

# Higgins sets school mark for wins

Maria Brasco '10

Breaking a record in a school with over three-thousand students would be a dream to some, and James Higgins '10, a senior wrestler is living that dream.

Many years of practice makes near perfection, 139-12 was the outstanding record that gave him the right to claim the title as WTHS's all time winning wrestler.

Last year Anthony Curcio '09, with 137 wins, surpassed the record of long-time titleholder and current coach, Mr. Dave Tomasette, who had 136 wins. Achieving this milestone is quite an accomplishment according to his head coach, Mr. Ralph Ross Jr.

"I am so proud of James, he has worked very hard to get this far," said Ross.

Surpassing one hundred wins early in the season of his junior year was the peak of Higgin's

story. Wrestling since he was five has truly paid off. Higgins is a four-time district champion, a four-time region placer, and placed once in the top eight in the state as a sophomore.

Despite having so many wins under his belt, Higgins is able to cite one as the most fulfilling match. It was in states his sophomore year against region champion, Billy Gould, the win led to Higgin's placing eighth in the state at 112.

"I was still young and to beat a region champion in the state tournament was a big deal. I placed in the state after that. It was a match I'll always remember," said Higgins.

The life of a wrestler is never easy, losing weight and being able to work out can be stressful. Luckily, Higgins feels fortunate to have a practice partner who impacts him in countless ways.

Charlie Huff '11, a three-time district champion and a two-time region champion, and one time state placer helps Higgins in the practice

**James Higgins surpassed Anthony Curcio to set the WTHS record for wrestling victories.**



MARIA BRASCO '10/The Patriot

room and gives him the motivation to keep working hard.

"We feed off each other, the competitive edge we have with each other makes the other one work even harder," explained Huff, "James has worked hard for everything he's earned. I'm glad I have him to look up to."

# Concussions a concern at all levels of sports

Kevin Whitehead '10

Professional and student athletes alike have been encountering a seemingly increasing problem head-on. Though they may be wrapped in the gridiron's armor or certified protective head gear, athletes have been encountering concussions and head trauma.

With these injuries sidelining star NFL players like Brian Westbrook, Ben Roethlisberger, and Kurt Warner, the sports world is scrambling for ways to prevent them.

In furious high contact sports such as football, lacrosse, and ice hockey, athletes are suffering serious blows to the head causing unconsciousness, memory loss, and neck injuries. This is nothing new to sports itself, however, the saying that 'he got his bell rung' is being observed more closely than in the past.

"It's a very debilitating injury. We're more aware of it because our knowledge [of concussions] has increased," WTHS Athletic Director Kevin Murphy

As athletes are getting bigger, faster, and stronger, sports are becoming more dangerous.

The situation hit close to home this past fall when Minutemen special team standout Charlie

DeLuca '10 took a vicious hit during a game versus Pennsauken. The Minutemen were punting and DeLuca long snapped the football and turned up field.

A Pennsauken player threw a block on DeLuca, leading with his shoulder into his helmet. DeLuca suffered the most extreme concussion. Based on his time of unconsciousness, DeLuca suffered a level three concussion and missed two games.

"I was looking up at the ball to see which way I should pursue the field," DeLuca said, referring to the incident. "And that's all I remember."

His doctor advised that playing would create the risk of further injury. In his final season as a Minuteman, DeLuca stressed how much he wanted to play.

"I didn't want to believe anything the doctors told me," DeLuca said recalling the length of recovery. "I was told that I might not be able to play anymore. When I returned to the field, I played even harder than I did before."

It is common for players to want to return to the game. Coaches and trainers often have to go to great lengths to convince them otherwise.

Concussions can have long term consequences that trainers and scientists are looking into more and

more as each incident occurs. After a series of injuries, post concussion syndrome develops. Furthermore, patients deal with headaches, dizziness, and inclined sensitivity to light and noise.

"I get headaches now," DeLuca said. "They're more extreme than normal headaches."

Freak injuries occur, however, the Washington Twp. trainers work very closely with all student athletes to minimize long term damage.

"The coaches have to tell the trainers of what's going on," Murphy said. "It all starts with the coaching staff. Just being aware of training [procedures] in practice."

Every injury is relayed from the coaches to the trainer. This way, the trainers have an idea of the severity and unique situation each player is in.

"They range from mild to severe," Minutemen football head coach Mr. Mark Wechter said. "[The Minutemen] have about 2-3 per season. I think they're in the decline because [coaches] are

teaching players how to tackle properly."

In addition to improving technique rules have been put in place to minimize serious injuries. In high school football, the spearing penalty costs a team 15 yards for a helmet to helmet contact or head-leading tackles.

Football is the leader in head related injuries, according to the University of North Carolina.

The National Football League has been mending its rules to accommodate for the safety of its players. Penalties like helmet to helmet contact for quarterbacks and wide receivers, running into the kicker or punter, and hits while a player is out of bounds.

Long-time NFL fan David Lanza '10 agrees with the rule change, but is concerned with the impact on the game.

"The roughing the passer penalties are weak and quarterbacks are losing their toughness. There aren't many tough quarterbacks anymore," he said.

**Have an idea for a good story?**

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# The Patriot

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# The Perfect Score

## Washington Township junior posts flawless SAT

Taylor Perkins '11

QUESTION # 1) Which of the following best describes Township's Parth Parihar's ability to achieve a perfect SAT score?

- (A) Study, Preparation, Study
- (B) Motivation and support from family
- (C) Solid education and good teachers
- (D) Personal goals and inspiration
- (E) All of the above plus much, much more!

ANSWER (E)

Parth Parihar '11 has achieved something that many people could never accomplish in a lifetime. With plenty of studying and preparation Parihar was able to achieve the perfect SAT score, a 2400.

"[My parents] are really proud of me, and when people approach them and say, 'Oh you're the parent of Parth Parihar' they get really happy," he said.

Every year about 2 million students take the SAT's worldwide and only 1 in every 5,000 students taking the SAT gets a perfect score. Parth Parihar is now able to proudly say that he is one of the few.

Over the Christmas break while many students were doing anything but even thinking about school, Parihar decided that he would spend the time off studying. He decided to buckle down



TAYLOR PERKINS '11/The Patriot

**Parth Parihar, class of 2011**, achieved the unthinkable as he earned a perfect score of 2400 on the SAT Exam.

a month before the exam, and prepared by taking practice tests on the weekends.

Parihar said he had a lot of help and motivation along the way. From his parents and his sister Prachi (WTHS '09).

"My parents definitely push me to do better a lot of the time," he said, "and they are very encouraging."

Mr. and Mrs. Parihar knew that by entering their son into a lot of competitions, he would be able to learn from the other kids and expand his knowledge.

Parihar also looks to historical figures as his inspiration.

"People like Thomas Jefferson and Leonardo DiVinci were really excellent in more than one field," said Parihar. "I think that it is really inspiring that you can master more than

science and art which are two completely different things."

While his perfect score will help him get accepted to almost any college of his choice, he is still undecided on a school or a major. He may follow in his sister Prachi's footsteps and attend Princeton University.

"I will probably end up majoring in math, engineering, law or maybe physics like my sister. But it is pretty open right now; I am not really sure what I want to do."

**Success draws attention**

His teachers and administrators are very excited and proud of his achievement.

WTHS Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf  
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## TWP Madness



RYAN FRANCISCO '11/The Patriot

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# Roller hockey team puts focus on fun

Weston Eldridge '10

Township's local roller-hockey team the Blue-Footed Bubis, make boring Sunday nights a thing of the past. Bringing out a large crowd every week, the Bubis are undoubtedly the fan-favorite in the league.

They are still working out the kinks of the game.

Each week, they are catching up to the more experienced play of the other teams.

"I think our positioning has improved over the weeks and the general understanding of the game as well as skating technique," said Tim Flank '10, "The intensity is always there."

Flank was made head coach by the organizer and founder of the hockey team, Jim McCabe '10. It all started with a raw idea one day; but 13 kids later, McCabe he made his idea a reality.

"First I went out and called all my close friends and then people just started joining the team," said McCabe.

They usually practice at least three times a week. Displaying leadership for the squad are Captain Kevin Whitehead '10 and Assistant Captains McCabe and Dom Tumolo '10.

"Even though we're not that great yet I try to help the team out and encourage the players." said Dom Tumolo.

Giving the team school relevance, the Bubis wear their jerseys every Friday. Like the football team, they give their other jersey to someone else to wear during the day. After seeing the Bubis jerseys walking through the hallways, the student body naturally feels a curiosity to go watch the games.

"After seeing Bubi jerseys in



courtesy of Kevin Whitehead '10

Captains Kevin Whitehead and Dom Tumolo have been happy with the progress of their new team.

the hallways, I felt like I needed to see what it was all about," said Adam Marcucci '10.

Just as the student body supports the football and basketball team, they pack into SJSSA to cheer on the Bubis. The team is serious but at the same time the team is all about having fun. The fans feed into the playful nature of the team by bringing oranges and juice boxes to give to the players after each period.

"The fans make it just so

much more fun than we're already having out there," said Cory Adamonis '10.

Not only do the Bubis give everyone something to do on Sunday nights, but they also enjoy the comradaderie between themselves.

"With us it's not about winning and losing," said Whitehead, "I just go out and have fun playing hockey with my teammates and especially my classmates."

## Correction

In the extra edition published on April 20 regarding the Washington Township school budget, the following details were incorrectly reported.

- The Washington Twp. Schools Support Services Personnel Association (WTSSSPA) was incorrectly referred to as the Washington Twp. Schools Support Staff Association.

- Mrs. Carol Schwartz should have been cited as a *member* of WTSSSPA not a *spokesperson*.

- According to the terms of the proposed budget, elementary and middle school intramurals would be reduced, not cut.

- Dr. Cheryl Simone was erroneously quoted as saying that "82 percent of the school budget is teachers' salaries". In fact her statement was that the 82 percent was made up of "salaries and benefits of all staff in the district".

- The last budget to successfully pass was in 2008 not 2007.

**We apologize for the errors.**

**-The Patriot Editors**

# SAT practice makes perfect

from **PERFECTION** p. 1

said, "It is tremendous point of pride for the school. It is tremendous point of pride for Township."

Mrs. Boyajian, one of Parth's teachers at Hurfville Elementary School was especially proud. Boyajian, a teacher in the Gifted and Talented program, is one of the people who motivated and inspired Parth to do well in school. She and Parth have a special relationship and she was overjoyed to hear of his success.

## Just your average teen.

Aside from his school work, Parth does have other hobbies and interests.

"Ever since I was little I enjoyed playing basketball and I am usually on a recreational team," he said, "but this year I couldn't do it because I had too much homework."

He enjoys following both college and professional basketball. His favorite college basketball teams are UNC "because my Dad went there" and Villanova. His favorite pro team is the 76ers.

Aside from basketball his other hobbies are drawing and writing.

He is involved in school activities such as

Model UN, SAVE Club (Township's environmental club), Youth and Government, Science League and Math League. His favorite is Model UN because he looks forward to the different competitions.

When Parihar posted the fact that he got a perfect score on Facebook, he received numerous responses.

One simply stated, "Oh he knew that he would get a perfect score, he's Parth."

But interestingly enough he was not expecting to get a 2400. He had anticipated doing well but did not expect to get every question right.

Parihar said, "When my dad was driving me back from the testing site he asked me what I thought and the answer then was between a 2280 to a 2340."

He has some advice for future test takers.

"I would just say to take a lot of practice tests because they are the same format as the SAT's. Once you [do that] and get a feel for the test, you will be able to do a lot better."

Despite his success he keeps things in perspective and offers some simple advice.

"Work hard and try to look for fun in whatever you do," he said, "and try to balance your life."

## Sports

# Minutemen aim for memorable season

Kevin Whitehead '10

Given that the Washington Twp. Minutemen are coming off a quick exit from last year's State Tournament to then South Jersey's top ranked Cherokee, there is a collective hunger for another run with South Jersey's best. Amongst the nine seniors, they want their last innings as Minutemen to be special.

The Minutemen want to send a message that they are a team to be reckoned with.

"With the seniors, we know we have about 90 at-bats left. We're going to make them count," leading standout shortstop Nick Favatella '10 said.

With a nucleus of seasoned seniors and budding underclassmen, the Minutemen are aiming toward an improvement from last year's results.

"I think we're better this year," head coach Mr. Bill Alvaro said. "We have a great group of kids. They've worked hard for a long time."

The Minutemen played in summer leagues and Fall Ball after the completion of the 2009

season. Spring has arrived and so has the confidence.

"I think you can expect us to be a contender in [the] Olympic Conference and in [South Jersey] Group IV," Alvaro said. "We're going to surprise a lot of people."

Returning starters Favatella and ace left-handed pitcher Adam Warburton '10 will play an integral role in this season's success.

With accompanying seniors, Favatella will bring his four-year Varsity experience to a raw group of underclassmen.

Coming off a stellar 2009 campaign where



KEVIN WHITEHEAD '10/ The Patriot

**Nick Favatella '10 collected hit number 111** this season, passing Bill Rice '07 as the Washington Twp. all-time leader in hits. The slick-fielding shortstop is also known for his defense prowess.

he hit a team leading nine homeruns and 24 runs batted in, Favatella is ready for the challenge.

"With the pitching experience we have this year, Conference is a *definite* this year and [winning] South Jersey is doable," Favatella said.

In addition, Warburton sees his final season with the Minutemen a chance to leave his mark on baseball at Washington Twp.

"It's going to be crazy," Warburton said. "I told my team, 'This is my last year. We haven't won anything in three years. I want to win something before I'm out of here.'"

Even though Favatella and Warburton possess ideas of promise and success, all facets of the game need to be well executed to accomplish their goals.

"It all starts with pitching and defense, but I think our offense is going to come through. But we do have some players that haven't seen Varsity pitching yet," Alvaro said.

To Alvaro, they're only weakness is their inexperience in some positions. Many players are playing new roles for the first time at the Varsity level.

To Favatella, however, that concern remains to be seen.

"Weaknesses? We don't have any weaknesses," Favatella said.

Though there may be some inexperience, the underclassmen are ready to play.

Don't let their age fool you.

"As the Junior Varsity coaches and even freshmen coaches, our jobs are to make the Varsity team better," JV coach Mr. David Casey said. "Naturally they set their sights on being Varsity ballplayers."

## Golfers ready to step up

Chris Bucci '10

WTHS offers a wide range of athletic programs. One program that has flown under the radar is the golf program.

But the team's growing success has raised them to new heights and people are starting to notice.

Last year, the team qualified for states and played at linwood country club. There they were led by then senior Dan Zieders and junior Frank Wilkinson, although these two athletes qualified for the second round of state play individually and went and played at Burlington country club, the team suffered a heart breaking loss, missing advancing by only a single stroke.

But now the team is back and ready to avenge that tough loss. Led by captains Wilkinson '10 and Jack Loeber '11 and other top players Ryan Mcluskey '10 and Dom Tumolo '10, the Minutemen

hope to not only repeat but go beyond last year's achievements. In addition, they want to have successful tournaments and a successful regular season.

"I would definitely like to win some tournaments and get back to states, considering we only lost by a few shots last year in some tournaments and states," Wilkinson said.

Along with the tournaments, the team is focusing on having a good regular season and competing in conference. Every match is important for them because it is their conference record that determines if they will make states.

They have a few rivals that have been tough in the past and hope this is the year they take them down.

"Our biggest rivals are Cherokee and especially Lenape because the past three years they have beaten us, it'd be really nice for me to go out

on a victory against them" Wilkinson said.

Although the loss of Zieders was significant, the team has been working very hard to pull his weight.

They have been hitting balls much more than last year, and are hitting them a lot better in practice.

Their top golfers, who are mostly seniors, feel that their last year will be the best.

Wilkinson feels he can step up into Zieders spot and that Loeber, Mcluskey, and Tumolo will follow.

"It is hard to say because we lost Zieders last year, but I feel like I can take his spot and the rest of our guys can step up, it should be a tight squeeze to see if we can get to back to where we were last year." Wilkinson said.

The team is really excited for this season to begin. They have been working hard, getting their practice in, and are taking it pretty seriously.

## Tech Talk

## Zune HD counters Ipod

Steve Hauser '13

The iPod Touch had no competition until September of 2009. For the most part of 2009, the iPod Touch was the mp3 player to have. Many wanted the iPod touch, leaving all other mp3 player devices in the dust. And competitors were scrambling to counter this amazing product.

Then in September, Microsoft came out guns a blazin' with the Zune HD. A little bit smaller than the Itouch, the Zune HD dazzled people with the bright colors of its OLED screen. The Zune HD also brings HD and an FM radio tuner to the table. The cool thing about this function is while you're listening to the radio, you can tag a song and buy it later. A good feature for those

have trouble remembering songs.

Another big thing with the Zune is the buying process. Everybody knows that with the Ipod you have to buy those 10, 25 dollar cards to put money on your Apple account, or buy songs with your credit card. Some songs on iTunes are \$1.29 which can add up quickly. If you are tired of overpriced Apple downloads, instead of that, with Zune, you can buy a month long Zune pass for 14.99. In that month you can buy unlimited downloads on the Zune Marketplace, which is a great deal compared to Apple's purchasing program. There is no plan you have to sign up for and no two year agreement. The Zune also has internet, apps, and everything the Ipod has. The only area in which the Ipod beats the Zune is in the



xenoraiser.wordpress.com

**The iPod and Zune have been competitors since two came out.**

Apps section. The iPod is known for having great apps. They have over 70 thousand apps. When the Zune came out, it had about 50 apps, but the number is constantly on the rise. The Internet is a little bit faster on the iPod, but not by much.

Also, the Zune has a scratch resistant back. The Zune is very sturdy, and it has a very sleek design. You can customize your Zune HD too. They have designs you can get on your Zune, or you get an engraving on the back. You could put your name or whatever you want. You can buy a 16GB Zune for \$220 and a 32GB Zune for \$289. The Touch sells 8GB for \$199, 32GB for \$299, and a 64GB for 399 on Apple.com, but if you're interested in an Ipod you should go on macmall.com because the price is lower, and you will save a lot of money.

Overall, both the Ipod Touch and the Zune HD are great buys, and you can't go wrong with either one. In the end, it's all about what you like. Music or gamer?

## Apple's next generation

Chris Bucci '10

The iPad is revolutionizing the way we look at mobile technology. This doesn't just have the abilities of an iPhone or iPod. It has the capabilities of a full computer, like the one in your living room. From its several neat features to the amazing way it works, the iPad really has shown how far we've come in mobile technology.

First, let's look at the features it has. It has all of the features the regular iPod touch had, which was email, photos, notes, an iPod, calendar, contacts, maps, YouTube and safari web browser. However these apps have been changed for the better to adapt to the much larger screen the iPad has. For example, apps such as contacts and calendar now offer a split-pane view, allowing more content to be seen on the screen. In addition, the iPod app has all the library views and enables you to use either the standard or Genius playlists.

One of the most impressive app makeovers is Apple's photo



tEngadget.com

**The iPad is revolutionizing mobile technology.**

app. Instead of a static list of photo albums, the iPad's photo app displays collections as miniature stacks of images that you can unfold, browse, and fix anyway you'd like. Unlike the iPhone or iPod touch, the photo app is also used to power a photo montage that will kick in when the iPad is being charged. Also, two dock accessories allow you to directly import images to the iPad with a SD card or direct USB transfer. A downside is the iPad

doesn't include an integrated camera, like the one found on the iPhone 3Gs or iPod Nano.

Why would someone buy this? Well the person that would find these most appealing probably isn't someone who has an iPod touch or a laptop already. A person who likes to read the news or surf the web not at their desk. It fits a person that likes to show people their pictures but hates using their regular computer to organize it all. In

addition, gaming devices are starting to be looked at for the iPad. With its large screen, it'd be just like playing at home. Anybody that likes books, e-mail, keeping their family organized and is looking for a new computer; the iPad would work for you.

But there are a few bad things that come along with the iPad. First, a lot of people will find that the iPod touch has a lot of the same features as the iPad is a lot more portable. Also, the size of it will probably be a problem for most people. I don't see people lugging it around unless there was a real need to. It could be a living room computer type product.

The iPad has a lot of cool features. There are plenty of reasons people should buy it, from its innovations, to reading the news and surfing the web whenever you want.

Although the iPod Touch has similar qualities and is more portable than the iPad, it will likely be inconvenient for most people. The iPad still displays how far we mobile technology has improved.

## Coffeehouse performances a hit

Amy Dennis '12

On March 5, Cafeteria B was hopping with acoustic guitars, piano and of course, the voices of many talented young students. The second S.U.R.E. coffeehouse of 2010 explored many new areas of entertainment and also continued its ongoing encouragement of peace through musical talent by teaming with Pennies For Peace.

"The last coffeehouse was one of the most exciting and successful for the variety and depth of talent, but aside from all the fun there was also a seriousness to it because of Pennies For Peace and our goal to help all those less fortunate people," says Mr. Todd Oberholtzer, one of the administrators for the S.U.R.E. club.

Pennies For Peace is an international program that teaches America to change the world "one penny at a time". Currently, it is working towards the goal of providing schools for poor children in the middle-east and Asia. This fundraiser was introduced at coffeehouse but will be running until the end of this school year. Students are encouraged to donate any spare and unwanted change that they might have for the benefit of those in need.

"Pennies for Peace is ongoing,"



Courtesy of S.U.R.E.

**Coffeehouse raised money for Pennies for Peace, an international organization that builds schools in the Middle East.**

Mr. O continued, "It doesn't have to be a one-and-done thing. And when you take something nobody really wants and give it to someone who needs it, that can really add up to something good."

The coffeehouse began at 6pm with a drum circle and interpretive dance. Both these performances had never been done at previous shows but were fun and entertaining nonetheless.

"I played in the drum circle which was Frank [Sokolovic]'s idea," Mike Tracey '13 stated. "I think it was all really fun and successful for the most part. The whole show was great."

music styles from alternative to classic rock and according to Mr O, "It just doesn't get any better than that." Most of the musicians, particularly the local band New Jersey Drive, performed popular songs, so it wasn't surprising to see the audience singing right along with them.

"I thought everyone did a really good job and the food and coffee was great. My favorite act was the interpretive dance," said Samantha Stewart '12, a first-time performer.

In addition to the entertaining music, the coffeehouse set the perfect atmosphere to socialize and meet new people. One of the main factors that makes it so attractive to high school students is that you can relax, come and go as you please, and sit with whoever you want.

"I think a show like coffeehouse is perfect" said Maria Dennis '11. "Overall, the show turned out to be really entertaining. People had freedom to come around and socialize during the show as opposed to staying put for three hours straight like you would at a talent show or something like that."

Overall, the coffeehouse was a great success and hopefully will continue to entertain Washington Township High School students for many years to come.

## March Madness ignites competition

photos by Jessica McFadden '10

On March 10, students of WTHS met on the dodgeball court in the 9/10 Gym, competing for both glory and honor as well as the championship title in the annual Dodgeball Tournament.



Students and staff competed against each other in dodgeball, basketball and the much-anticipated Wing Bowl.

# Semi-formal success for class of 2013

Luke Verrillo '10

With corsages and boutonnieres in place, nerves kicking in, and anticipation filling the air, the students of 2013 filed into the 9/10 gymnasium on Friday, February 19 for the class's first semi-formal dance at Washington Township High School.

"I walked into the gym and, seeing the balloons and everyone in their dresses—I was so excited," Tori Mazzola '13 said. "I had such a great time."

However, the excitement and dancing were short lived when the music shut off shortly after the dance had begun. After several minutes of rewiring, the music came blasting back on over the speakers. Despite the momentary pause, the attendees were in good spirit, singing songs to fill the empty air.

"We all got nervous when the music stopped. I thought we were going to be yelled at," Sara Armor '13 laughed. "I didn't mind taking a



The freshman class got their first taste of semi-formals with their dance on February 19.

break, but I was so happy when it started back up again."

Blaise Basile '13, who attended the Homecoming formal earlier in the year, found this dance much more enjoyable, partly due to familiar faces.

"Homecoming was a fun time, but the freshman dance was completely different," Basile

explained. "It's a smaller group, but you recognize faces from the halls and dance with people who you normally don't talk to in class. It was fun to see the grade come together on the dance floor."

With so many good memories from their own freshman year, upperclassman came out in large numbers to attend the dance.

Brandon Rempfer '10 made the most of the night, by spending most of the time on the dance floor.

"There's no point of going to a dance if you're not actually going to dance," Rempfer said. "Thankfully my date felt the same way."

Class Council was in attendance to work the coat check, and ensure that the night went smoothly. Only working at the beginning and the end of the night, the students involved were able to fill out the already crammed dance floor in between.

"I loved my freshman dance last year, so I was so happy that I was able to relive those good memories this year," Christina McAllister '12 said.

Throughout the night, the dance floor was constantly filled. With good music and good moods all around, the night was a success.

If this formal is any indication of the future, the class of 2013 will be coming out for many dances in the coming years.

# Freshmen dance the night away

Julian Hahn '10

On Friday March 12, Washington Twp hosted its annual Sophomore Semi-Formal. The dance was held from 7 PM to 10:30 PM in the 9/10 Gym. The night was a great success for all the students who came and a percentage of each grade attended.

"I think it's great when a dance has a good mix of freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors. It makes things more fun," said Sean Stenstrom '10.

Like the other dances throughout the year, the girls immensely enjoyed the pre-dance ritual; buying the perfect dress, and getting make-up and their hair done. To obtain a dress, girls usually buy their own, borrow from a sibling or friend, or even recycle dresses.

"It's sometimes smart to re-use dresses that people haven't seen, but I really love the whole experience of shopping and buying a new dress," said Jenna Chisolm '12.

"Getting ready for dances is great for me. I just throw on a simple to match my date," said Sean Feller '12.

The dance itself was full of great music and food all night. The songs included hits by Lady GaGa, Miley Cyrus, and Lil' Wayne along with dance favorites like "The Cha Cha Slide" and



JULIA HAHN '10/The Patriot

The class of 2012 danced throughout the night at their semi-formal in the 9/10 gym on March 13.

"Shout". The night even ended with the favorite classic "Don't Stop Believing". The DJ added an element to his music by having small video screens on either side of his turn table to play music videos to each song.

"Dancing is the best part of any dance. I don't understand those people who just stand around for the whole night," said Zach Dziergowski '12.

Although the dancing came to end, the students' nights went on. Students went to restaurants for a late night snack, or enjoyed a sleepover at another's houses. It's safe to say that a lot of parents were kept up that night and

that Applebee's and Friendly's had full parking lots.

"The after party is the part I enjoy most when I go to dances. It's a time to chill out with all of your friends," said Carly Gallagher '12.

Overall, most who attended the dance had a great time. There were lots of smiles throughout. These students even received complimentary gym bags with '12 on them at the end of the night.

"It's not as fancy or big as the Junior or Senior prom, but I feel like we enjoy it just as much because it's our dance," said Kaitlyn Gallagher '12.

# Loss of a Legend

## Catcher in the Rye author dies at 91

Nicole Heath '10

On Wednesday January 27 a 91 year old man passed away in Cornish, New Hampshire. He was more than just an ordinary citizen; he was famed American author J.D. Salinger. After living in seclusion for more than fifty years, Salinger died of natural causes.

J.D. Salinger staked his claim in literature with the bestseller *Catcher in the Rye*, first appearing in print in 1951. *Catcher in the Rye* was one of the first books in the literature world to center on teen angst with the use of sophisticated literary devices and ploys. Salinger taps into the mind of Holden Caulfield with a poignancy and honesty that appeals to any age.

Advanced English teacher Mr. Christopher Lawler has been teaching *Catcher in the Rye* for years.

"I love teaching *Catcher* because students generally respond to it," Lawler said.

Young Adults have been responding to *Catcher* since its debut. From the time of its first publication, *Catcher* has been praised and condemned. Salinger's use of swears and sexually



AP image

*Catcher in the Rye* has always been well-liked by high school students. The author, J. D. Salinger died January 27.

suggestive language quickly got the book banned from most schools.

Salinger's work still remains controversial. The novel became more infamous when Mark David Chapman shot and killed former Beatle John Lennon because of what he had read in Salinger's book. Chapman had *Catcher in the Rye* in his pocket when he killed Lennon, and claimed to have been inspired by the novel.

Despite this criticism, Salinger continues to be hailed as one of the greatest American writers.

Salinger went on to publish shorter works about the fictional Glass family in "Nine Stories" and "Franny and Zooey". After publishing the short story "Hapworth 16" in 1961, Salinger never published again. This left *Catcher in the Rye* as his only novel.

"Salinger's reputation and position in American literature lies almost exclusively on the success of *Catcher*," said Lawler.

J.D. Salinger, after feeling the weight of fame, secluded himself in the small town of Cornish, New Hampshire. With few to none ever coming into contact with him, J.D. Salinger spent the last fifty years of his life in solitude.

# Alchemist sparks discussion

On Wednesday April 7th, the WTHS Book club discussed the novel *The Alchemist*. Both teachers and students participated in this discussion.

Guest visitors included Principal Joseph Bollendorf and former WTHS alumni and town council hopeful Josh Aronovich.



## Books

# “We Should Hang Out Sometime”

Christina Schillaci '10

While *Just Don't Fall* is a fascinating novel in itself, the book holds something more for the students of Washington Township High School. Josh Sundquist, the author of the memoir, visited the school in October 2009. His presentation to the entire student body inspired teenagers to take charge of every moment and realize that while life is tough, it is also beautiful.

At the age of nine, Josh lost his leg to cancer. In one swift array of events, his dreams suddenly became unattainable. His desire to run and compete in a travel soccer

team had, in an instant, disappeared forever. As he grew older and learned to deal with the life laid out before him, Josh triumphed over adversity and found his true calling, skiing. His joyous outlook on life had never failed, and not once did he wallow in self pity.

*Just Don't Fall* tells the courageous story of Josh's survival, endless determination, and wit. Just like his performance on stage, the memoir is filled with both funny and heartfelt memories. Josh's story pulls on reader's heartstrings and causes them to leap for joy. While the memoir deals with

many hard topics, one thing it refrains from is the melodramatic air found in many novels dealing with this subject. It is a tough lesson that, told through the eyes of a child, takes on an air of simplicity and innocence that is refreshing to find.

Josh Sundquist's writing style grows as he matures throughout the memoir. In the beginning he writes seemingly as a child, explaining his thought processes and allowing the reader to experience his life through the eyes of a nine year old.

Throughout the book, while his thoughts and dreams expand, so does the writing style. His innocence and unflinching hope will have readers engaged as they experience the hardship of his life and rejoice in his miracles.

This truly remarkable story will leave readers with a feeling of awe.



Yahoo Image

**Josh Sundquist did not allow cancer to limit his capabilities in life. The author was a motivational speaker at WTHS this past October.**

## Believable spin on paranormal

Corey Humphries '13

Aden Stone is a sixteen-year-old boy with four souls trapped inside of his head. Aden converses with the souls on a daily basis, thus causing his doctors to diagnose him with schizophrenia, a mental disorder that causes people to have trouble differentiating real and unreal experiences, such as the voices in Aden's head.

From a very young age, Aden was shipped from a foster family to mental institutions to a juvenile detention center, and then back to another foster family. Aden led a tough life, and it was filled up to the brim in loneliness, he longed for a friend.

So, when Aden met Mary Anne, Riley, and last but definitely not least, Victoria, he held on for dear life. . . . Even if it meant having to deal with the possibility of losing his own.

As time went on Aden's new friends came out from behind their masks. Mary Anne turned out to be a "repeller" of all things paranormal while Aden seemed to draw them to him. Victoria turned out to be a vampire princess and Aden's other half, while Riley turned out to be a werewolf and Victoria's very own body guard.

Overall I believe that *Intertwined* was a good book. If I had to rate it on a scale of 1-5 stars I

would give it four stars. Little things about the way Gena Showalter chose to write the book were a little irritating to me.

She would place a lot of emphasis on the emotions her characters, so much so, that it would become boring at times.

During big, dramatic moments in the story I was able to just skip over a couple of paragraphs before tuning back in to find that she was still describing the same emotion.

The book splits its view point between Aden and Mary Anne, being as both seem to have their own budding relationships. I found that I was bored during one half of the narration; I was eagerly waiting for the spotlight to

return to Aden and Victoria's story.

On the bright side, Gena Showalter did a fantastic job with keeping the characters realistic as far as their reactions to each other and their speech. I, for one, absolutely hate reading books that are about teens and are written in the genre when the people in the stories don't *act like teens*. Everything is edited out, which is rather naïve of the authors.

Gena Showalter catches all of the curse words, the hormonal reactions and the overall thought processes of her characters, and for that alone she already deserves a pat on the shoulder.

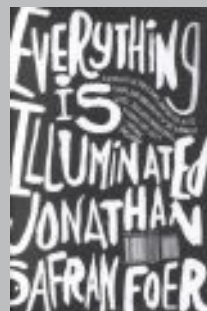
### Student Book Club Selection for May

*Everything is Illuminated*  
by Jonathon Safran Foer

This novel centers on a young Jewish American, Jonathan Safran Foer, who travels to Ukraine to find the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Traveling with a native Ukrainian translator, Alex Perchov, Alex's grandfather and their dog, Jonathon discovers facts about the Nazi crimes and the extent of Ukrainian complicity. The novel has a unique style as it is told through a series of letters written in broken Russo-English from Alex to Jonathon. Between the letters are segments of the novel Jonathon would write, which is the account of life the woman led before the Nazis destroyed it.

Check out the book club e-board for more information!



## Commentary

# New, improved cyber-bullying

Maria Petrucci '10

The popular website, Facebook, has recently updated and added in a selection of new applications. One of the new apps is Formspring.

As if Facebook commenting and statuses weren't enough to create drama, Formspring definitely is the icing on top of the cake.

After joining, a link is now posted on the users wall for all of their friends to see. After clicking another person's Formspring, you as the users can post literally whatever ever comes to your mind on this person's blog. After someone has commented, you can respond to their post, as if talking back to them. The catch is that you can sign your name, or be anonymous.

Of course this option to be anonymous puts a thought in the immature boy's and girl's heads to leave hurtful and messed up comments. The Formspring is a terrible idea, and can only lead to more "cyber bullying". When you sign up for the application, the users are well aware that



Google Image

**Formspring** allows users to leave anonymous comments.

anything can be written and seen by others facebook friends.

Even if a user does not have a Formspring, they are still able to click on anyone's link and read the written responses. The users of Facebook have made this friendly blog, into a soap opera. After reading the hurtful messages, the reader wants to know who wrote it.

The point of the application is so that no

one knows who really wrote it. As the annoyance of face book applications continue and people do not realize that they bring the drama upon themselves. Users can not expect people to listen to you when asked not to write anything rude or inconsiderate.

Also, Formspring is a way for everyone to know everyone elses personal business.

You could tell someone your deepest darkest secret and afterward, because there is an option to be anonymous, in a click of a button, it could be posted for all the world to read. Even though the message can be deleted by the Formspring user, within that amount of time they delete it, other facebook friends could still read it.

Facebook has created more drama and unnecessary arguments through Formspring.

But adding on to the Facebook world could only mean two things, more wasted time spent reading other peoples business, or reading other peoples comments about you creating more social issues in our world today.

## Single sex schools stifle social growth

Corey Humphries '13

The segregation of same-sex schools isn't very encouraging. Boys and girls are kept apart which is like depriving the children that attend these schools of an important social skill.

Children are denied the right to socialize with whomever they please, no matter whether they are a boy or a girl.

The deprivation of such a vital skill can affect the children in the years to come. Girls and boys may feel uncomfortable around the opposite sex, considering the fact that they'd have had very minimal contact with each other.

This can make things such as dating extremely awkward for our younger generation.

Although some parents may not be too happy about their children growing up, they must also understand that it is an important skill to acquire.

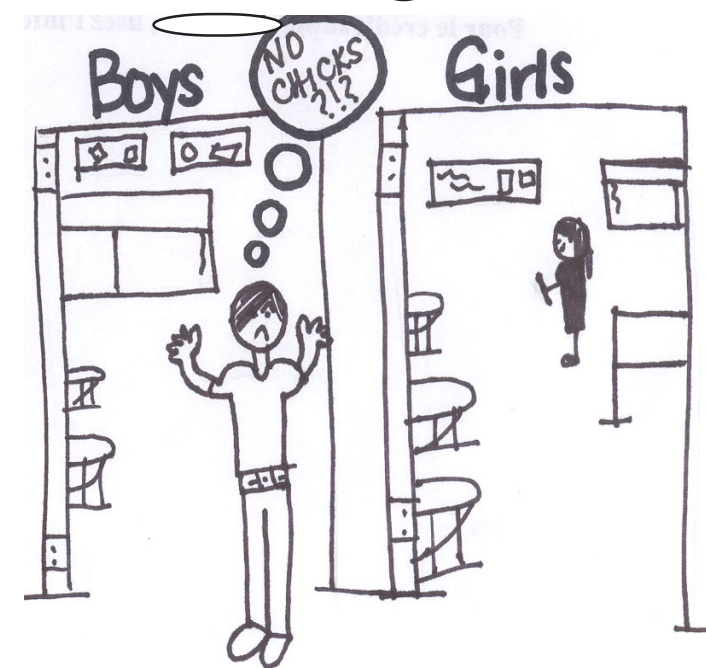
Separating the genders is also considered a violation of the fourteenth amendment as well. All those years ago a document was created to help our communities to stay in tact.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States..." meaning any U.S. citizen.

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property..." meaning that, in the simplest of terms, that no one has the right to deny another person their happiness, or freedom.

It's understood that some people may pull their children from public schooling in order to place them in a same-sex school as a kind of punishment; a way to get their children to approve on their behavior.

However, I believe that no



JAMIE LAFLAM '11/The Patriot

child should be placed into same gender schooling unless they themselves wish to go there. No

matter whether their parental figures may disagree with their opinion or not.

# Teens need to substitute action for complaints

Taylor Vandell '10

There is just no way to please a teenager these days. No matter what the case, there is always something to complain about.

Many things that usually get what they want on a daily basis are still never content with the way things are. This is an issue that seems to be circulating very fast, especially throughout the halls of WTHS.

One of the major complaints at WTHS is the constantly changing temperatures in the classrooms. Some rooms are very warm and other very cold. A student can never fully prepare themselves for school, because no matter what they wear they are not comfortable. But rather than talk to someone on the maintenance staff, students think that complaining about the situation will make it better.

The hard truth is that if you don't speak out about your opinion, the problem will never be solved. Some students think that the more they tend to complain about a situation, that someone will eventually listen to them.



Google Images

But it's not just at school that teenagers complain about everything. Teens are constantly finding something wrong with every situation at hand and some even feel better to find the cons apposed to the pros. Some teenagers believe that if there is one little thing that is wrong, the whole

situation in general is wrong. Students and teenagers don't realize that to make things better, you either have to go out and fix them or create ways to deal with the problem.

In the real world, nothing is going to come and go as planned, and teens have a rough time grasping that concept.

Many high school students have never even experienced working, or doing things for themselves. Without these few little things, when a student starts their first year of college, life will become much harder than they expected.

So maybe if teens stop complaining and start making a difference, things at WTHS will become much less complicated. There'll drama and less fights, because teens will be able to talk things out without them circulating throughout the school.

# State should examine Phys. Ed. requirement

Leanne Abrams '11

Here at Washington Township High School, physical education is a mandatory class that all students must complete all four years of in order to be able to graduate.

Although this rule is a good one because of health and the high rate of child obesity, I think that after years of being educated about fitness in elementary and middle school that you should be able to decide once you enter the high school if you would like to continue to take Physical Education.

Because you are required to take gym as a class, it takes away one more chance for students to take a class they are really interested in. For example, I am very interested in writing, that is why I take journalism, but I am also interested in art.

If I didn't have gym I could

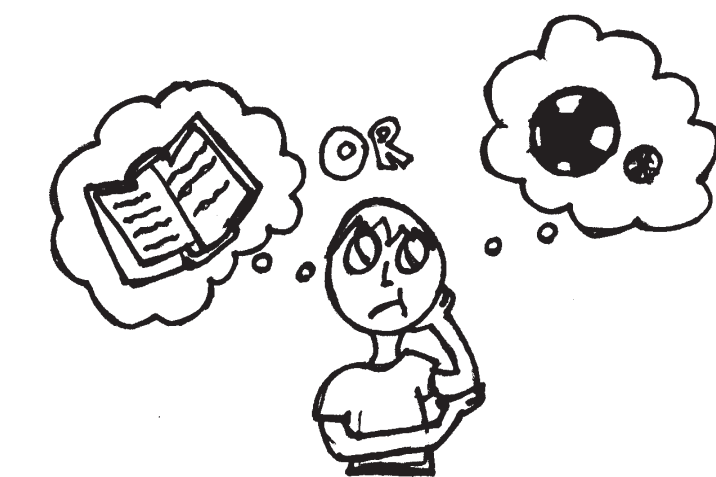
take that art class that I wanted to.

The state of New Jersey demands that school have physical education I just feel that it shouldn't be forced on those who are in high school, when most are turning into adults we should be able to make our own decisions and take the classes we are interested in.

WTHS allows students to not take a lunch and take a study hall or an elective, if we are so concerned on health and fitness why is it okay to allow students to take away a period where they should be eating?

Those who don't take lunch usually don't eat much during that day; that is not healthy.

Many students including myself don't do the best of our ability in gym class because we are not interested in it, I feel like I am being forced to do something I don't want to do, and when I feel forced I don't try my hardest to do well.



JULIA HAHN '10/The Patriot

Why make students do something they don't enjoy?

I know physical activity is good for the body and for teens but we have learned for many years about how to eat, and exercise, but

at this point in many high school student's lives they are focused on college; they should be able to fit in more educational classes, like another math or writing class and not worry about phys ed class.

Send your opinions and letters to [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)

Letters should be limited to 250 words and must include the writer's name.

## Odds & Ends

Facing Your Fears by Leanne Abrams '11

# Anxiety of public speaking

Leanne Abrams '11

According to national surveys, fear of public speaking ranks among Americans top dreads, surpassing fear of illness, fear of flying, fear of terrorism, and often the fear of death itself.

Public speaking fear is called by many terms, speech anxiety, stage fright, fear of speaking, speech phobia or performance anxiety.

Growing up the youngest of five, you would think I would love to be the center of attention, at times I did feel left out or forgotten about, but I hated all the attention on me.

I get stressed out about a lot, and most would say ridiculous things such as having a bad hair day or when people chew loud. But what really stresses me out the most is public speaking. Giving those oral presentations up in the front of the classroom with 24 peers all staring at you waiting for you to mess up. The day the teacher announces a project, my first question is always "do we have to present it?" and when they say yes for me it's like

The Farmers' Almanac by Jennifer Pflugfelder '10

# Farmville's #1 fan

Jenn Pflugfelder '10

If you are a member of the online community of Facebook, then I'm sure you've at least heard of Farmville, if you are not already well familiar with it. Farmville is an application on Facebook that lets you create your own farm and continually build on it.

The object of the game is to plant and harvest a variety of crops, to take care of and own different farm animals, and to build and expand your farm into being the best.

In Farmville, you can earn ribbons and awards while you move up in rank. After gaining a certain amount of experience points, you raise up levels. The point of the game is to try and get the highest level you can possibly reach and to

the end of the world. It is not that I have no confidence in myself. I just feel pressure on me to do well.

My fear of public speaking is so bad sometimes that I just don't do the project and I get that failing grade. I think about it days and even weeks before I have to present. At times it is all I can think about. I sweat and stutter when I am speaking, I dread it with a passion.

As a junior I have really been trying to face my fear of this, because failing things don't go well with parents. When I am up there in front of my classmates, I try the old saying of picturing them naked, but personally that has never done the trick for me.

Lately when I'm giving a presentation I kind of almost go to another place. I focus on one object in the back of the room, stare at it the entire time and just do what I have to do and before I know it I am done.

So if you're out there thinking you're weird for having this fear, just know you're not alone. Many teenagers have this fear, even adults

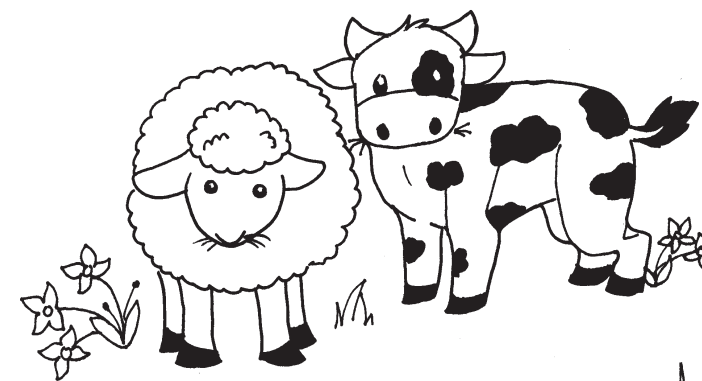


CHRISTINA SCHILLACI '10/The Patriot

The majority of people fear public speaking more than death.

have this fear. They have public speaking classes right in our own high school, that are there to help students improve on speaking skills, and by doing this you do face your fear.

I am so afraid that I can't even take this class. I don't think I will ever completely face this fear, but with a few tricks I know I can do what I have to do and get a passing grade. Don't give up face your fear.



RACHEL HADDEN '12/The Patriot

Farmville has become a huge hit among Facebook users.

Dedication, commitment, and wise time-planning are key to this game. Every type of crop has a

Poinsettias need a whole day to grow. You have to plant your crops wisely, thinking in advance when the next time you'll be able to go online and farm again.

In the Farmville market, besides crops and animals, there are many buildings and decorations that you can personalize your farm with. And for the holidays, there's always a wide selection of festive decorations you can buy, but only for a limited time.

Obviously, I'm a big fan of Farmville. I've been playing for several months now, and I am already addicted. I just reached level 20 and expanded my farm a couple times already. Just keep harvesting all your plants and decorate your farm when the holidays start to come around.

different amount of time to be grown. For example, strawberries have to be harvested in 4 hours after being planted. Pumpkins take up to 8 hours.

# The superbowl for film

Julia Hahn '10

This year in Hollywood, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin co-hosted the 82 Oscars on NBC.

The show started with an explosive musical opening by Neil Patrick Harris in which he introduced the co-hosts by mentioning other famous duos in history. Then, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin entered the stage from above harnessed into a bubble-like contraption. The two then proceeded to playfully rip jokes at most of the celebrities there; such as George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Sandra Bullock and Helen Mirren.

The night continued with small presentations for the ten nominated films *The Hurt Locker*, *Precious*, *Avatar*, *Up, Up in the Air*, *A Serious Man*, *The Blind Side*, *District 9*, *An Education* and *Inglorious Basterds*. Throughout the night ten different presenters would introduce a small film synopsis of each movie.

The major awards given that night weren't full of many surprises. Mo'Nique from *Precious* took home Supporting Actress, Christoph Waltz from *Inglorious Basterds* won Supporting Actor, Sandra Bullock in *The Blind Side* was voted Best Actress, Jeff Bridges from *Crazy Heart* took home Best Actor and *Up* was awarded with the Best Animated Film of that year. The actors and actresses who received the Oscars had also won previous awards for their performances such as a Golden Globe or a SAG.

*Little Known Talent* by Christina Cockerill '12

## A new kind of orchestra

The Diablo Swing Orchestra cannot be classified as any one genre. It's an outlandish mix of swing, jazz, metal, classical, with just a hint of techno. A Swedish avant-garde band, their music is rock without being too hardcore and ruining the listening experience.

Their vocals are unlike anything I've ever heard—it's the offspring of opera and screamo. Meanwhile, in what you'd expect to be a solo, you instead hear a violin start wailing like in "A Rancid Romance".

The band released their first album in 2006. *The Butcher's Ballroom* was met with mostly positive reviews, but very little publicity, as it didn't appeal to any one genre. It mixes elements of jazz, metal, opera, and swing to give it a sound unique to other music today. The group also uses more than the usual guitar-bass-drum mix, giving their songs more character and originality by incorporating violins, cellos, horns, and woodwinds. However, they're far from classic and metal takes priority during their music.

In another unique twist, Diablo Swing



Best Director went to Katherine Bigelow, the first female winner, for her film, *The Hurt Locker*, which also won Best Picture.

*The Hurt Locker* and Kathryn Bigelow took home the Best Picture and Best Director awards in spite of the thought that *Avatar* and James Cameron would win.

The Oscars ceremony itself was full of memorable presenters and creative uses of film and technology.

Ben Stiller presented the award for Best Make Up in as an alien from *Avatar*, with the golden contacts and tail to match. Steve Carell and Cameron Diaz presented the Best Animated Feature award while playfully joking that Steve replaced Jude Law because the two presenters needed to be beautiful. Barbra Streisand took place in the historical event of giving the first female director an award and Tom Hanks

presented *The Hurt Locker* with its win.

As far as technology and film, the Oscars made use of all of their nominated films in each category by showing a little bit of each of them when the respective category came. Especially interesting was Morgan Freeman's explanation of the importance of Sound Mixing and Editing while showing the process with last year's winner *The Dark Knight*.

The co-hosts Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin were hilarious. In past years, the Academy has looked for people who will bring something new to the Oscars. The two made witty jokes all night long making the audience laugh but did not lose an ounce of class.

Another problem that was fixed this year was the Oscars's appeal to a younger generation. Usually the only people who watch the Oscars are those who can genuinely afford to see most of the movies on the Oscar ballot, but this year there were some guests on the lists that caught young people's eye. Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner from the *Twilight Saga* presented a tribute to horror films and Miley Cyrus and Amanda Seyfried presented an award together.

The Oscars did run a little long, but they do every year, and it is to be expected since they try and fit in so many great movies in one night. It was a great awards night and hopefully, as history has shown, the Academy will preserve tradition and continue to treat audiences with great cinema.



Google Image

Diablo Swing Orchestra mixes jazz, swing, metal, and classical with a hint of techno for a new and interesting type of sound.

# Senior study halls need early out

Kristen Kellenyi '10

As an underclassman, you are excited for the events that will take place in your high school career. But what one looks forward to the most, is senior year.

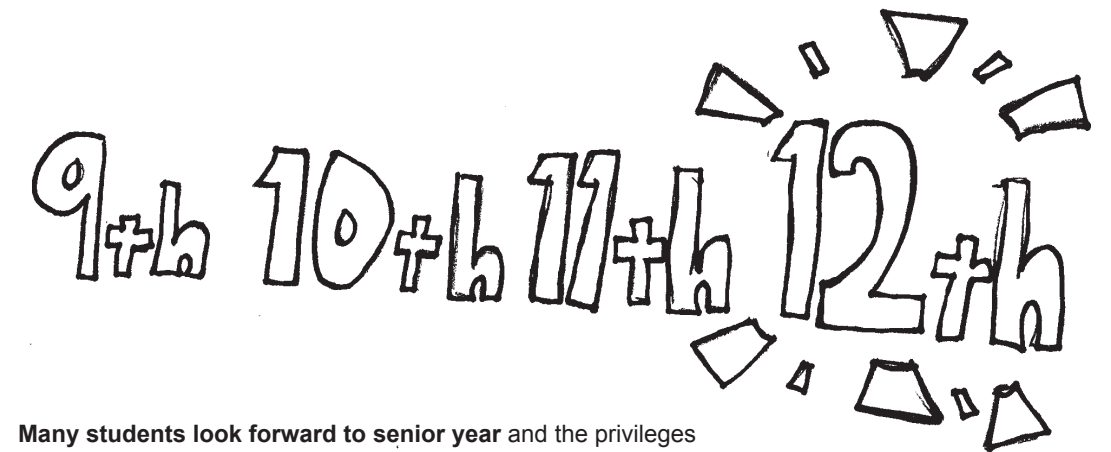
Senior year comes with many fun events including, senior trip, senior service day, powder-puff, and senior prom. An exciting senior asset includes leaving early.

However, leaving early has caused some problems for students throughout the year.

As a senior if you have a study hall at the end of the day you are allowed to leave early. The problem is, you can not leave early until the second half of the year.

I, along with other students have found this is pointless and unfair to only let the students leave half of the year.

Students with a seventh period lunch and an eighth period study



Julia Hahn '10/The Patriot

Many students look forward to senior year and the privileges that come with it.

hall spend 90 minutes in the school for no reason. Making a student sit in study hall for the first half of the year and not the second half is unnecessary. I believe leaving privileges should be eligible for the entire year.

Some administrators may

disagree, but I believe a compromise can be made. I think that a senior should be able to leave early with a study hall throughout the year as long as their academic and behavior record is good.

If a student can maintain a specific average in all of their

classes and stay out of trouble, they should be awarded by being able to leave the entire school year.

Being a senior is an exciting thing time to anyone from any school. Everything about it is great. A change to the early dismissal policy would make it even better.

## Teens need to remember soldiers

Corey Humphries '13

Ask pretty much any teenager what they're going to wear to school the next day, I bet they already know.

Ask any teenager how much their brand name clothes are, I bet they know it instantly.

Ask any teenager what's going on in Iraq right now and you'll probably get a blank stare, or a dismissive shrug of their shoulders.

Most High School students today appear to be blind sighted by the material things in life; they're more worried about whose Gucci bag costs more.

The children don't know about the major threats to the U.S. They don't know about the Taliban leader, Mehsud, that's constantly plotting attacks. They don't know about the constant killing and suffering of war.

Our troops are out there to protect us. They're fighting each and every day for us to have our freedom and our possessions, and yet most people don't even bother to give them the time of day.

All of these simple notions can prove to our troops that they crossed our minds. It proves that you appreciate the sacrifices they make.

A simple prayer before you go to bed. A simple gift for when school drives try and collect supplies for our troops.

## The Patriot

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## Features

## Projects take on lives of their own

Maria Petruzzi '10

Through out the year students in Psychology will learn how the human brain works and connects with their everyday activity. They will answer questions such as "Why did I react that way?". Also, they will learn the world of senses and different mental illnesses.

Most students think that this class is all work and no play, which is not the case. Everyday walking into the classroom is a new adventure and you will leave in forty-five minutes with something new. The movies students will watch are crazy and mind bottling. All of the videos are real situations and give you a taste of how some people may see the world and themselves. There are millions of different "crazy" humans that psychologist still do not understand. But to the world they are fascinating.

Every marking period you will have at least one project/ experiment you must perform that will amount for a major part of your grade. The most popular project that the whole school



Photo courtesy of Ayana Moxey '10

Some of the babies the psychology students had to create, bonded over lunch.

notices is the baby projects. These projects consist of a water bottle, a styrofoam head, stuffing, and baby accessories. Then you must assemble the materials into a baby. You can work with a partner or alone, but either way this baby will be carried around school all day long for about a week. After the baby is carried around you will be graded on a baby book you create

and turn in with papers you did in class and paragraphs explaining different areas of raising a child.

The main point of the project is to show students how big of a deal it truly is having a family. You learn about spending money and how much a newborn would cost.

The teachers have a great time with this project as well, and are always excited to see how creative everyone can make their children.

As students walk the hallways that week, you could see many different creations. Some people like to design them as a famous character or celebrity. Others like to be original and just go with the Wal-Mart pajamas and a binky.

Psychology class is different than everyone says it is. You are always having intellectual conversions with your peers and teacher. You learn through movies, group activities, notes and in other walks of teaching. As long as you pay attention and participate there is no reason why wouldn't leave the school year with unforgettable moments in psychology class.

## Senior style supports charity

Chloe Dawson '10

Soon after Manuary came to a close beards and flannels were replaced in the hallways on the 11/12 by pearls and stockings. Not only did girly girl accessories hang from ears and necks but sweatpants and hoodies also did too.

Many of the senior girls wanted to have something like Manuary so they turned February into Femuary and Bumuary.

All participants dress up very lady like on Fridays, refrain from cursing, and you always address another Femuary member with Miss. The key rule you always stay classy no matter what.

The idea started in Erin Cartwright's '10 kitchen when she and her dad were talking about Manuary and all the funny things they do. Erin considered of how girls could also do the same thing but bond doing bake sales and wearing dressy clothes to school.

"People came up to us and

started telling us they were really excited" said Cartwright.

The administrators gave Cartwright the go-ahead of the fundraiser and she and the rest of the lunch table were eager to start. The group was organized over Facebook about mid-January and within over fifty members had joined.

Even though the seniors, Cartwright '10, Emily O'Neill '10, Rachel Brown '10, Katie Stevens '10 were new to this, they took everything step by step.

They held an after school meeting and who ever wanted to join had to donate ten dollars to Susan G. Komen Breastcancer Fund. The girls asked any questions the seniors had and told them the rules of what a classy lady should be like every Friday.

The girls bonded throughout the month by collecting money in dainty picnic baskets, bake sales, and dressing up.

"The bake sales were

incredibly successful" Cartwright said. Many underclassmen and teachers swarmed the tables in the Core to get brownies and cookies, they made a fair amount of money. All told, their efforts over \$600 for the Breastcancer Fund. Femuary was one of Cartwright's favorite senior memories and it meant a lot to her that so many people in our school cared what is going on around the world. She hopes that next year and the years to come it continues to get bigger and that someone else will take over.

"We'd love for it to become a tradition, so if any girls want to step up and do it that would be awesome" said O'Neill.

"In the time of JWOWW and Snookie, it's refreshing to see a group of ladies acting with poise for a great cause" said Kim Scott '10.

While number one rule of Femuary was that you couldn't "bum it" the entire month, this was Bumuary's number one rule.

Nicole Kovacs '10, Brianna Shea '10, Santana Mazzola '10, and Alison Salkowski '10 made up Bumuary simply because they wanted to be bums but still wanted to participate in something senior related. All 78 Members of Bumuary had to bum it every Monday and Friday with oversize sweatpants and hoodies to be extra comfy throughout the day.

All the money they raised in the month went to ALS Lou Gerigs' Disease. The proceeds were raised by selling t-shirts that said "Bummin it for Bollendorf Team Caitlin" in honor of Mr. Bollendorf's daughter who passed away this fall.

Bumuary ran in to some problems because of all the snow days in February and the shirts came in the last day of the month. But many of the students still continue to wear the shirts.

Both of the groups are hoping the traditions carry on at WTHS. They are proud that they created something that seniors loved doing.

## Film

## Wolfman remake short on plot

Chloe Dawson '10

As you sat at home on your couch mesmerized by the previews for *Wolfman*, it probably caught your eye and you felt like you had to go see it the day it came out. But, like most previews they only showed you the most exciting parts.

This is a remake of the 1941 film with the same title. In the film Lawrence Talbot, played by Benicio Del Toro, is lured back to his hometown after his brother goes missing upon request from his brother's fiance, played by Emily Blunt.

Upon returning to his hometown and reuniting with his father, played by Anthony Hopkins, he finds out that a strange "wolflike creature" has been reeking havoc on the community. Shortly after, Del Toro is bitten and finds himself turning into a similar creature.

The film's best asset is Oscar-winning actor Benicio Del Toro as the werewolf.

The special effects when he was turning into the wolfman were also well done. However, to the dismay of myself and many, the wolfman seemed overly hairy and when he moved about the screen chasing his victims his gestures seemed robotic and uneasy.

The director Joe Johnston (currently



Google image

The *Wolfman* roams the streets of 1800's London at night.

working on *Captain America*) may have gone over the top with the effects even though they did catch your attention more than the plot. It could have been more effective if he let some of the features of the wolf up to imagination of the audience.

*Wolfman* had to be rated R because of the bloody scenes it entailed. Much of the audience

covered their mouths in disgust and held onto friends or boyfriends. It seemed this is exactly what Johnston was searching for. If you are queasy at the sight of blood, this movie isn't for you.

On one hand the director accomplished his goal of creating vivid images of the beast. Then, on the other hand it was really the only thing that was keeping you in tune with the movie. The plot seemed to drag on, slowly getting you restless throughout the film. It's run time was only an hour and forty five minutes, but it seemed to feel like it was even longer.

When the movie seemed to be going a bit slow, Johnston provided you with some gasps and jumps, all of which provided movie goers with great visuals, but little substance.

If you don't mind watching a movie with minimal plot but many grossum scenes then *Wolfman* is for you. But if you want something more detailed but with the same great special effects then skip *Wolfman* in theaters and wait for it to come to DVD.

## Television

## Documentary or mockumentary?

Carolyn Cicalese '10

*My Life as Liz* (the hybrid documentary, sitcom, and reality show all mixed up with a dash of Juno minus the pregnancy and a touch of *My So Called Life*) has been slowly but surely making its way onto the televisions and hearts of teenage Americans.

The show is set in Burlestone, Texas and follows Liz Lee around on her senior year. Liz is an ex blonde, ex popular girl facing her senior year with only a few incredibly nerdy guy best friends. Eventually, one of the popular girls, Taylor Terry, becomes her best friend, she gains a major crush on one of her close friends, the oh-so-goodlooking Bryson, and her reliable bud Sully falls for her. She must navigate the last year of school with such events such as the talent show, school film projects, Valentine's Day, and much more.

Liz Lee is a real person and

Burleson, Texas is a real town and Burleson High School is a real high school.

Viewers can be as angry as they want claiming it isn't really a reality show, but at the beginning of each episode there is a disclaimer stating, "The people and places in the show are real... at least the way I see it." This statement simply means that this is how Liz wanted to recreate her senior year in her own way.

Liz also voices over the entire show, and gives documentary style confessionals at times. These are typically funny with her quick quips and facial expressions. For example after attempting to talk to her crush she says, "Well that went well... except for the part that didn't... which was pretty much the whole thing soo..."

The show is modeled after *The Hills* with similar character archetypes. Clearly Liz is the Lauren of Laguna Beach but with a scene or emo twist to her.



Google image

Viewers watch as Liz Lee navigates her senior year with her nerdy friends, popular enemies, crush, and blonde best friend.

Liz even experiences things that a typical teen would experience. She even gets turned down to prom at one point, and who hasn't been there in their life before? And yet she then finds the courage to ask someone else. The best part is she never takes high school too

seriously. She is even able to dull out the best advice to her greatest nemesis, "It's only high school".

It may not be for all, but any of those who have ever felt awkward, out of place, or simply just like a nerd or a geek at any point this is the show for you.



## Arts&amp;Entertainment

## Down the rabbit hole...again

Dianna Lombardo '10

The duo of Tim Burton and Johnny Depp has done it again. With six movies under their belt done together, (Edward Scissorhands, Ed Wood, Sleepy Hollow, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Corpse Bride), they can simply add Burton's 2010 continuation of Alice in Wonderland to their long running list of movies they've created together.

The story's heroine Alice Kingsleigh is now 19 years old. Alice, played by a relatively unknown Mia Wasikowska, falls down the rabbit hole, once again, after running away from a marriage proposal gone awry. She soon realizes that Wonderland isn't so wonderful anymore.

The Red Queen, played perfectly by Helena Bonham Carter (who has also starred in a few other Burton/Depp movies), has overthrown the White Queen, Anne Hathaway's character, and has taken over Wonderland.

Alice quickly learns that her

reason for returning was not an accident, but her destiny. It is her destiny to end the Red Queen's reign of terror over innocent people and slay the Jabberwocky.

All of the favorites from the 1951 animated adaptation of Lewis Carroll's novel return.

The Mad Hatter, played by Johnny Depp, is one of the best updated characters in the whole movie. Depp brings to the character wit, comic relief, and anger wrapped up into one crazed red headed Mad Hatter. Although his performance is a little out of this world, it still relates back to the story and makes the movie even more enjoyable.

The movie mixes a lot of real time acting with computer



Google Image

**Alice finds herself** not remembering everything and everyone from wonderland

animation. Besides the obvious background scenes and the characters such as the Cheshire Cat and the Tweedles, the alterations to the characters help bring the characters to life. Depp's eyes were digitally enlarged about 40% than his actual size. Carter's head was also enlarged and stretched out to resemble a heart.

Burton's movie is offered in regular, 3D and in 3D IMAX.

Burton's movie mixes laughs with nervousness. With it's rating of PG (for a caterpillar smoking a hookah, fantasy action/violence involving scary images and situations) and running time of 108 minutes, it's a good way to spend your afternoon or evening.

## Homage to classic B-horror flicks

Luke Verrillo '10

It's been a while since audiences have been treated to a good movie in the horror and thriller genre. With disappointing numbers for recent films *The Wolfman* and *The Crazies*, director Martin Scorsese's latest film topples the competition. *Shutter Island* is a genuinely haunting tale, with each twist and turn keeping you guessing until the credits roll.

Set in the 1950s, just after the end of WWII, *Shutter Island* tells the story of U.S. Federal Marshal Teddy Daniels (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) as he investigates the disappearance of a patient at a mental hospital for the criminally insane. Shortly after arrival, Daniels, who is haunted by visions of his dead wife, realizes that there's more to this island than anyone is willing to reveal. As his suspicions grow and his own sanity is questioned, it's time for the federal marshal to escape the island.

Scorsese is known for his ability to round up an amazing cast. In his fourth collaboration with DiCaprio (*Gangs of New York*, *Aviator*, and *The Departed*), it's quickly becoming evident that these two A-list names are becoming



Google Image

**Decaprio finds himself** questioning everything and everyone on Shutter Island. This is Decaprio's fourth work with Scorsese.

Hollywood's newest dream team.

Ben Kingsley (who won an Oscar for Best Actor for his performance in *Gandhi*) gives a chilling performance as Shutter Island's head doctor and Mark Ruffalo, as Daniels's partner, holds his own. Michelle Williams, seen only through flashbacks, is outstanding as Daniels's deceased wife. Some of the film's best performances, however, come from within the walls of the psychiatric ward.

Jackie Earle Haley (*Watchmen*) is memorable in his short scene as a mental patient with Ward C—where only the most dangerous criminals are held. In a scene involving the two federal marshals interviewing patients, you'll find yourself laughing and terrified at the same time.

The film's cinematography is gorgeous, as Scorsese displays his true mastery behind the camera with each new shot. The film takes place during a hurricane and, at some points when the characters are caught in the rain, you may find yourself wanting to reach for your jacket. Flashbacks of WWII and of Daniels and his wife are chilling, yes, but visually striking with bold colors and contrast.

This film isn't *Goodfellas*, but it deserves a high rank on Scorsese's list of work. As homage to classic B-horror movies, *Shutter Island* works beautifully and keeps the audience genuinely enthralled.

You'll be guessing the whole time, sure, but you'll enjoy the psychological mind games that the film puts you through. *Shutter Island*, though haunting and scary, is one you'll want to swim to and experience for yourself.

## Body cosmetics; Worth the risk?

Dianna Lombardo '10

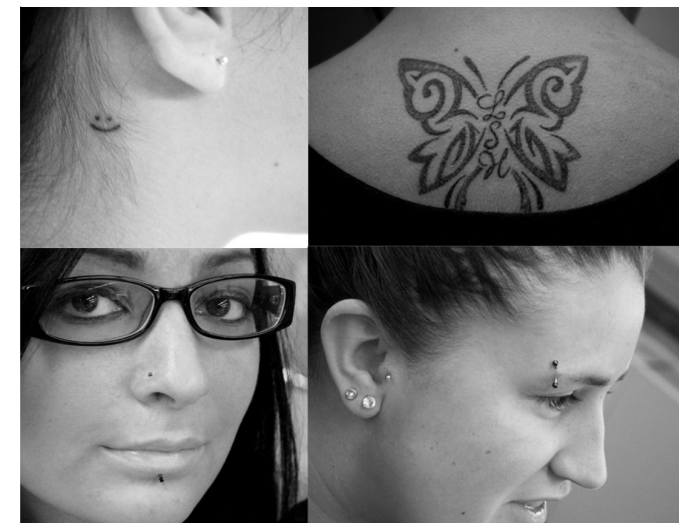
You may notice that more and more students are getting tattoos and piercing. While they may look good there are the risks of altering your body?

Infection is number one. Wherever you go to pierce or tattoo yourself, you must make sure that the artists are clean and use freshly opened needles, color and jewelry. You must also always clean your piercing or tattoo or you risk the serious effects of infection.

Although infection can scare off some customers, other's are still looking forward to the changes. Piercings are a way to add a touch of jewelry to spots of your body where you can't hang a necklace or a bracelet. An interesting and unique way to pierce yourself is to get your hips done.

"Well, I've always wanted a different piercing not a lot of people had, and I thought they looked awesome. So on my eighteenth birthday I went and it hurt a lot because they have to go through so much thick skin. Your stomach doesn't stretch like your ears do." Beth Paris, '10.

Just because they look nice though, doesn't mean that everyone



KATHRYN CUSTER '10/ The Patriot

**Many students throughout WTHS** express themselves through various types of tattoos and piercings.

will end up loving their new addition to their body. Sometimes the bars in a hip piercing can become annoying.

"But I took them out and decided to get dermals because with the hip piercing I had, they were bars going through my skin. You could clearly see the bars and I didn't like that and with dermals they go straight in." Paris said about her changes.

Another risk is the question everyone asks themselves before

they sit in the chair at the tattoo and/or piercing place, 'What if I regret this? Am I doing this for the right reasons?' For Devon Buonadonna, '10, she got her tattoo for all the right reasons and won't regret it later in her life.

"I didn't get a tattoo because a lot of my friends had them and I was trying to 'fit in', I got one because I've wanted one since I was thirteen. I like the fact that you can put something on your body that has a lot of meaning to you or really

describes you." Buonadonna said about her experience. She's extremely happy with the butterfly and stars on her hip and wouldn't change it.

Although she loves it, she did say it was painful. "It was probably one of the most painful things I had to sit through. Although, I heard that for some people it doesn't hurt, but for me it did. But I don't regret it and I know I won't later."

Personally, I have eleven piercings and two tattoos. My piercings are up my ears, my belly button and my nose, and I have four stars, blue and purple, on each hip. I don't regret getting them. I didn't think it hurt that much, just a lot of pressure from the needles and the clamp. Nothing worth crying over.

As for my tattoos, I thought the area around where the artist was tattooing me went numb after a few minutes. It was sore for the next few days, but it was worth it. I won't regret getting them because I like them and I've wanted stars on my hips since I was fifteen.

Tattoos and piercing are a personal form of expression. Eighteen is the legal age where you can sign for yourself to get them, anyone younger requires a parent or guardian to sign for them.

## State approves medical marijuana

Shacarra Almon '10

On Monday January 11, 2010, the New Jersey Legislature legalized medically prescribed marijuana. A supportive Governor Jon Corzine signed the bill before leaving office. New Jersey's legislation allows doctors to prescribe marijuana like they prescribe any other painkillers like Oxycontin or morphine.

New Jersey will be one of 14 states to allow marijuana to fight pains and the common side effects from chemotherapy such as, nausea, headaches and others. The drug helps relieve muscle spasms and glaucoma qualified medical conditions like Aids, Cancer, and Multiple Sclerosis. Such high authority will give doctors in New Jersey an important option to the pharmaceutical drugs now available to treat these serious illnesses.

To keep the public from obtaining the drugs, the patients in New Jersey would have to get an ID card that verifies they have one of the authorized medical conditions. They could obtain their supply only from government dispensaries

at two ounces per month.

New Jersey's law is expected to be the nation's most restrictive. Compared to California, where marijuana can be used for illnesses as common as anxiety, and other illness less severe, there accessibility is much greater. But where does this drug come from?

Medical Marijuana Inc is the industry leader in medical cannabis genetic research providing the drug and information about it. Medical Marijuana Inc acquired 20 acres of land in the mountains of Southern California in order to develop a research facility.

They were targeting medical cannabis strains specific to a wide range of medical conditions. By developing the most efficacious strains and matching those strains to multiple illnesses such as glaucoma, and multiple sclerosis.

The scientific recognition of marijuana as a powerful medicine, and as an effective, non-narcotic pain reliever, has brought medical marijuana use to the forefront of mainstream medical aide. Despite criticism from anti-drug groups that the change would open the door to



AMBER OGDEN '10/ The Patriot

more abuse of marijuana, Federal officials have made it clear that they will be looking out for dangerous drug dealers in their states. The most positive outcome is those suffering from such diseases as cancer, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease and muscular dystrophy finally have some hope.

## People

# Senior lives up to “spotlight”

## Artist expresses emotions through her work

Dianna Lombardo '10

Every year, students in advanced art classes are given the opportunity to show off their talents with an art show, dedicated with their work. In May, Angela Herzer '10 will be the featured artist.

Herzer, along with Chris Otto, was named “Most Artistic” by classmates in the Senior Spotlight.

“I felt extremely accomplished!” she said about her selection of “Most Artistic”. “And I’m even more excited to be showing my paintings in an art show.”

Herzer has been into art her whole life. Her inspirations come from her everyday occurrences.

“Emotions are definitely my number one fuel. I don’t mean to sound like a stereotypical artist, but I want my art to be meaningful, deep and interesting. My paintings are very emotional and just what I’m feeling at the time.” Herzer said.

“I’m extremely into oil paintings right now. They’re my new found love.”

Another influence in Herzer’s paintings is her love of music. Daft Punk, her all time favorite band, influences her work also. Her favorite style is realism, which is painting from observations. She loves to paint people above all other subjects.

Herzer’s family and friends are extremely supportive of her talents. “My mom is really laid back, and just wants me to do whatever makes me happy. She’s happy that I’ve found my love in life. My friends have supported me throughout my artistic career so far.”

One message she strives to convey with her art is her emotions. She wants people to believe that her paintings and drawings have meaning behind them and can make a person think.

Herzer will be pursuing her career in art at University of the Arts in Philadelphia, UArts, or the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, PAFA, once she graduates from Washington Township High School.

Although she is going to college to expand her artistic talent, she also hopes to be a chef and a DJ at one point during her successful life.

“I just want to live a simple, happy life.” Herzer says about her future goals. “I just want to fall in love and have two to three kids hopefully.”

Besides art, she’s also extremely into psychology.

“I like thinking about how the mind works. What makes a person tick, what makes a person do the things they do, why they think the way that they think.”

She says about herself that she’s an extremely deep person and not a lot of people see that.

“Everyone thinks that I’m always happy, but I really do think deeply about everything,” she said.

Herzer is often walking around with a smile on her face and describes herself as “bubbly, calm, nice to



Painting by Angela Herzer '10

**Angela Herzer expresses** her emotions through her art work such as this self portrait. Her dream is to have people admire her work and be inspired by her talents.

everyone, interesting and sweet.”

An exact date is yet to be determined for Herzer’s art show, at WTHS. She will be serving food, appetizers and desserts, and all of her art work will be on display for everyone to admire.

# How white do you want your teeth?

Sarah Kurtz '10

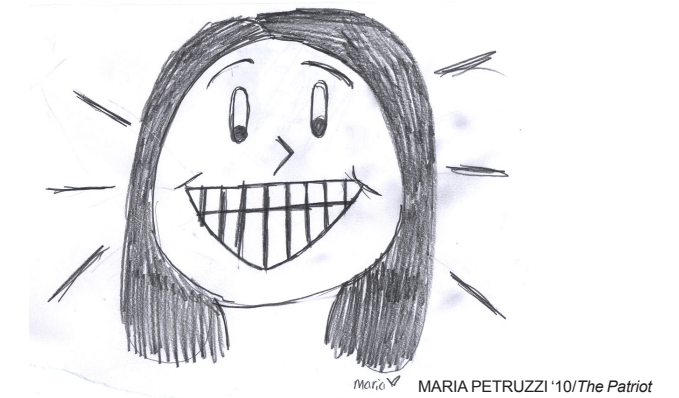
Today, pressure to look like a celebrity is higher than ever. One major factor is your smile, and how white it is. Most of us start out with sparkling white teeth, thanks to their porcelain-like enamel surface. Composed of microscopic crystalline rods, tooth enamel is designed to protect the teeth from the effects of chewing, gnashing, trauma and acid attacks caused by sugar. But over the years enamel is worn down, becoming more transparent and permitting the yellow color of dentin – the tooth’s core material – to show through. Many teeth whitening systems are available, including whitening toothpastes, over-the-counter gels, rinses, strips, and trays, and whitening agents obtained from a dentist. Here are some ways to brighten your smile without breaking the bank!

All toothpastes help remove surface stains because they contain mild abrasives. Some whitening

directly to the surface of your teeth. Instructions generally call for twice a day application for 14 days. Whitening strips are very thin, virtually invisible strips that are coated with a peroxide-based whitening gel. The strips are applied twice daily for 30 minutes for 14 days. Both products while whiten your teeth up to three shades lighter, but the results generally only last for about four months. Both these products cost about an average of forty dollars at your local drug store.

Mouth washes are also starting to advertise that they contain whitening agents. You just swish them around in your mouth for 60 seconds twice a day before brushing your teeth. However, some experts say that rinses may not be as effective as other over-the-counter whitening products and the results are usually only seen in about twelve weeks.

Tray-based tooth whitening systems, purchased either over-the-counter or from your dentist, involve filling a mouth guard-like tray with



MARIA PETRUZZI '10/The Patriot

toothpastes contain gentle polishing or chemical agents that provide additional stain removal effectiveness. Although the toothpaste can whiten your teeth, it usually can only whiten them up to one shade lighter. A side effect of this could be heightening your tooth sensitivity because the abrasiveness of the toothpaste weakens your enamel.

Whitening gels and strips are also another very common whitening agent used. Gels are clear, peroxide-based gels applied with a small brush

a gel whitening solution, which contains a peroxide-bleaching agent. The tray must be worn a minimum of three hours a day and can be worn a maximum of eight hours, usually while sleeping. This is the more pricey of all the treatments and can cost up to three-hundred dollars, but out of all the at-home treatments, is the most effective.

Be sure to follow all the proper directions when whitening teeth to ensure your safety. Teeth whitening is not necessary, but always makes your smile brighter!

# Hair dye damaging for teens

Grace Glennan '11

It may look cool but what’s underneath those cool colors? Now more than ever teens have been dying their hair.

What people don’t know however is that dying your hair can cause damage, sometimes it can be permanent.

People dye their hair for a multitude of reasons. Some older people have gray hair that concerns them, and others don’t like their natural hair color.

“Because I get bored of my hair,” said Blake Moses '12.

There are different ways of dying your hair. You can use temporary, semi-permanent, demi-permanent and permanent dyes.

Temporary dyes are often used to get more eccentric looking colors. They usually come in sprays or rinses. This is the hair dye that is usually used around Halloween.

A strand of hair is broken down into several layers. When you dye your hair with temporary dyes, the color molecules cannot enter in to the cuticle layer of the hair, because the molecules are too big.

These dyes are as the name suggest, temporary and will wash out easily. If you hair

is damaged before you dye it, then the temporary dye may stay longer, and cause a bit more damage to your hair.

“Because I have seen how it ruins some people’s hair.” Amanda Giardinelli '12.

Semi-permanent and demi-permanent are mostly similar. They both contain smaller molecules than the temporary dye. These molecules penetrate the cuticle of the hair better and will in result last longer.

These kinds of dyes (semi) tend to come out in 4-5 washes and the other (demi) in 20-28 washes. Semi-permanent dyes contain small traces of ammonia and peroxide. Both of these compounds are found in cleaning solutions. However, these dyes are better for you than permanent dyes because they contain fewer amounts of chemicals, although semi-dyes still contain a chemical compound called Phenylendiamine.

I don’t know about you, but I don’t want chemicals that can be dangerous on my head. Also there is usually the sayings “if you can’t pronounce it, don’t use it” I feel this could apply nicely here.

Demi-permanent dyes give better all around coverage than the semi-permanents do, but they don’t cover quite as well as permanent dyes.

Demi-dyes are typically preferred because of the fact it leaves less damage to you hair than permanent dyes with getting a desirable color. These dyes are actually safer; they are milder than the other dyes.

Permanent dyes usually come with two tubes. One is ammonia and the other is something like peroxide. The ammonia allows the cuticle to open; this ensures that the color sinks into the shaft of the hair. Permanent dye will not come out by washing it.

The only way to get a different color is to dye it or allow the hair to grow out. Dying dark hair to a lighter color is worse for you hair because when you do it, you have to first bleach the hair and then color it.

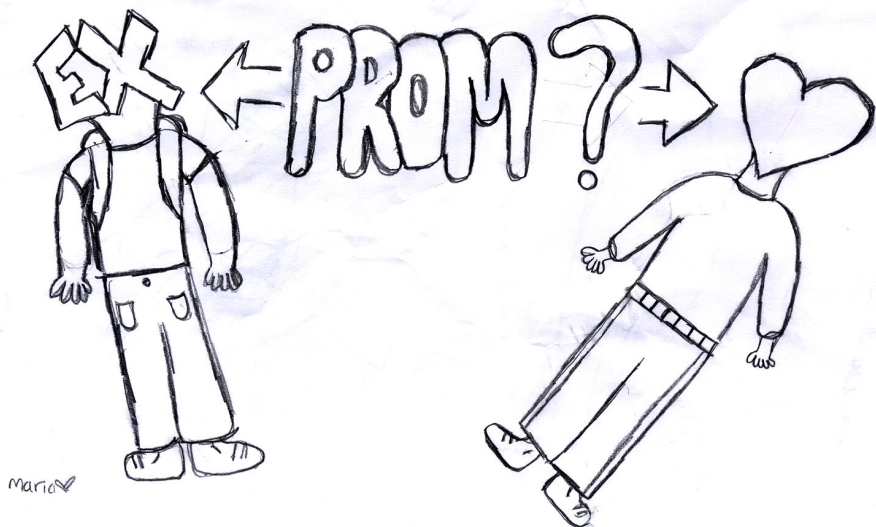
As I have mentioned before, dying hair looks cool but has other effects. Along with the risk of damaging your hair by making it dry, some scientists are finding that there is an increase in cancer with people who dye their hair. The FDA has also started to find that some of the chemicals used in the dye can be toxic.

This is why if you have never dyed your hair before or are not quite sure how to go about doing it, you should either go to a salon and have it dyed for you and talk to someone who knows what he or she are doing.

# Lifestyles

He said, She said by Luke Verrillo'10 and Sarah Kurtz'10

## 2 dates + 1 prom = dilemma



MARIA PETRUZZI'10/The Patriot

**For prom, I have two prospective dates. The only problem with the guy I really want to take is that he's friend's with my ex. Should I be worried that my ex will have a bad time or just care about myself?**

Dear Doubt Date,

Be happy that you have two possible dates to prom, first of all. A lot of kids are being forced to go with distant cousins or "family friends" and that's bad news bears. Think about both guys and think about what you know. Who will be a better date? If your answer is still the guy who's friends with your ex-boyfriend, then forget about your ex. If you want to dance with his friend at prom, then dance with him. Just make sure that, if you go with him, you don't stir up old feelings and ditch him on the dance floor for your ex. No one likes that person.

-Luke

Dear Doubt Date,

No way! Worry about your own time at prom! Ex's are ex's for a reason! That's sweet of you to worry about his/her well being, but you come first and don't forget it!

-Sarah

**My friend has a new**

**boyfriend. She spends most of her time doing homework, going to work, and hanging out with him. I know she's busy, but how do I let her know that I feel neglected? She doesn't have time for me anymore.**

Dear Friend,

We all know high school is a hectic time. Give your friend a break. Talk it out and I'm sure she'll understand and make the time for you. Don't attack the idea of her and her boyfriend, though. Making her choose between you and him is the last thing you want to do. Backing her into a corner with a demand like that is just likely to end up causing an argument.

-Luke

Dear Friend,

Having a boyfriend and a best friend is very complicated so trust me when I tell you she probably has no idea you feel this way. Sit her down and tell her how you're feeling. I'm sure she has no idea that you feel neglected and miss her. Then try and work out some good times you guys can get together.

-Sarah

**My ex-boyfriend and I are in an open relationship, but he's at**

**college so I feel like he's just doing it to keep me from having another relationship. I don't think this is fair, but I don't want to lose him as a friend. What should I do?**

Dear Heavy Heart,

Call me old school, but I don't believe in open relationships. You're either dating or you're not. This boy's away at college, not even in your immediate life right now—don't let him influence your decisions. If you want to be with someone else, that's your choice. And if, after telling him this, your ex doesn't want to be friends with you, well then obviously you weren't really that important to him to begin with. Stick to one person at a time. It makes life a whole lot sweeter.

-Luke

Dear Heavy Heart,

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is the best thing to do. In an open relationship, there's usually more than just the two of you and from what it sounds like that is only on his end. Ending this relationship seems like the best idea in my eyes. He's away at college and let's face it, you don't know who he's with there and it certainly is not you.

-Sarah

### Review

## Treat your nails to new salon

Sarah Kurtz'10

With all the proms coming up nails and toes will have to be perfectly polished. Cache nail salon, located on 267 Egg Harbor Road near Guillerimos restaurant, is a great new nail salon that is reasonably priced and has great service. Many of their new technologies for doing nails are practical and affordable. What else could you possibly need?

One of Cache's best sellers is their gel nails. Gel nails are incredibly natural looking artificial nails. Once the gel is coated over your natural nail, they are completely nonporous and prevent nails from staining. Gel nails are non-aggressive and odor free. There are no harsh chemicals that would harm your natural nails. The gel nails have a high degree of flexibility so they will feel natural and are less prone to crackling or lifting. Gel nails are completely natural looking and can be used with or without polish.

Cache also offers several different assortments of spa treatments to relax the mind and body. Some of their new and creative treatments are: the key-lime spa, the citrus sensation spa, a hot stone therapy, a french lavender spa, and a more common treatment, a therapeutic manicure and pedicure treatment. All the treatments are soothing and will leave you feeling refreshed.

Rebecca Yarnall recently got artificial nails from Cache and had nothing but pleasant things to say about it, "the service was great and I was really pleased with the results. My nails looked great!"

Cache uses the latest and best products from OPI and always has new and fresh styles that will keep your nails up-to-date. Next time you drive by Cache, stop in and see what all the fuss is about!

Faces in the Crowd by Taylor Vandell '10

# "Please excuse the interruption..."

## Secretary keeps WTHS informed

Taylor Vandell '10

You hear her voice echoing throughout the hallways between every period of each day. She's the voice behind the infamous line "If the fire alarm should sound, please disregard."

But, Mrs. Kathy Goehringer is more than just 'a voice in the crowd'.

Goehringer works in the 11/12 main office at Washington Township High School. Her primary duty is to answer the switchboard for incoming and outgoing calls. Also, in between periods, she calls students down to the office over the PA system.

"I think my job is very interesting because of all of the various groups of people I work with on a daily basis," said Goehringer, "I'm very much a people person and I think that's what makes this job worthwhile."

Not only does Goehringer make all the announcements at the High School, but she also works at the Information Desk. Since she answers all incoming calls from outside companies or parents regarding someone at the school, she is trained to answer almost any question that one could ask. Since she has been working at WTHS for almost 22 years, that is a task that



GREG FURMAN '10/The Patriot

**Mrs. Kathy Goehringer mans the Information Desk in the 11/12 main office. In addition to handling incoming calls, she is responsible for making announcements throughout the day.**

she can easily complete.

Even though she and her co-workers in the 11/12 main office do a lot of hard work, they still manage to have fun working together.

"During the school year, the group of girls from the office will go out to dinner, or we'll go shopping," said Goehringer, "We enjoy being part of each other's company."

Before she took on the position she has now, Mrs. Goehringer

worked in the 9/10 Nurse's Office as an assistant for 11 years. She has always loved working at the high school because she loves to interact with the students.

"Having this job really shows you a different side of the students," said Goehringer, "I don't give out grades, or disciplinary acts; we try to make the office a place with a friendly, helpful atmosphere."

Aside from the 2800 students

that she looks after on a daily basis, Mrs. Goehringer has two children of her own, and her first grandchild on the way this coming February.

Goehringer grew up in Williamstown, and graduated from Williamstown High School. She then spent two years at Gloucester County College studying education. After those two years, she started working at WTHS. She has lived in Washington Township all of her married life, and her children graduated from this high school.

"It's been very interesting to see Washington Township develop into such a great community," said Goehringer, "when I was growing up in Williamstown, there wasn't even a high school in Washington Township."

Mrs. Goehringer also has chaperoned many events here at Washington Township High School. From Monzo Madness to the Graduation Ceremony, Goehringer has seen all that this school has to offer. Those are the memories that she will always have from WTHS.

"I believe that the smallest conversation with a student could make a difference in their lives," says Goehringer, "that is what I believe makes me love my job as much as I do."

### Know an Interesting Person?



Tell us about them  
And see them in  
*The Patriot*  
wthspatriot@gmail.com

## Lending a hand

Producing the paper is a big job involving many people.

On March 3, (l-r) Allen Moore, Lou DeAngelo, Nick Brancifort and Vince Dana helped collate pages of issue 4 after school.

*The Patriot* would like to thank them and Qadin Mays, Brittany Cole, Anthony Arellino, Erika Laible, Tom Magliano, John Maroldo and Tori Saponara, who also helped out that afternoon.



photo: The Patriot

# Freshmen win Township Madness in wild finale

Photographs by Ryan Francisco '11



Both players and fans came dressed and painted to support their teams



Freshman storm the court after the faculty team closed out the competition giving the class of 2013 the victory.



## Freshmen Pride



## Sophomore Spirit



The action on the court was fast and furious throughout the day as teams battled for 9/10 bragging rights.



Fans kept the atmosphere exciting as they cheered on their classmates.

