

"Yuck" Makes You Strong

*Be a nerd? Welcome "yuck" into your life?
Why not?*

When speaker Michael Karpovich came to Ashley in April, he gave us all a few words to live by.

"It's okay to be a nerd" and "Sometimes surviving the hard times or 'yuck' in your life is what really makes you strong," he told us.

Everyone has "yuck" in their life. Take seventh grader Jonathon Burford for example. Jon is the shortest, not to mention all-around smallest student in our school. He is faced with harassment every day. Can he help that he is small on the outside? No. It's obvious to anyone who knows Jon that the size of his heart has no limits.

There are other types of "yuck" that we can face. In Kristin Bornemann's case, an injury to her knee caused more than just physical pain. Kristin had surgery on her knee as the result of a collision on the basketball court only weeks before the first game.

"I was out for the whole season. I hated going to games and watching my team play and not being able to be a part of the win or wondering if I could have helped out when they lost," commented Kristin.

The majority of the sports teams also faced some "yuck" by having really rough seasons. "It seems like all of the sports teams had bad seasons," commented senior athlete Eric

Fabus.

Even though Jonathon is small on the outside, he really wants to show people that he is a giant on the inside. He survived the "yuck." Now, Kristin is fully recovered because she worked hard with physical therapy and was determined to play volleyball and softball. With such willpower, she survived the "yuck." The sports teams had a bad year. This just gives them a boost to work harder next year. They survived the "yuck."

As we enter the new millennium, show the world that we are all nerds at Ashley and that we can turn "yuck" into "yum" anytime, anywhere!

Terri Kral