

Minutemen ready to face changes

Anthony Dentino '11

The 2010-2011 Washington Township Minutemen Boys Basketball team has many difficult questions to answer this season. Two of the largest: How do you compensate for the loss former head coach Mr. Bob Byatt, who compiled a 115-75 record at WTHS? How do you compensate for the loss of eight key seniors to graduation, including seven foot, and 1,000 point career scorer Matt Lopez?

Quite simply, you don't. As first year head coach Mr. Matt Kiser put it "You can't replace that kind of experience."

Alas, what WTHS has done, is select a well-respected coach who has experience with current team members and is capable of passing his knowledge of the game on to his athletes.

Thus, the decision was made to promote Kiser, who coached freshman basketball at Township from 2005-2008 and junior varsity basketball from 2009-2010, to head varsity coach.

Byatt offered praise for Kiser. "I think it will be a very smooth transition [for Kiser as head coach]," he said, "Coach Kiser will bring a lot of enthusiasm and knowledge of the game to the team."

Kiser's first problem to address will be the changing personnel on the roster.

While replacing eight seniors may seem a daunting task, current senior Ben Maffet gained critical varsity experience last year, and he along

with the other three seniors on the team, Mark Jankowski, Jason Melfi, and Mike Murawski, are expected to lead the team and provide guidance to the underclassmen on the team, especially those who will see varsity game action.

Murawski said "I lead by trying to be one of the first kids in the gym and by giving 100% in every drill. I also try to help my younger teammates if they don't understand something because I've been playing for the coaches longer, so I understand what they want us to do."

Maffet echoed Murawski's thoughts. "I lead vocally, by example, and by instruction. I contribute by practicing hard, making my teammates better, and giving all I've got everytime I step on the court," Maffet said.

The seniors will need to fill their roles successfully with the team being very young as a whole. Kiser looks for many younger players to contribute, and while he stated that it was early and lineups are still completely up in the air, in his eyes, he sees players such as juniors Mike Bach and Sean Smith and sophomores Kaevon Pleasant, Alex Grabbe, and John Williams making an impact.

With this type of inexperience usually comes low expectations. While other schools may not view WTHS as a tough opponent this year, the

team is seeking to prove otherwise.

Kiser said "This is a team with a first year varsity coach and a team that doesn't return a lot of experience. As a team, we're going to play hard and expect more than people outside of the program."

Similar offensive and defensive schemes from prior seasons will be kept, but with some slight variations. Some include a man-to-man defense and a more perimeter based offense. This should help compensate for the team's lack of size, and Kiser feels that the spread out offense should work as taller opponents would be susceptible to getting beat on defense by a smaller and quicker player.

Kiser wants to build a tightly-knit team who works hard, plays smart, makes open shots, and values the basketball.

He feels that the Minutemen face a

"...We're going to play hard and expect more than people outside of the program."

- Coach Matt Kiser

tough schedule saying "In the Olympic Conference, you don't get an off-night," he said.

Nevertheless, Kiser believes that the team can have a strong season. Though undersized and inexperienced, they will not be a pushover.

The players agree. "We want to compete and put ourselves in the position to win games," Maffet said.

Minutemaids trust in teamwork

Brianna Caraballo '11

The winter sports season is just kicking into gear. Pre-season scrimmages have already started for most winter sports, like the girls' varsity basketball team, who had their first scrimmage against Rancocas Valley on Dec. 4.

Even though they lost 40-38, the players believe this game has helped them in many different aspects.

"The scrimmage was good for the first one of the season. It allowed us to see the things we need to work on most," said center/forward, Paige Anastasi '13.

Not only have these girls been

practicing for the past three weeks for upcoming games and scrimmages, they've also been practicing during their varsity league, summer league, and three day summer camps as well.

Coach Jennifer Natale said "[Playing during the off-season] brought the girls closer together - they're more like a family and it allowed them to gain more experience playing with each other than last year."

Her main goal for this season is to make the playoffs. With the determination, practice, and effort that the players are putting in, she feels as if it's more than possible.

Even though last season wasn't one of the best, they don't plan to settle for less than a playoff berth.

"Now that we're older, we're able to learn from the mistakes we made and how we can fix them," said Gianna Dipietro '11.

To help make this season better than last, the girls developed a team motto to keep them going.

"The team motto is basically believe; to believe in yourself, believe in your teammates, and believe in the game no matter what," said center/forward, Maureen Fleming '13.

Natale is hoping for a tremendous season for these girls.

Not only are practices important for a team, but there are certainly other things that tend to be a huge factor in sports. One thing in particular is the team chemistry.

Alissa Schoelkopf '11

described one practice where the girls showed up expecting the usual, but a different warm up took place. Coach DiBenedetto, the freshman coach, decided it to create a trust fall which would involve the players and the managers.

The trust fall started off with three girls, one in the front, one in the middle, and one in the back. The girl in the middle would fall forward and then fall backwards, trusting that her two teammates would catch her. The whole point of this exercise was to build team bonding, trust, and to believe in one another.

"No doubt about it, I knew if I couldn't trust them, I couldn't trust anyone," says four-year manager, Nicolette Hamilton '11.

The team hopes that the trusting in each other will build a chemistry that will help bring them one step closer to the play offs.

The Patriot

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Core floods with toys

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

Every year in early December, the core of WTHS becomes flooded with toys, camping equipment, and the student members of the Class Council Executive Board.

The, "Twenty Four at the Core" charity or as some call it, "Toys for Tots" has been a part of Washington Township High School for sixteen years, but many fail to realize how much time and effort is put in to making this charity a successful one.

Starting with just two other high school advisors, Mrs. Carol Costello decided to raise money for the famous Toys for Tots charity. They organized an event in which Mr. Marty Bouchard, the school's communications teacher shaved his head after raising

seven hundred and fifty dollars on behalf of the charity. However, this was only the beginning of the large scale charity that was to come.

"The second year we participated in Toys for Tots," Costello began, "Myself and two other advisors slept on top of the band truck, and filled it with toys for the charity."

After seeing the enormous success of the toy drive that year, Costello decided to take the charity one step further, and get her Class Council advisors to pitch in and help raise money and gather toys. She realized that with the help of her students, she could collect a lot more toys and spread the word about the charity at a faster and more efficient pace.

"I think Twenty Four is such an important



photo courtesy of JESS SPARACIO '12

Some of the 24 @ the Core participants gather with the a portion of the donations collected.

charity because it allows us to give back to our community in one of the best ways possible." Said Christine Ciocco, a member of the Junior Class Council Executive board.

Once the Class Council Executive Board became involved, the idea for a twenty four hour sleepover at the core emerged, in which students stayed up and camped out while they collected toys at anytime, from anyone who wanted to donate to the charity. But in order to do so, Costello and the school have to take many things into consideration.

"Other than making the community aware about the drive, the school has to make sure the heat stays on for the students running the charity, make sure there is a custodian on duty at all times,

have police patrolling the school during the charity, have a permit to stay at the school overnight, as well as making sure that everyone has enough to eat and drink while the drive goes on." Said Costello.

After Costello and her students have made all the necessary preparations, Twenty Four at the Core is ready to go into full swing. Each year, Class Council and Costello alike are very hopeful about the amount of donations and toys they will receive for their cause.

"Of course in my mind," Said Costello, "I would like us to collect an infinite amount of toys. But I'd say my dream number for this year would be around five thousand."

No matter how many toys or donations they collect, Costello still gets extreme satisfaction as the event wraps up, "The most rewarding part for everyone involved is to just stand back and look at the amount of toys that they had collected over a twenty four hour period."

Although the drive may have already ended for this year, Class Council urges everyone to donate annually. Each year, new families and children can benefit from the generous amounts of toys that are donated from the school and community.

"Some people have much more than others," Said Raghav Sahni, a member of the Junior Executive Board, "And it's satisfying to see those who are more fortunate donate to those in need."

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Pretty in pink

WTHS students dress to remember classmates' impact

Ally Gallo '11

It seemed more like spring than early December as the classrooms and hallways of WTHS were a sea of pink in honor and memory of Taylor Buonadonna '12.

Buonadonna, a beloved member of the Junior class of 2012 lost her life to cancer on Sunday, Nov. 28.

To her peers, she was considered an amazing person.

"She never left someone in need alone. She would help anyone who needed her" said Olivia Parry '10.

One of Buonadonna's best friends, Emily Parry '12 said, "She made everyone who was around her the best person that they can be."

According to her peers, her sickness never seemed to lessen her as a person.

"Taylor was unlike anyone I've ever met in my life. She was sweet and selfless. She always put her family and friends before herself. She never took advantage of people's sympathy for her" Britt Rebstock '12 said.

Buonadonna passing was the second student death to touch WTHS this school year. Derek Schnapp '11 passed away this past summer after a long battle with



Kevin Levy '12/The Patriot

Students honored and remembered classmate Taylor Buonadonna by wearing pink. Students and staff across all grade levels participated.

in his memory, the many WTHS students wore green on the first day of school.

Before Buonadonna's death, Washington Township came "together with pride" to support Taylor and her family in their time

of need. WTHS Class Council and Student Council joined forces and started a fundraising campaign for Buonadonna's. The members made pink ribbons and sold them to the student body for \$1.

The faculty of WTHS also

chose to participate in two dress down days. With a \$5 donation, they had the option of wearing jeans on a Friday. So far, the organizations have raised over \$4,500, all of which was donated directly to Taylor's family.

On Dec. 3, the students at WTHS showed their love and support for Taylor and wore pink. The day was called "Township loves Taylor."

Buonadonna never got to see the day the halls at WTHS were filled with pink in her honor.

The message she always lived by is still growing strong in the school and the community.

"Tay would want us all to live our life to the fullest and appreciate the small things, like smiling at someone or always being there for the people that need us" Parry '10 said.

The past month has been a very hard time for Buonadonna's friends and family. They feel she left a mark on her school and that she will never be forgotten.

"When ever you saw her in the halls she put a smile on your face. I speak for a lot of people when I say I'm going to miss her" said Tori Orsimarsi '12.

Elementary schools take five

Jessica Gardner '12

Brass students in Mr. Jim Beyer's Wind Ensemble class are continuing a long tradition here at WTHS.

The brass players have formed three different quintets. The quintets include an array of brass instruments, ranging from trumpet and horn, to euphonium and tuba.

The quintets play a large assortment of different songs; they play all varieties of classic holiday favorites. Their repertoire of songs include *Jingle Bells*, *White Christmas*, *Frosty the Snowman* and many more recognizable holiday tunes.

Beyer, director of the school's Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, created three quintet groups, each of which is planning on touring to the six elementary schools in the district.

"I think it's such a cool experience, to get to go back to where I came from and make their Christmas season a little better," trumpet player Kelsey

Wainwright '11 said.

The students have learned independence through this project; they do not always need to rely on someone to guide them through their music. Essentially, the goal was for the students to be able to practice and play for an audience on their own.

Tuba player Nancy Chan '12 said, "It's a good experience to try different rehearsal techniques on our own and to add some creativity to our usual performances."

The brass quintets are a long-standing tradition at WTHS for the Wind Ensemble class. Several students are veterans of the quintet project, now getting a chance to do it for a second time. Students like Wainwright now feel like they have to step up to plate. In order to lead the group, veterans have to act as a leader with their peers because they don't have a director standing in front of them.

The quintets have worked hard on their music and are excited to share it with the elementary schools.

Township Sports

Seniors keep win streak alive

Amy Dennis '12

The adrenaline-pumping, all-female, late November football game phenomenon known as Powder Puff, 2010 has ended with yet another senior victory.

It was a surprisingly warm evening when hundreds of Washington Township residents piled into the high school's football stadium on Nov. 23 to watch the Juniors dressed in all blue, take on the red-clad Seniors.

After a week of hard work at after-school practice, the girls were ready to finally get out there and play.

"It was some intense practicing, getting tackled by your own team mates and stuff," said

Danielle DiVirgilio '12.

The Powder Puff game is conducted as flag-football and while this may seem like a gentle way of playing, the girls can still get pretty violent.

"We've been working with the special teams," said Mr. Jim Hallinan, the junior girls' coach, "so far we're tearing up touchdowns and scoring forty-yard field goals."

But even with all the practice, somehow the Junior girls just couldn't beat those Seniors, and the game ended with a score of 48-26.

Although the actual game is when things get exciting, the week that leads up to it can be just as interesting. Over the weekend, many teams usually get together to

decorate their sweatpants and t-shirts with team names and slogans for the game.

Also, in line with high school tradition, the Junior and Senior boys do their own sort of role-reversal for the game. Every year the boys, dressed in tights and short-shorts, perform as cheerleaders during the game to cheer on their class's Powder Puff girls.

"The [cheer] practice was a real eye-opener," said Joe Flanagan '11 "I've gained a new respect for cheerleaders."

In addition to teaching the boys a lesson, the cheering also manages to be a fun and exciting experience.

"It's been phenomenal," said John Nero, '11 "If you're an



Warpaint was not enough for these spirited juniors in the 2010 Powderpuff game. The senior class pulled out a decisive win 48-26.

underclassmen, you should definitely get involved."

Ice hockey poised to build on success

Jenn Gordun '12

A new system is coming to Washington Township ice hockey and it is taking opposition by storm. With captain Eddie Sarin '11—last year's top scorer in South Jersey, and new coach Mr. Mike Glick, WT's ice hockey team looks to have a promising year.

Glick also coaches the Hollydell Hurricanes U18 AA ice hockey team that is well respected in the region. The systems he uses with his Hurricanes team is now what he is applying to Township's style of play.

"He's a good systems coach," Jonathan Smith, '12—another top scorer for Washington Township, said. "He's teaching us a new system and how to be more aggressive on the fore-check."

Anchoring the team's defense, net minders Brandon Cusumano '12, Pat Finnegan '13, and Ryan McCusker '13, create a fierce opposition that most teams find impregnable.

Other new editions to the team are freshmen Austin Haslett and Shane Moffatt. Transitioning onto the team may be difficult, but Sarin believes that it is a learning process for everyone.

"The freshmen are young," Sarin said. "But the whole team is learning since we've got a new system, so it's not just the freshmen that are new to this,"

Sarin and Smith also believe that there are always advantages and privileges that come with playing a sport for Washington Township. Both athletes explain that

playing a sport for WTHS teaches you how to balance schoolwork and responsibilities of being on a team. Having a hectic schedule can be chaotic and sometimes stressful, but the athletes believe that it teaches them how to manage their time and responsibilities better.

There is also a certain pride that comes from playing a high school sport. Smith believes that being able to play with his fellow classmates and representing his school is a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

"You get to play with your friends and play in front of your entire school," Smith said.

For the ice hockey team, there is much to be proud of. They have finished with the best regular season record in the South Jersey high school ice hockey league the past two years, and have won multiple championships since their formation in 1990. Sarin believes the goals of the team are simple: to win the championship and make it to the Flyers Cup.

The top two teams in South Jersey compete for the Flyers Cup shortly after the playoffs.

Sarin said that a win in this "very prestigious event" would be an incredible achievement for the team.

Some believe that hockey is a unique sport that awakens a certain passion and emotion that any other WTHS sports cannot.

"[And] We're a winning organization," Sarin said. He and Smith believe with their promising start to the season and the skill of the team, students will continue to pour into the stands each and every game.

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Opinion

Eagles fans lack respectful attitude

Anthony Dentino '11

In the second quarter of the game staged between the Philadelphia Eagles and Indianapolis Colts on November 7th, 2010, an unfortunate and controversial play occurred.

Colts wideout Austin Collie appeared to have made a clean catch amongst two defenders before receiving a bone-jarring blow from Eagles defensive back Quentin Mikell. Then, Collie was re-directed into Mikell's secondary mate Kurt Coleman who accidentally hit Collie with his helmet.

As Collie lay motionless for several minutes on the ground, a penalty flag was immediately thrown, prompting a loud chorus of boos from disgruntled Philadelphia fans. They seemed to have a legitimate argument about the penalty, as Mikell's hit was an extremely hard but ultimately clean hit and Coleman's was undoubtedly an accident and unavoidable.

However, they had absolutely no right to boo in the situation. Before the penalty was even called, it was quite obvious that Collie had been severely injured.

It is mind-boggling to think that the first thing that went through [fans] minds was not the safety and well-being of another human being, but a penalty on their team.

While it is very likely that the fans were razzing the referee and not the injured player, it is mind-boggling to think that the first thing that went through their minds was not the safety and well-being of another human being, but a penalty on their team.

Yes, in the context of the game, the penalty was a drastic one, but in the grand scheme of things, football is just that, a game. Another person's life is, or at least should be, more important.

In hindsight, that may sound a bit severe

considering Collie would eventually be fine, but he was carted off the field on a stretcher unable to move.

Fortunately, a tragedy like this did not happen to Collie, and he was reported to have only suffered a serious concussion. Alas, it was scary watching the receiver lay helplessly and motionlessly on the ground.

Therefore, it was amazing to see that when he was carted off of the field, the Eagles fans gave Collie at best, a light smattering of applause.

The utter lack of respect shown in the above instance is despicable.

Admittedly, there was some applause, and it is clear that many of the Eagles players and fans alike were genuinely concerned for Collie.

Nevertheless, it is frightening to think that many people viewing the game were only worried about the penalty ensuing from a hit that could have led to another person being seriously harmed. The real issue at stake is not the call against the Eagles that will be debated hotly around the NFL, but the lack of priorities displayed by a crowd of incredibly rude spectators.

Opinion

Women need support from sports fans

Alexandra Propati '13

Throughout history women have been considered inferior to men. While things have changed in the past century and women have taken on leading roles in society, one area that has not changed much are sports.

Everyone loves to gather around and watch Sunday Night Football, baseball, basketball, or some other favorite sports. All of those sports people are watching mostly consist of men with some women as cheerleaders. There are some sports that women and men play on equal grounds, such as golf and tennis, but there are still separate leagues for women and men.

It is known very well that males naturally have more muscle than females; however, if women work hard enough, then they could be on equal ground as men, not because they were born with natural strength, but because they work hard. It's just like learning a sport, you are not born

with being good at sports, but you work hard and you try to be the best.

Women do have some sports that they can call almost all their own, such as gymnastics and competitive cheerleading, but you see men taking part in them too. However, when you watch professional football, baseball, or basketball, you don't see a single female.

There are female teams for basketball, and baseball is changed to softball, but having a different league for women and men makes it even worse because that's saying that women can't possibly compete on the same level as men. That however is not true, just look Madge Syers. In 1902 Syers took place in a Figure Skating Championship, this was unheard of at the time since figure skating was dominated by males in the early 1900s. After Syers competed against the men, women were allowed to compete against men in figure skating.

There are many women besides Syers that

have achievements like that, such as Nancy Lieberman, who was the first woman to play in men's pro league basketball (USBL).

Women are highly capable of doing anything men can do, and some can do it even better.

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Royal treatment: Jessica Jewusiak crowned Queen

Ally Gallo '11

The votes were in.

The seniors at WTHS had each voted for two girls they felt would best represent their class at homecoming. For the next week, student council advisors Mrs. Elizabeth Longo and Mrs. Francesca Muscelli counted every vote.

On Friday, Sept. 24, during the first five minutes of first period, the twelve girls of the 2010 Homecoming Court were announced.

Jessica Jewusiak was one of the twelve girls announced. Little did she realize that only one short month later, she would be crowned the WTHS Class of 2011 Homecoming Queen.

Jessica's peers feel that she perfectly represents not only the class of 2011 but the entire school. She is a well-respected friend and a great role model. She is very involved in school and has many different groups of friends. She is also known for being a nice to everyone.

"I was so happy, because she looked so happy. She's so humble and sweet so she deserved it" said homecoming court member Candace Brown '11

Her family is also very proud of the person she has become.

"One of the things that we taught Jess was to always look at everybody from the inside and not the outside, and that's why I think a lot of people take to her" Mr. Jewusiak said.

During halftime at the homecoming football game, each girl was introduced one by one. They were walked down the track by their escorts. Once every girl was called, the flower boys handed off their boxes of roses. After what seemed to be a lifetime worth of waiting, all the girls finally got their boxes open. Eleven girls held white roses.



Homecoming Queen Jessica Jewusiak and escort Phil Claghorn.

Jewusiak's were red.

"I was just happy that I finally opened it, because it took me a while. Then all these emotions came over me, I can't even describe the feeling" Jewusiak said.

Jessica was taken off the track in a golf cart with her escort Phil Claghorn '11. In her moment of fame, she waved back to her senior classmates that had voted for her to represent the class of 2011.

"I'm thankful for all their support. It means a lot to me and it's a huge honor" Jewusiak said.

2010 Award winners from the Garden State Scholastic Press Association Summer Writing Contest.

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3rd Place - Feature Writing
3rd Place - Feature Writing
Honorable Mention - Artwork and Illustration
Honorable Mention - Editorial Cartooning
Honorable Mention - Opinion Writing
Honorable Mention - Photography

Court members get girls in step

Ally Gallo '11

Alexandra Richards '11 is a homecoming court nominee and a member of student council. With help from other court members Mary Hearn '11 and Zoey Miller '11, Richards choreographed a dance routine for the twelve girls and their escorts which they performed three times.

After much practice and preparation, the homecoming girls and their escorts performed at the homecoming dance, at the pep rally the night before the homecoming football game, and at the spirit parade before the game.

"I was really proud of everybody. We had so much fun doing it and it came together really well," said Richards. During the weeks prior to homecoming, the girls got the opportunity to represent their class and their school as the WTHS 2010 homecoming Court. With this honor came some responsibilities. They had to pick an escort in the senior class that would dance with them and walk them down the track at the homecoming football game. They also had to choose a flower boy, any under classman.

To introduce them to the student body, during the twelve days prior to homecoming, each girl led the school in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance over the loud speaker in the morning.

Although the entire month of October was a once in a lifetime experience that none of the homecoming girls will forget, it was time for one girl to be crowned. The homecoming football game was held on Friday, October 29. The WTHS Student Council hosted their annual half time show. After all twelve girls were announced, Jessica Jewusiak was crowned the WTHS 2010 Homecoming Queen.

Commentary

Assembly attendance system flawed

Jenn Gordun '12'

Assembly. This word is enough to get the student body cheering with enthusiasm. It's only natural for students to be excited to get out of class and attend something different than their usual eight classrooms during the day. This privilege is becoming more scarce with the new restrictions on eighth period assemblies.

Only select classes at Washington Township High School have been allowed to attend eighth period assemblies. Though many of these restrictions have been made because of the lack of space in the TDBAC for all three-thousand students, it should be apparent that there should be some type of system for choosing which classes should be able to attend.

For most of the eighth period assemblies, the same classes which have attended all the previous assemblies are continuing to be chosen. This is unfair to the majority of WTHS students who never get to attend *any* eighth period assemblies. It is understandable that many of the teachers do not want to lose an entire day of class for an assembly. Many classes are not chosen to attend because of this fact. This is not true for every class and teacher, however.

A week or two before an assembly, a survey or poll should be distributed to teachers who teach class eighth period. On the poll, the teachers should write which class they teach and whether or not they wish for their class to attend the assembly. The survey can then be handed in to the coordinator of the assembly, and a more equitable selection of classes can be made.

This is a more impartial method of selecting the audience of eighth period assemblies. If this impartial system is used, different classes will be able to experience the spontaneity and enjoyment assemblies bring to the student body.

Step up or step out

Ally Gallo '11'

Although the most important part of school is education, the social aspect is definitely a big part of the high school experience.

There are two opposing groups in our school. There are the ones who get involved, and the ones who don't.

Members of clubs such as class council, student council and Interact give the students at WTHS a lot of opportunities that not all schools have to offer.

These people often don't receive quite the thanks that they deserve for planning and organizing different events.

If you are one of the people who don't get involved, and find yourself criticizing the events that go on in our school, you should take a few steps back and look at the big picture.

If you did not like the decorations at this year's homecoming, and your opinion was loud enough for many to hear, maybe you should have gotten involved with student

involved with student council. This would have given you the opportunity to choose the decorations for yourself.

The point is that if you don't like the way things are going, it's your own fault. If you really want something to be a certain way you can do something about that and add your opinion. Otherwise, you have no room to criticize the efforts of the people who actually do get involved.

Your voice matters and your opinion counts.

Blood drives too restrictive

Christina Cockerill '12'

American Red Cross Blood donations have too many strict regulations and rules, to the point where they are counterproductive.

Blood drive regulations only allow students over the weight of 110 pounds and over the age of sixteen to donate blood, yet they advertise that one pint of blood can save up to three lives. People aren't endangered after losing one pint of blood, especially when it's done with a sterilized needle in a very controlled location. There's food for those who feel light headed and places to lay down if you don't exactly feel ready to go back to class.

If there is a specification for weight, why bother with the age limits at all? Even sixteen

year olds require a parent or guardian's signature before they donate. Why not let fifteen year old and fourteen year old students who meet the weight specification get parental permission to donate blood?

Only three percent of people who are able to donate blood and those three percent don't do this as regularly as allowed (fifty six days are required between every donation).

With the great need for blood donors, The Red Cross should be widening the percent of population allowed.

Students who meet the weight requirement could easily handle it. Students who meet the age limit know the risks and are eager to help. Allowing those who wish to donate blood would benefit both the Red Cross and the volunteers.

The Patriot

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Please send all correspondence to: wthspatriot@gmail.com

National Sports

National Hockey League

Flyers' acquisitions making impact

Jenn Gordun '12'

The Philadelphia Flyers' season is in full swing and the opposition is undeniably taking notice.

With the offensive stars finally causing some tension on the scoreboard, the defense is beginning to take shape as well.

With new defensive additions Andrej Meszaros, Sean O'Donnell, and Matt Walker, tandem strings of defensemen have been equally successful in turning pucks away from the net.

The back check has been getting more rigid and the opposition is giving up more pucks in neutral ice.

Competitors of the Flyers have been flustered with this new-found confidence and energy of

the team, and it shows drastically in the statistics.

As of Nov. 29, the Flyers are at the top of the Eastern Conference Atlantic division with 34

points and 15 wins. Many believe that the season is still too young to make any predictions, and some believe that the Flyers goaltending will appear in question later down the line.

With Michael Leighton out on injury reserve from back surgery, the Flyers top two goaltenders have been Brian Boucher and Sergei Bobrovsky. While some

believe that the two net minders have what it takes to each become a playoff goalie, others still

Exactly how long can Bobrovsky keep up this hard work ethic, high-energy style of play?

seem to be skeptical.

Acquiring Sergei Bobrovsky was something many Flyers fans and teammates alike were not expecting. In to replace the injured

Michael Leighton came an unsuspecting free agent from Russia's KHL hockey league.

At only 22 years old, Bobrovsky lacks the age and experience that many veteran goaltenders of the NHL possess. During his very first start in the NHL, Bobrovsky stopped heavy artillery of 29 shots from the Pittsburgh Penguins, and recorded the team's first win of the 2010-2011 regular season.

The question for some, is 'exactly how long can Bobrovsky keep up this hard work ethic, high energy style of play?'

While the battle for the number one goaltending spot is underway, only time will tell who will come out on top for the playoffs.

Major League Baseball

Phils fans question Werth deal

Rebecca Serad '11'

The nation was stunned after news broke that outfielder Jayson Werth had signed a seven year, \$126 million contract with the last place Washington Nationals.

Sure, Phillies fans knew in the back of their minds that Werth would not resign here.

Most expected him to sign with a nationally respected franchise that could without a doubt give him the paycheck that kids dream of, like the Boston Red Sox or the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

However, no one could have expected that Werth would get this kind of contract from a fairly new team that has become a fixture at the bottom of the National League East division.

"He cared about creating an opportunity for himself and his career. I don't think that he should be judged [for his decision to sign with the Nationals]," Kelsey Sentak '11 said.

Chris Viola '11 thought it was wise for the Phillies management to hold their ground on contract negotiations. "I believe it was a good decision to get rid of Werth. He was greedy; the [Phillies] fans loved him a lot more than he loved them."

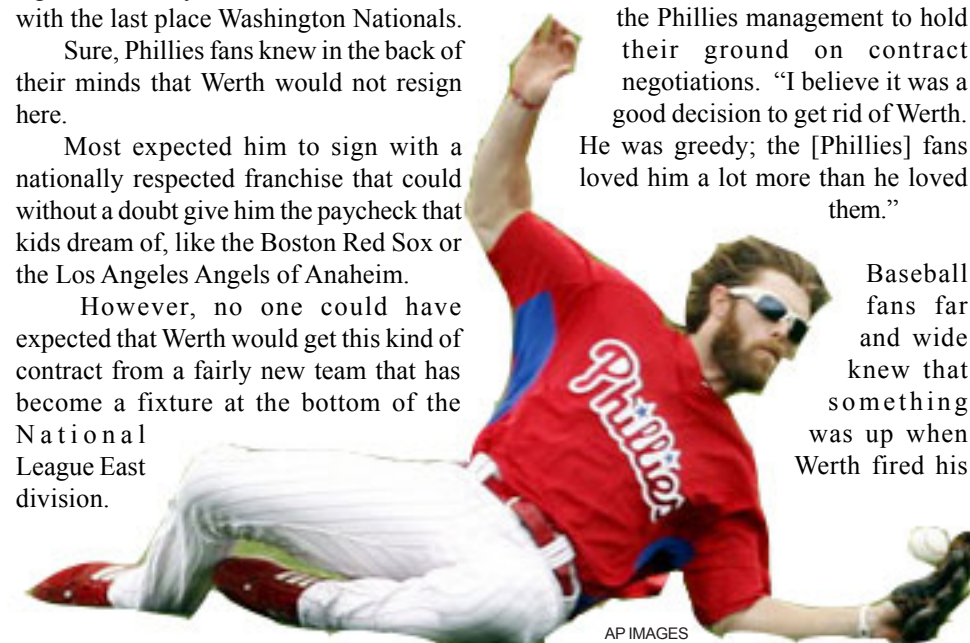
agents and hired agent Scott Boras, who is known for getting his clients ridiculously expensive contracts. It made fans wonder whether Werth cared about winning or the money. This contract seems to answer that question.

"His paycheck is a little large after only becoming a starting player two years ago," Sentak noted.

Alyssa Schiavo '11 agreed. "I think that a lot more people were expecting him to be less greedy."

The Nationals are investing quite a bit of their future funds into this deal. This contract covers what is considered the "prime" of a player's career: from their mid twenties to mid thirties. Because Werth took longer to break into the Majors and become a productive starting player, many people in the league think that he will continue to be productive later in his thirties.

Only time will tell whether or not Werth proves to be worth the money that the Nationals have put in.



AP IMAGES

Books

Cuddle Up With a Good Read

The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks

Kristen Treude '13

While I try to stray away from books that have been converted into film, I just couldn't help myself from writing about the well known masterpiece, *The Notebook*.

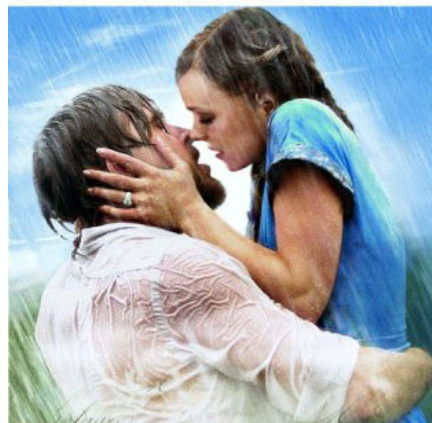
It can probably be guaranteed that if you ask any girl over 13, they will recognize the name Nicholas Sparks.

However, if you are one of those who have been blinded from modern day media, and do not know who Nicholas Sparks is, I will try my best to explain his pure awesomeness in the best way possible.

Let me start out by saying that this is not a book for the weak heart, and like *Romeo and Juliet*, it can be seen as a tragedy as equally as a love story.

There are two main characters, Allie and Noah, they fell in love fourteen years ago, but unfortunately they haven't seen each other since.

It was a surprise to me that those fourteen years apart are not included in the novel. Readers receive a vague description of what once was and



The best-seller was made into a 2004 film starring Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling.

that is all. If you have seen the movie before you go to read the book, this will probably be your biggest disappointment.

Over a decade, Allie and Noah lose touch. The main reasoning is that Allie is fabulously wealthy, and Noah is dirt poor. This sets up their relationship for failure, and Allie leaves. But, since in Sparks' eyes, love defeats all, they find each other again.

The rest of the novel continues as follows: boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy finds girl again, boy loses girl...again...to her fiancé. (Sadly, Allie is engaged to another man.) This is probably the largest cliffhanger within a book I have encountered.

After building up all the anticipation of their meeting and falling in love again, she leaves. But, this is what makes this novel so insanely genius, because Sparks doesn't continue the story at this point, it just stops dead in its tracks.

I'm not going to tell you the ending, of course, but what Sparks does write leaves you torn. I can still flip through the pages of my novel and see tear stains polluting the ink.

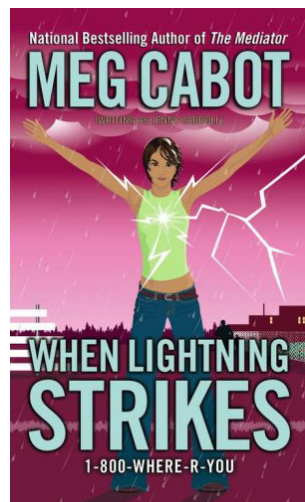
1-800-Where-R-You by Meg Cabot

Alexandra Propati '13

Meg Cabot writes another series beloved by fans in *1-800-Where-R-You*. Jessica Mastriani is a normal teenage girl, with regular everyday problems, such as getting into fights, trying to get the attention of the boy she likes, and oh yeah, dreaming about kidnapped people.

When Jess was walking home from detention one day when a freak thunderstorm was starting. She took cover under some bleachers, and she was hit by lightning. From that day on, when she goes to sleep, she dreams about missing people.

At first she doesn't know what is happening, but then she



slowly figured it out with the help of her best friend Ruth, and the guy she likes, Rob.

Jess helps find missing

people, but then a situation pops up and she now has to decide if she should tell where the missing people are. The thought occurs to her, what if they don't want to be found?

Not only that, but Jess doesn't want to be a part of any freaky government experiments. But it's kind of hard to fly under the radar when you're telling the police where a kidnapped victim is everyday.

The first installment of the five book series is called *1-800-Where-R-You When Lightning strikes*. Meg Cabot writes another series that anyone can enjoy, whether you're 15 or 35, or a girl or boy, because it's written with humour that everyone will love.

The Mediator by Meg Cabot

Alexandra Propati '13

Meg Cabot writes more than just *The Princess Diaries*. She writes about more ghoulish things such as ghosts. More specifically, people who can see ghosts, otherwise known as Mediators.

The Mediator is a series of six books. It starts off with a girl named Susannah moving from New York City to California. That's not the only big change though; she has to cope with her mom's new husband and his three sons.

It's not all bad; at least she gets her own room. That is until she realizes that she has to share it with a ghost named Jesse. Ghosts are nothing new to Suze; in fact, she helps them, or mediates them so they can cross to the other side. This is not the case for Jesse though.

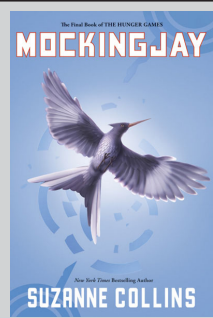
Seeing as Jesse has been dead and living in her room for almost two-hundred years, it's going to be hard to get him to leave.

Throughout the series Suze learns more about Jesse, and how he died. She also meets other people like her, and makes new friends along with enemies.

Every book leaves you wanting more, and once it's all over, you will be glad for the read, and look for another series written by Meg Cabot.




Student book club



MOCKINGJAY
SUZANNE COLLINS

Catching Fire



CATCHING FIRE
SUZANNE COLLINS

Meets Dec. 22 in the IMC

Out of Hand

Texting while driving sparks dangerous consequences

Leanne Abrams '11

Texting is getting out of control! According to a report done by the National Safety Council, 28 percent of car accidents are caused by texting and talking on your cell phone while driving.

Almost everywhere you look, you see someone on the cell phone. The odd thing to me is you hardly ever see people just talking on the phone, in most cases they are texting. It's as if texting is taking over!

Kids are texting in school; adults are texting on the job and driver's texting while driving their cars. It's not just the teenagers; it's even the parents driving with their children in the back seats.

Texting while driving is getting out of hand, and it scares me. I don't think kids are getting educated enough about how risky and unsafe texting or talking on the phone is while behind the wheel. My sophomore year during driver's

education class, I remember learning about drinking and driving and the risks, but never did the teacher mention anything about how bad and

dangerous texting and driving was.

While, there are laws about using cell phones while driving, most people think they won't get caught. What they haven't been taught or realized is they are not only putting themselves at risk but other drivers on the road as well.

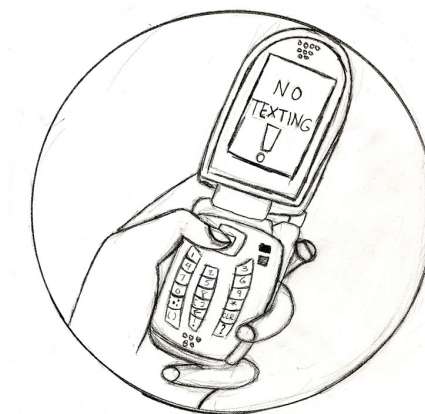
According to a national driving safety program, 26 percent of cell phone users said they have texted while driving. 60 percent of teenagers, typically the most dangerous drivers due to lack of experience reported to texting while behind the wheel.

Parents and teachers really need to inform young drivers about how not only drinking and driving is unsafe, but that texting while driving is just as bad or even worse.

According to an article written by Abhijit Naik, 81 percent of the population has admitted to texting while driving. 50 percent, of who were teenagers. 29 percent of accidents are caused by drivers between the ages of 18 and 29. Whether it's sending or receives the text messages.

I will admit when I first started driving I

Consider a question before you take that cell phone out: "Is any text or phone call more important than your own life or someone else's?"



JAMIE OLSON '13

thought I was a good enough driver to text at the same time, I soon realized I just couldn't pay enough attention and I quickly stopped doing it. If I need to really get in contact with someone, I pull over for a minute; I don't understand why everyone can't just do that. It would save so many lives.

Consider a question before you take that cell phone out, "Is any text or phone call more important than your own life or someone else's?"

Texting while driving slows down the driver's reaction time down my 30 percent. Texting while driving is shown to cause greater impairment than being on drugs or drinking while driving.

The arts need fans too

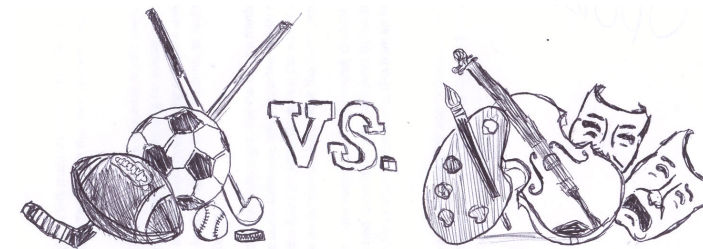
Kelsey Wainwright '11

On almost every Friday night, WTHS students head out to the Tom Brown field to watch our football players take on the challenge. Throughout the year, students pay as little as two to five dollars to enjoy sporting events.

The students of WTHS are definitely always very enthusiastic about their teams, regardless of whether they win or lose.

But Township, while in full swing for school spirit, tends to miss a large section of the school: the arts.

Whether it be the school musical, the orchestra concert, or the art show in April, there are many opportunities that lend themselves to the students to appreciate the



SAM MILLS '12

work of their peers, yet not many grab of that chance.

For example, on a cold and rainy Friday night, the stands at a football game are filled to the brim with exuberant seniors, passionate underclassmen, and supportive family members. They sit out in the bleachers in downpours to watch the football team. Yet during the winter concert season in the TDBAC, only family and close

friends show up to hear the hard work the music program does year round.

It's time that the arts were more appreciated. Year round, student performers and artists work as hard as possible in the time allotted to perform, play, and paint to the best of their abilities. And year after year, play after play, performances after performance, less than an impressive amount of

students show up to support the arts.

The students of Township need to show their appreciation for the arts more. If they don't, before we know it, the arts may diminish so much that they could get cut all together and future students won't get to enjoy it like so many before them.

Have an opinion you'd like to share?

Send it to us.

wthspatriot@gmail.com

Features

Order in the court!

Madison Sudano '12

It is no wonder that many are enticed by law enforcement during an episode of *Law and Order* or even from listening to a story about justice. The Mock Trial club at WTHS provides the perfect combination of duty and drama in a courtroom.

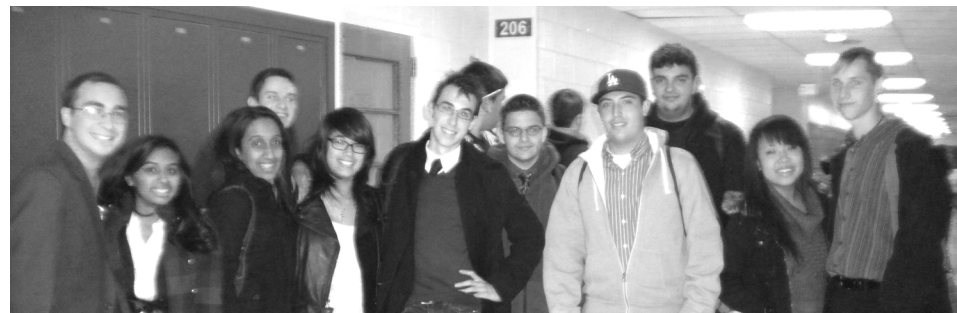
Mr. Gregory Muscelli, the Mock Trial advisor, and members of the club explained the basics in a courtroom and the exciting elements that Mock Trial club offers.

The Mock Trial club is given a case each year created by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation to present to an actual judge at the Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition. Different schools verse each other.

"This challenge keeps the team competitive," said Muscelli.

The basic roles in the trial are the defense and plaintiff sides consisting of usually two attorneys and three witnesses, which will compete against the other club's defense or plaintiff.

When a real judge determines which side requires justice, anticipation rises between each team. These stimulating characteristics of the club are just the beginning to an enjoyable group.



ALEXANDRA PROPATI '13/The Patriot

The members of Mock Trial look forward to their day in court.

"It has introduced me to awesome people," said Jim Celia '12.

"It is easy to catch on to," said Muscelli because of the simple fundamentals and driven people in Mock Trial.

Muscelli has enjoyed advising the club since 2006. Even though he did not know much about the club in the beginning, he soon developed a strong interest. He even said he would have joined Mock Trial if it had been offered to him when he was in high school.

Spending a few days after school from October through February is not a burden on Muscelli and Jessica Seigel, '12 commented, "Mock Trial can be work but it is fun work."

Zach Dzierzogowski, '12, a member of Mock Trial since his freshman year, has been enthusiastic in the club ever since. Muscelli suggested him to join.

Dzierzogowski's interest in law and performing, before getting involved in the club, helped him adjust and give him an "edge," as he said.

There are no prerequisites and the only demands in this club are to have a desire to win the case.

Dzierzogowski even stated when commemorating on past year's competitions that, "there is no better feeling than beating other schools!"

Tips to cut college planning stress

Amy Dennis '12

Already the Juniors, and even most Sophomores, are beginning to feel the pressure and demands of college but many without any older siblings or friends, are at a loss of even knowing where to start.

Here are a few tips and advice on how to handle the important stuff that colleges really look for.

Visit Collegeboard.com.

Here you can search colleges to find those that best suit your needs and interests. The website also offers surveys, college news, college touring info., and SAT preparation info.

"Collegeboard was really helpful when I first started looking," Lauren D'arcangelo, '11 said "it showed me colleges that really matched my interests and helped me narrow it down to find the ones I

really wanted to visit and apply to."

Take a Sample Test.

These can be found on College Board and will give you an idea of what the SAT will really be like. It will give you a feel for the format and difficulty level of the test and provides you with a score that you can improve on and evaluate.

This can mainly pertain to tenth graders since high school does administer the PSAT to all eleventh graders.

Know what they're looking for.

Colleges want to succeed just as much as students do and it's no secret that most colleges will emphasize academic ability and achievements.

"I think its really important to keep your grades up at all costs," says Emily Konzelman '11, "Colleges will look for students that are going to apply themselves in the

classrooms & have the positive attitudes to do it. I've been emphasizing work and such because that's the main thing they look for, how well you're going to do and how well you're going to succeed."

When reviewing a student application, the college admissions committees will look for class rank, the type (academics vs. electives) and depth (honors/advanced vs. college prep/remedial) of your classes, and your overall pattern of grades.

Also it's very likely that they will require an essay and of course, the results of your SAT.

"Don't wait til the last minute when you apply," says Andrew Pham '11 "colleges are less likely to pay attention to you if you send all your information in so close to their deadline."

Know what you're looking for.

It's important to know exactly

what you want to get out of your college experience. Know what you want to major in and what will help you later on in life with the career that you choose.

At the same time, don't be too narrow-minded. You never know if you might want to switch that career choice half way through your college career.

Still not sure of what you want to make a living out of? Liberal Arts is a popular choice of study for those just entering college. It comprises a bit of everything educational that is required for you to know and will help prepare you for life after graduation.

To get the most from your college years, it's also valuable to find a school that focuses on a sport you play, a good music or art program, a shared religious background, etc. to help you stay connected with your recreational and social interests.

Local bands rock TLA Stage

Christina Cockerill '12

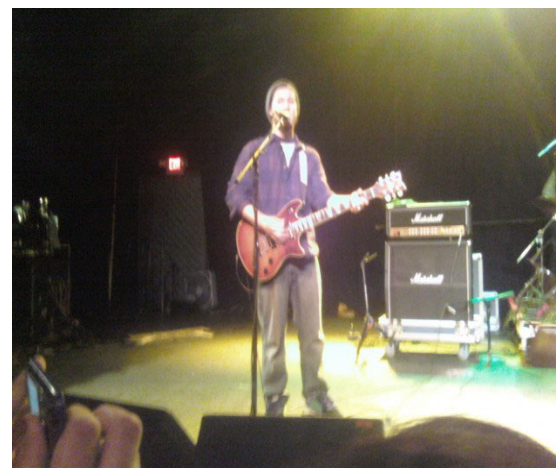
South Street Philadelphia teemed with starting artists and their fans as the Theatre of the Living Arts saw The Next Big Thing tour, a concert for small time bands looking to get big by performing in their battle of the bands against other local artists.

There were performers in genres from death-core to pop-punk. The show lasted from eleven in the morning to eleven at night on Nov. 21, but in the end, Sicklerville's own ska, punk band No Such Noise took the title of "The Next Big Thing".

Joe Fuscina, vocals and trombone of the winning ska, pop-punk band, found it to be an exciting venue. "The TLA stage is amazing. When we found out the show was going to be at the TLA, we wanted to do it so bad because we've never played there before."

In second place was Morgan's Accident from Norristown, PA, which played a combination of hard-core and electronica.

Robot Manhattan, another ska band straight out of Sicklerville, performed an impressive show.



Christina Cockerill '12

Robot Manhattan frontman, Mike Campanelli performed for their fans at the TLA show.

The members, six seniors and one junior from Timber Creek High School, played a set that had the crowd dancing and jumping to the music with a mix of original music and covers, such as Catch 22's "Keasbey Nights" and closing with their original song "11:11 Is A Lie." Videos of the performance can be found at www.facebook.com/robotmanhattan

Jennifer Gordun '12, a friend of several of the band mates, said, "It was so cool, seeing the same people I hang out with playing on a real stage. It was awesome—I was so happy for them."

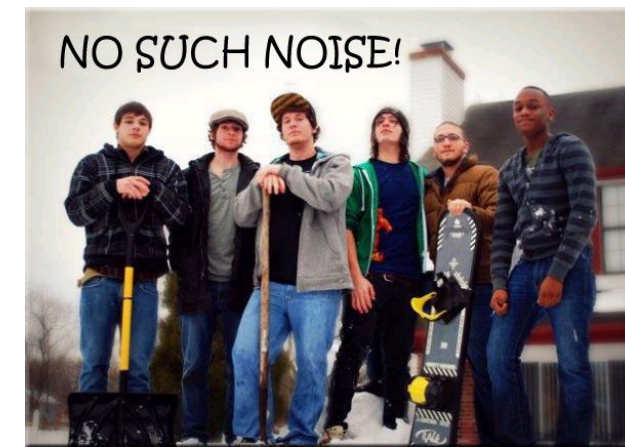
Another notable act was Forever Broken, a hard-core metal band, which performed as well in the show. The band, whose youngest member and singer is just twelve years old, received a hugely positive reaction from the audience.

When, at the end of the night, No Such Noise! took the crown, the boys were completely shocked that they won.

Fuscina said, "We didn't think we'd even come close to placing, but then, my friend from Robot Manhattan, Mike Campanelli, texted me to congratulate us on the win. We had no idea."

In addition to the title, the No Such Noise! also took first prize. The band had the option of twenty hours recording or a \$500 dollar prize. Since they had already finished recording their first EP, *Worst Birthday Ever*, they chose the cash prize to fund their music and touring.

The band has played at the Trocadero's Next Big Thing concert for several years, finally winning in 2010's



www.nosuchnoise.com

No Such Noise, the winning band, poses for a group shot on their website, www.nosuchnoise.com

show at the Theatre for Living Arts. Mitch Guedon, guitarist and vocalist of No Such Noise!, has been playing with Fuscina since he was ten years old, though the band only formed two years ago. Other members include Tom Cruise, drums, Dave Jones, guitarist, Vince Lacovera, trumpet, Kevin Edwards, saxophonist, and Kevin McKendry, bass guitarist.

Since their formation, they have played regular shows at Savage's School of Rock in Blackwood, several Skater's Choice Battle of the Bands concerts, and house shows throughout South Jersey. Robot Manhattan has also played with them on multiple occasions.

While practice has not been as consistent due to school obligations for many band mates, they meet up several times a month to practice their music.

Their EP is due for release in mid-December and they plan on playing more shows throughout the next few months. Their songs can also be found on the band's Myspace page, www.myspace.com/nosuchnoisenj or by checking out videos on the band's facebook page, www.facebook.com/nosuchnoise.

Winter concert series begins

Kelsey Wainwright '11

As the snow begins to fall and the season change, the WTHS music program begins their 2010 Winter Concert series. With preparation over the past few months really tightening down, the classes are in full concert mode.

"Members of the three WTHS orchestras [Sinfonia, Sinfonietta and Symphony] are working very hard to put the finishing touches on the

musical selections they'll perform at their concert," Mrs. Judy Barnett said, "Students are playing their music very well and we are looking forward to a wonderful evening!"

Dec. 15, the Guitar ensembles, Chorale, and Orchestras will preview their winter selections.

"The choruses are very well prepared for their upcoming concert. Chorale has been collaborating with the Symphony Orchestra to present Vivaldi's Gloria [on 12/15]," chorus

director Mr. Casey Corigliano said, "The Mixed Chorus and Women's Chorus have been working on their programs since October. They benefit by having a later concert [12/21] this year, which has given them the opportunity to really polish and perfect each piece. All of the students have been working hard and I'm confident that hard work will pay off at the concerts."

Dec. 21 hosts the Wind Ensemble, Mixed Chorus, and Women's

Chorus.

"Both bands have been working their hardest on their music repertoire," Mr. Jim Beyer said.

Jan. 19, the Symphonic Band and the Jazz Band close out the winter performance season.

The nights are filled with beautiful music that all of the groups have worked hard on since the beginning of school.

All concerts start at 7:00 and are free.

The Arts

Review

Anne Of Green Gables

Kelsey Wainwright '11

The Way-Off Broadway players put out another spectacular show, *Anne of Green Gables*, on Nov. 18, 19, and 20. The cast was well-suited for their roles, from the cold-hearted Marilla Cuthbert (Natasha Hesketh '11) to the happy and vivacious Anne Shirley (Kaitlyn Gallagher '12).

As the play opens, Florence Remsen (Rachel Lawler '12) and Minnie Stearn (Renee Belsky '11) are discussing Anne, one of the orphans who lives in the Hopeton Orphan Asylum.

Using her broad imagination and wild story-telling, Anne constantly causes problems in the orphanage by scaring the other children. Mrs. Alexander Spencer, (Taylor Heil '11) who recently



Alyssa Garrison '12

The Cuthberts and friends (Nick Stonehouse '11, Alexa Simone '11, and Natasha Hesketh '11) anxiously await the arrival of Anne.

adopted a child, returns to find a boy for one of her neighbors. Excited over the prospect of getting Anne out of the orphanage, the women present Anne to Mrs. Spencer. She agrees to take her home to the Cuthbert's.

The scene then changes to Green Gables, home of Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert (Nick Stonehouse '11). Marilla, a stone-cold woman, wants a child to help around the house, but ominously

keeps repeating how she doesn't want a girl. Much to her dismay, Matthew arrives home with Anne and immediately trouble ensues. Anne's imagination and antics gets her in a lot of trouble and even takes her near to death.

The classic work was turned out brilliantly by the actors.

"It was very-well acted," Bernadette Burke '12 said, "They took a literary classic and brought it to life. I laughed and cried, so it was worth it to see."

While staying true to the classic, the cast of *Anne of Green Gables* put their own style and flair into the performance.

Continuing a strong tradition, Director Mr. James Digennaro and the Way-Off Broadway players pulled out all the stops to transform a classic into a spectacular show.

Seniors take charge

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

Every year, WTHS experiences a performance unlike any other. Senior Directed Cabaret is a show directed, performed and produced by the students, and is a much anticipated event among the school's theatrical community.

Two senior directors are chosen from the previous year's cast to stage a show comprised of comical skits and musical numbers. All the money raised from the show gets donated to the, "Project Graduation" fund for that year's graduating seniors.

This year's directors, Natasha Hesketh and Shawn Koons, have learned that there are challenges to overcome in addition to all the rewarding aspects of the job.

"Balancing school work and the show has proven to be difficult," said Hesketh, "By the time we end rehearsal, it's already four or five o'clock and I still have to go home and do all of my homework. It's really taught me how to organize my time."

Another challenging part of being a student director, was casting their classmates. Both Hesketh and Koons had a hard time deciding who would be a part of the show, and who would have to be left out.

"I felt like if I cast my friends, people would think I was picking favorites. I didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings during the casting process,

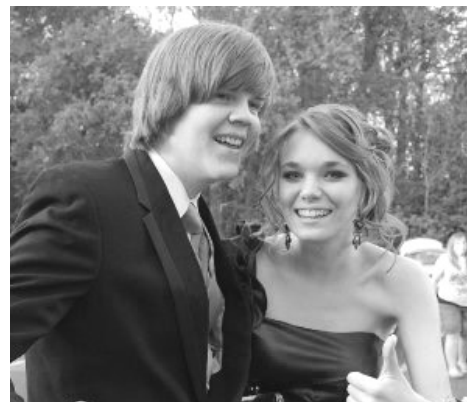


photo courtesy of Natasha Hesketh

Koons and Hesketh are working hard to take Senior Directed to the next level.

but at the same time I had to pick who was best for the role," said Koons.

Even though Hesketh and Koons have much to plan and organize before the show, they have a lot of ideas about getting the word out to their potential audience.

"We're going to use Facebook as one of the main ways to advertise the show," Hesketh said, "We are going to have an abundance of flyers all around the school so that students are constantly reminded that the show is coming up."

The directors still have a lot of work ahead of them, but neither of them forget why they originally wanted to be a part of the SDC tradition.

"As director I felt like I could really bring something to the table. I had a vision of what I wanted the show to be like, and I wanted everyone involved to take away a great experience, like I have over the years," Hesketh said.

Koons shared that sentiment, "I had such a great time last year that I wanted to take it to the next level and direct the show. I felt that as director, I could assure that everyone else made the awesome memories that I did in past years."

There is little rivalry between the co-directors. "I was so ecstatic to be co-director with Shawn. He's one of my best friends and to have this opportunity with him has been so lucky," Hesketh said.

"Natasha is one of the greatest friends I've ever had," said Koons, "I love directing with her and I'm sure we'll get in little fights, but at the end of the day she's still my best friend." He smiled, "It doesn't hurt that she's pretty either."

The directors are enthusiastic about getting people out to see the show. Senior Directed Cabaret will be performed on January 20th and 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the 11/12 auditorium. Tickets are five dollars.

"It will be the best show they will ever see in their entire life, guaranteed." Said Koons.

"It's going to be super awesome, get ready for some boys dancing in leotards and high heels, and a night full of laughter and fun." Hesketh added. "Be ready to be amazed."

Odds & Ends

A Slice of Life by Kelley Sollenberger '11

Christmas with the Sollenbergers

Let's face it; the holidays are right around the bend. Some dread it, and some live for it.

Take my mom, for instance. Even if you restrain her, by mid-November, she's dancing around the house humming Christmas tunes. It only gets worse from there.

Once she's opened that door, Christmas-Mania absolutely invades our home. The "Sounds of the Seasons" Music Choice channel is on when Christmas movies aren't. Questions about what foods to serve are asked on a daily basis, and decorations come creeping down from the attic.

It's enough to drive my dad and me insane, but it's been this way for years now, and part of a tradition. I'd never actually realized that my family had traditions, until somewhat recently, because I'd always thought of the cliché ones you hear about on TV or see in the movies.

My family, although close, isn't like that. And I don't think it's that way for the majority, either. I know

with my family, every year we go out and get a real tree. We also always debate if we should let that tradition die, and succumb to the world of fake trees, but I refuse. They just aren't the same, you know?

Before Christmas I always have my dad drive me around Haddonfield to look at all the beautiful lights decorating the houses, while listening to Charlie Brown Christmas music. That's probably what I look forward to most about the holiday season

This year, something new is being added to the mix. If I thought my mom was obsessed with Christmas, she's nothing compared to my boyfriend.

I always joke and call him "Buddy The Elf", because he's been excited since before Halloween, (I'm not even joking.) So far, he's had me over to decorate stockings, and we plan on making our own Christmas Countdown Calendar. It sounds cheesy, but it's fun.

One day we just took a trip to



MAX WOLFF '12

the dollar store and bought up a bunch of decorations and these huge stockings that are about as tall as I am. We decided that I would decorate one for him, and he would make one for me, and as we collected and wrapped up gifts for each other we would deposit them in the stockings and open them together on Christmas.

I've probably never been more excited for Christmas to come.

On top of that, there's Christmas Morning to look forward to as well. Every year, my mom cooks a big brunch and her family, which is smaller than my dad's, comes over to watch movies, exchange presents and eat.

That in itself is always entertaining, simply because of my family. My mom-mom is from Germany, and also completely out of touch with the modern world, so she wonders how "a little piece of plastic", aka my iPod, could possibly play music. Meanwhile my mom is running around like a mad-woman, trying to do a million things at once and can be heard shouting profanities over top of clanks and bangs from the kitchen.

My Uncle Steve and father are more than likely sitting on the couch, sharing a plethora of inappropriately childish jokes and stories with one another.

All in all it's a long and crazy holiday when it comes to my family, but I would not have it any other way.

Make Your Own Fun by Keli Sharkey '11

Any season is hunting season

People often complain that there's nothing to do in Township. In each installment of "Make Your Own Fun", Keli Sharkey will share creative ways that she and her friends fill their free time.

Every weekend in Washington Township, teenagers do the same activities.

They either hang out with their friends, go to the movies, go out to eat, etc. A scavenger hunt is something new and exciting to do and it can be fun with any person, at anytime.

Scavenger hunts are great and require little preparation. To have a successful one, some supplies are needed. The main thing is a list of all the tasks that have to be done or obtained. A few examples are going into a grocery store wearing a hula skirt or buying a fish at a pet store with a mask on. The more random, difficult or funnier

they are, the better the hunt is.

A tally system also has to be made to decide on the winner. The harder the task, the more points it is worth. Every team also has to have a camera to document each item to prove they did it. Teams should have three to five people on

A scavenger hunt is something new and exciting to do and it can be fun with any person, at anytime.

them and Prizes can also be given out to the winners if you can buy them.

My friends and I once entered a scavenger hunt that lasted all day. The list had over 100 items on it, each worth different amounts.

We didn't have to complete all of the tasks but try to earn the most points to win. There were around five teams and each player gave five dollars towards the winning prize. We started out trying to get a napkin from as many different fast food chains as possible.

The funniest item on the list was to release an animal in a public place. At first we didn't know what to make of it. A few of my friends had pets but we didn't want to release them so we decided to go and buy a little goldfish.

We felt bad after we released him in the bathroom of my friend's mother's pizza shop so we told her mom there was a fish in the bathroom. She went in and saved it and now the fish lives in her family room.

On a weekend if you're bored, going on a scavenger hunt is something fun and different to do. They may be time-consuming, but there is never a dull moment. Even if you lose, participating in them is still worth it.

To find more fun ideas these are useful websites : <http://www.diva-girl-parties-and-stuff.com/scavenger-hunts.html> and http://www.birthdaypartyideas.com/html/scavenger_hunt.html.

Beginning of the End: Part one of *Potter* finale wows fans

Rebecca Serad '11

Waiting in line hours in advance, I sensed the anticipation rising for the latest Harry Potter film. The fans, clad in their Hogwarts gear, were clearly excited for the midnight premiere.

The question is: did it live up to the hype? Avid fans of the book series will agree with me when I say that seeing the premiere of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 was well worth the lack of sleep the next school day.

The film begins with Harry (played by Daniel Radcliffe) waiting for the members of the Order of the Phoenix to arrive at the home of his aunt and uncle. Without Dumbledore's protection, Voldemort and the Death Eaters viewed Harry as a vulnerable target. The Order of the Phoenix knows that and attempts to place Harry at a secure location, which was the "Burrow", or the Weasley home.

The event being celebrated at the Burrow was the marriage of Ron's brother, Bill, to Fleur Delacour. However, the mood of the reception turned bleak when Kingsley Shacklebolt, a renowned auror, gave news that the Minister of Magic, Rufus Scrimgeour, had been murdered. Without a "good guy" in charge of the wizarding world, fear put the wizards into a frenzy. Not long after, the wedding was crashed by a group of Death Eaters. This propelled Harry, Ron and Hermione into the journey of a lifetime while searching for Voldemort's horcruxes.

As a result of the mission given by Dumbledore prior to his death, the film is rather bleak. Relationships are strained and it often appears as though there isn't a light at the end of the tunnel. But it is necessary to increase the



AP Images

Harry, Ron, and Hermione (Radcliffe, Grint, and Watson) take on their final adventure in the first half of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

tension to the climactic finish in the second half of the final book, which will be released in movie form in July of next year.

Excellent performances by Radcliffe, Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) and Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) prove to be vital in a movie that focuses on strained relationships through a rough period of time. The trio perfectly displays the wear and tear of alliances when hope seems to be lost. Considering each of their ages and likelihood to have actually experienced a scenario of this magnitude, it should be regarded as a grand feat to make these displays of emotion believable

by the audience.

The decision to split the movie into two parts proves to be beneficial, as it allows the movie to be more accurate compared with the novels. Fans that started with the novels will delight in the movie, while newer fans will most likely find it unfulfilling and less exciting in comparison to past films. However, the fact of the matter is that *Deathly Hallows Part 1* is the most accurate movie in the series thus far and must be noted as being such. The fan reaction to the film will depend on whether or not the viewer had previously read the book or not.

Film explores Facebook's origin

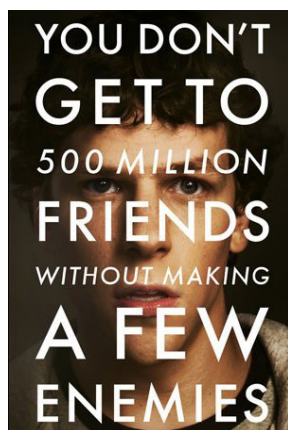
Steve Hauser '13

The Social Network is a great movie that everybody who uses Facebook should watch. This movie tells the story about how the Facebook started.

Jesse Eisenberg stars as Facebook creator, Mark Zuckerberg, in this true story about Facebook's rise in 2004. What started as a few college kids eventually turned worldwide.

Zuckerberg's net worth is equal to four billion. When Facebook expanded, it was greatly successful.

In this movie you'll see that it was not Zuckerberg's idea to create Facebook, but that he stole it from two brothers attending Harvard, Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss.



Also, it was Eduardo Saverin, who created the algorithm to allow the website to run, who eventually gets kicked out of Facebook because he froze the account that kept Facebook running, which could have been the downfall of the company.

Although, Zuckerberg did get a half a million dollar investment, Mark was angered that his friend could have ended the website.

Both the twin brothers and his friend ended up suing Mark.

It is an excellent movie about one of the most popular social networking website in America. It really explains the story about where and how Facebook originated.

I recommend this to all high school students.

Get Closer to Keith Urban

Emily Bierman '11

Keith Urban's seventh album, *Get Closer*, features eight new songs from the country singer. If you are not a country fan, don't let the country label turn you off. Most of the songs on the album could appeal to fans of other genres.

The album includes songs about love and relationships, so it makes sense the album is dedicated to Urban's wife, Nicole Kidman.

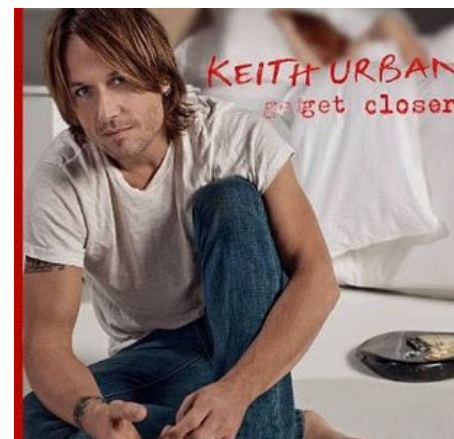
The dedication reads in part, "I just want to be a better man, for you, and father for our heavenly Sunday Rose...no one has ever, or will ever, love you as much as I do...all we need is faith..."

Urban's lyrics are always a strength of his work. His outlook on love is one of the most noticeable differences on this album. Still there are his incredible guitar solos and spot-on vocals particularly in the leading single, "Put You in a Song."

"Put You in a Song" is an upbeat song about a guy who longs for a girl and decides to write a song about her.

One of the best parts about *Get Closer* is the sincerity in Urban's voice. It's like he's telling a story and he means every word he says.

"All For You," one of the ballads on the album, is obviously about Kidman. The song reminds you of a loving wedding song. In it, Urban sings "I'd paint the moon, the stars around you,



Keith Urban's newest album cover shows just how personal he gets.

paint the perfect sunset, but I couldn't make it more beautiful than you."

Another sweet, love song, "Without You" seems to capture Urban's life perfectly. It even mentions a baby girl, similar to Urban and Kidman's daughter, Sunday Rose.

"You Gonna Fly," a more rock than country song, "Georgia Woods" and "Long Hot Summer" all are songs about loving somebody and wanting them to stay and be with you. "You Gonna Fly" has a mixture of guitar and banjo that makes it one of the favorite off the album.

Love gone wrong is the topic of "Right on

Back to You" and "Shut Out the Lights." "Right on Back to You" features the speaker realizing he was a fool and hoping he's not too late to go back to the girl. He wonders where he'd be without the girl.

"Shut Out the Lights" is about a couple that is arguing, but Urban is certain everything will be able to be fixed in the morning.

Although eight songs may not be enough to make you want to buy the album, the deluxe version sold only at Target features the original eight songs, three more new songs, and four live versions of old songs, including the hits "Better Life" and "You Look Good in My Shirt." The live songs make you feel like you're at a concert. This makes the deluxe album worth buying.

One of the bonus songs, "The Luxury of Knowing," is also about a difficult relationship. It is one of the best songs on the album, and it should have been a part of the regular album.

If you're not in a relationship, or you aren't in love, the album is still good to listen to. It would have been nice to have a song or two about more than just love and relationships, but you have to remember when listening there are only eight songs.

Even with the few songs about relationship difficulties, Urban still manages to focus on love in every song. Everything about *Get Closer* is about the optimism of love and the positive feelings that come from being in love.

Lesser Known, Greater Talent by Christina Cockerill '12

Philly reggae-rock group gaining fame

Three Legged Fox, a reggae rock band coming straight from Philadelphia, PA, has been gaining popularity, with gigs in major venues and plays on over a hundred radio stations on the east coast.

The four man band has released two albums so far—2006's *Ideas* and the newer album titled *Not as Far* in 2009.

Their easy-going, relaxed style of rock has

potential and with the amount of shows they've played along the local area, are bound for success,

especially with their upcoming nationwide tour to promote their second album.

The band got their start in 2006, after winning the University of Delaware's annual Battle of the Bands. After that

success, they were able to release *Ideas*, their first studio album, and began to tour with as much ferocity as a local band as such could offer.

The sound of this doesn't vary from rock to reggae—it splits the line straight down the middle.

The album starts out with "On My Way Home", beginning like a

soft rock song, but quickly turns into a relaxed, jazzy piece with Kyle Wareham's soulful confidence and a slow beat.

The rest of the album does mostly the same, with some songs, such as "One World, One Heart", giving off a bass fueled ska feel.

All of the songs have the same loose, fun feel, even when the lyrics are biting and serious.

Skip forward three years and *Not as Far* has seen some evolution in the band and their music writing.

Their newfound confidence is evident, with a more equal balance to beat and vocals.

Songs like "Not as Far" and "Soul Thief" put more focus on rock and guitar than any song on the previous album, sounding more like an alternative band than previously thought.

However, songs like "Love Move A Mountain" and "Help" bring back all of the jazz in their first album and the result is just as fun as the first, with the added experience making Three Legged Fox just as, if not more, pleasurable to listen to as when they first won their competition at UD.

Though fun and a good listen, their one drawback did seem that in their first album, many of their songs had a very alike feel.

This was cured by the variation in their second album, with rock and reggae mixing tastefully onto one album.

With their uniqueness to the day and their hard work unrelenting, Three Legged Fox is on their way to making something of themselves in the music industry.

