. To her, the biggest challenge of housing an international exchange student is stressing the importance of good grades. She has also learned to have more patience.

"Remember that they are in a strange place and a strange place and a strange environment," Amber said. "If you ever get frustrated with them, you have to keep in mind they are not at home." Apart from that, though, she says the transition when Julian first arrived was very smooth.

"Julian is pretty easy going, and we're pretty easy going," she said.

Also, things that seem like normal or everyday occurrences to us might be totally new for the exchange student. Amber soon found out that Julian was going through a lot of new experiences.

"It's exciting to see him eat different things that we take for granted, like macaroni and cheese. Just little things like that," she said.

Unfortunately, though, all good things must come to an end. Amber says she doesn't even want to think about the day that Julian will board a flight back to Germany yet.

"It's going to be hard," she said. "It's not like he can come back on weekends."

So for the host parents of foreign exchange students, the time spent looking after someone from a different world becomes quite the learning experience, and on top of that, it can come with a lot of fun. These parents take students from foreign countries under their wings for months at a time, and it is an invaluable service to the visiting students. And Amber has one bit of advice for someone hosting an exchange student for

Extra curricular parents

Jessica Chermok

Moms and dads everywhere help out their kids when it comes to extracurricular activities. They play big parts in helping and supporting their student. What some don't realize though, is how much they actually do. People don't see what happens behind the scenes.

Parents don't have to always show in the most obvious of ways how they help out. They can do things that make a difference in the hearts of the team. Taylor Guenther's parents are a fine example of this.

"It was a funny story. I was traveling for work in Chicago, and Taylor called me and said, 'Mom can you feed the varsity football team breakfast in the morning?' It was nine o'clock at night, and my husband made a trip to Walmart to get all the fixings for biscuits and gravy. I woke up that morning at five A.M. and made over a hundred biscuits and really enjoyed the boys coming over to the house," Becky Guenther said.

The Guenthers try and help out as much as they possibly can. They have also helped decorate the



Parents serving football dinner

Jessica Chermok

for parent's night.

Most of the time, it means a lot to a child when their family goes to a performance or an event. Sometimes though, a parent will have to miss an event due to unforeseen circumstances. Nick Miesbach's mom's has felt the pain of missing out.

"Last year, I missed the Christmas performance of the High School Jazz Band. I was traveling and my flight out of Minneapolis was delayed because of bad weather. I was so disappointed. I felt like I missed a once in a lifetime event and would never recover the opportunity to see my son's first big performance in the High School Jazz Band," Cindy Miesbach said.

Luckily, more often parents have the opportunity to catch the pivotal moments. Chris Johnson's parents were there in the stands when he finally made it to march for marching band.

"My most memorable moment would probably be this year when I saw Chris marching for the very first time. He'd been put in the pit for years, but they noticed him this year and let him march," Neil Johnson said.

Some parents make it a point to be behind their

child in everything that they do.

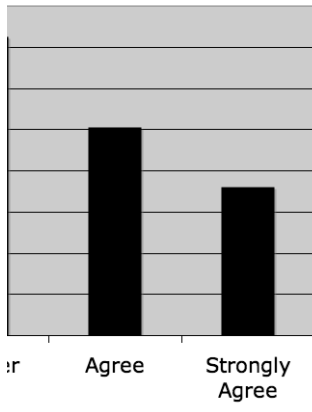
Lindsay Simpson's mother, Becky Simpson, says that she pays for everything for her daughter. Not only does she pay for everything she needs for cheer, but she pays for a ton of other things that Lindsay participates in. Her mother encourages her every step of the way.

Support is key in the lives of students. A certain comfort comes in knowing that you have a person to lean on in all of the good and the bad times of performances or events. Miesbach's father is one to show that he will never give up on the kid.

"Encouragement! Not only 'hey you did a great job', but 'try out for marching band, you'll think it's cool'. My folks never pushed me to do anything, but a little nudge every now and then was usually all it took, Nick is the same way," Dave Miesbach said.

Performances and games will eventually come to an end, but it is clear that the love from parent to child never will. People often don't see what happens behind the scenes, and often its parents—even if it includes over a hundred biscuits—providing support.

Involved in



Parents Should be More Involved in Extra Curricular Activities

