

Softball posts memorable season

Briana Franks '09

Washington Township softball is known for their winning tradition. Last year they were titled the 2008 Conference Champions. It's no secret that their reputation has been acquired through hard work and dedication. The team played six days out of the week. Their practices consisted of batting, fielding, and conditioning. A team can't just be based on fundamentals though; personalities, passion, and motivation are key parts of a successful season.

"The openness and honesty between friendships are genuine," said Assistant Coach Ms. April Renzetti.

Head Coach Ms. Tracy Burkhart graduated from Kean University where she played short-stop. Since then she has coached softball. She believes unity is necessary in building a team.

She designated captains for the varsity team, set up a buddy system known as "Softball Sisters," and required the team to wear uniforms



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

The Minutemaids captains had a big influence on team chemistry.

to school on game days. Senior Captains Maggie Brace, Sam Mulderig, Shannon Hutchinson, and Robin Valerio, tried to keep the teams morale up and set an example of not only hard work out on the field but also in the classroom.

"We made sure that all the girls were in line. We tried to encourage them to work together and play hard,"

stated Valerio who will be attending Immaculata University next school year.

"Softball Sisters" is a system that is used to get the team to know each other. Freshman and Junior Varsity players are paired up with Upperclassmen; they buy little gifts or leave encouraging notes in each other's locker.

"It went well this year the girls got excited. They decorated lockers and left gifts for each other," said coach Burkhart.

"It was a good ice breaker, it helped the upperclassmen get to know the underclassmen," said Hutchinson who will be playing at Penn State next year.

Unfortunately this year's team was thrown off by the continuous rain. "It was frustrating for the coaching staff to have new players not being able to play on their home field" said coach Burkhart.

Their starting pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf was restrained by an injury. She had a pinched nerve that would swell after she pitched. She needed rest for at least two and a half weeks which sat her until the end of the season.

The team had a pre game tradition of circling up before every home game in their designated spot found to the left of the dugout.

"We tried to pump everyone up," said Brace. "We circled up during the coin toss to talk about our goals for the game."

She called the pitches this season and will be attending Rowan University next year.

Captain Sam Mulderig, who earned a scholarship at Moravian College, likes to focus on the bus ride up, play her best, and enjoy the ride home with a winning team. This proved to help with her .397 batting average.

"They were motivated more so by having fun at practice, I tried to joke around a little bit. They get along really well and were self motivated because they wanted to win for each other," said Coach Burkhart.

They played some hefty competition this year and their record is 11-8.

Next year's team looks solid "we have both pitchers coming back and may possibly have two more come up from junior varsity" said coach Burkhart.

"I have never seen a better year of leadership."

"I will miss playing with the girls and being known as one of the best athletic high schools," said Captain Robin Valerio.

Golf swings into sectionals



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

Captain Dan Zeiders helped the Golf team into Sectionals, Olymic Conference, and the Gloucester County Tournament.

Weston Eldridge '10

The Boy's Varsity golf team lived up to the high expectations that were placed upon them at the start of the season. The team posted an impressive 12-3 record with their only losses coming to Division Champion Lenape and Cherokee. The two losses to Lenape were competitive.

On individual notes, Dan Zieders '09 and Frank Wilkinson '10 had success in the Sectional Tournament as well as Olympic Conference and Gloucester County.

"[Qualifying for the second round of the Sectional Tournament] was special," said Wilkinson, "because none of our players have ever gone that far in a long time."

This season the top five varsity positions were filled by Zeiders, Wilkinson, Ryan McCloskey '10, Jack Loeber '11, and Ryan Wilz '11. Sharing time at the sixth position were Justin O'Hara '09 and Dom Tumolo '10.

"The competition for the last Varsity position made me work harder and strive to get better every time I played," said Tumolo.

They will only lose one senior from the Varsity lineup. Zeiders will continue his golfing career at Penn State University. The returning lettermen will have to do additional work in the off-season to improve their game so they can fill the gap Zeiders left.

"I plan on going to the driving range a lot this summer and working on the simple aspects of my game that need to be improved," said McCloskey.

The Patriot

Issue 4

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

June 2009

Deck the Walls Art Night transforms Core

Maria Petruzzi '10

"My definition of art is just being creative to your best ability and no one can be better than anyone else," said Stacey Angelillo '10.

Angelillo stood near a showcase displaying her paintings. She was busily selling jewelry created by WTHS students. The combination illustrated the wide definition of art. She was one of the many WTHS art students and staff who volunteered their time to help out at Washington Township's District Art Night on April 2.

District Art Night ran from 7-9 p.m. at the high school and displayed work from all grade levels. Most of the high school participants never left school that Thursday until around 10 p.m. having helped set up and clean up with their past and present art teachers.

Art is not only fun to the students in the Washington townships schools it's also a way to show others who they truly are through their work. Throughout the school year, grades from K-12 created a variety of pieces.

At District Art Night every grade presents their artwork for display up and down the hallways of WTHS. The teacher chose which pieces were submitted into the program with the artist's permission. There were three floors of over 1,000 different types of art. Clay scriptures, paintings, and even animation were on display.

For younger kids, students volunteered to work the free face



Chloe Dawson '10/ The Patriot

District Art Night gives students from every grade level, K-12, a chance to display their work.

painting and activities booths. Meanwhile in the cafeteria, free refreshments and food were available.

In the core the members of the WTHS orchestra played. Some of the Art 3 students performed still life painting, drawing, scriptures, and animation on the second floor for everyone to watch.

Because of last year's stalemate in contract negotiation, District Art Night was not held and students were unable to display their work. This year was very special to teachers and students.

"I'm excited our art work is showcased for everyone to see this year," says Sam Pfeiffer '10.

As guests entered into District Art Night, ROTC students handed

out flyers about the school budget and how it is going to affect students again next year. Art has already gotten hit with a threat of taking away their AP Art Studio next year not because of the budget, but because only three students had registered for the course. Should the course be dropped, the seniors next year who plan to go to college for art won't be able to have a showcase or portfolio unless they stay after school for several hours a couple days a week.

"Sure staying after a couple days a week for art doesn't sound that bad, but if I stay after I can't devote myself to other clubs and part of my senior experience would be taken away." Said Gianna Esposito '10.

In the core the National Honor Society set up a booth that sold

jewelry and bowls made by Jewelry Making, and Multicultural Art.

"Bowls and necklaces" helped raise money for orphans in China. They also sold t-shirts with slogans about artwork on the back for 10-15 dollars. Art is a requirement for graduation at WTHS, and District Art Night could be the last time for students to show art and explore how successful you can be.

"I'm very pleased that District Art Night is back. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of our students. And as many years we have had this program, I think it's one event that brings everyone together in the community, besides a football game," said Ms. Sybil Cohen, who teaches Multicultural Art Design and Jewelry Making.

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Interact hosts Festival of Friends

Katie Powell '12

On April 18, Washington Township High School's Interact Club held its annual Festival of Friends. This yearly event is a carnival for mentally challenged adults, and it gives them a chance to spend time with the high school students by playing different games and dancing to the DJ's music together.

The Interact Club, headed by advisors Ms. Tracy Naval and Ms. Elizabeth Longo, has been hosting this event for many years. It was started by the previous advisor Ms. Cindy Nolan. In order to make the fair a success, many volunteers are needed.

Unfortunately, this year the volunteers fell short and there were not as many buddies for the festival-goers, so many high schoolers "doubled up" or had groups of buddies rather than just one. But, this did not put a damper on the day.

"It's always a success," she said, "because the people who come always have a great time and it

always seems to work out in the end."

Many clubs pitched in to provide games and activities in which buddies could participate. The Newspaper Club, partnered with the National Honors Society, set up a booth in which the buddies had their picture taken and set in a newspaper article about Festival of Friends. Other clubs, like Peer Facilitators, S.U.R.E., and D.E.C.A. also ran some of the booths, activities, and games provided all day long. Among which, there were hockey games, "Roll-A-Ball", beanbag and sponge tosses. There were also balloon animals being made and a DJ, and for some lucky carnival attendees, there were prizes for winning the games.

"The buddies loved to win prizes," said Christine Ciocco, '12, who was an active participant in this year's festival. To run an event for over 250 guests requires a lot of planning. "This is our biggest event of the year, so we try to do a lot of fundraising so we can give out t-

-shirts, prizes, and supply food for the buddies," said Interact advisor, Elizabeth Longo. It is worth it, in her opinion, because "it gives the special needs adults a chance to interact with various high school students."

The guests are not the only ones who benefit from the event. "This experience has shown me that it is always great to give to others and that just a few hours with [the buddies] made their day, so everyone can just do little things that make a big difference to someone else," said Ciocco.



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

The Buddies enjoyed games and activities at booths sponsored by Interact and many other WTHS clubs and organizations.

The guests are not the only ones who benefit from the event. "This experience has shown me that it is always great to give to others and that just a few hours with [the buddies] made their day, so everyone can just do little things that make a big difference to someone else," said Ciocco.

"...Everyone can just do little things that make a big difference to someone else."

-Christine Ciocco '12

Budget rejection forces staffing, program cuts

Luke Verrillo '10

On April 21, students at the high school were dismissed at noon in order to make way for the thousands of township residents who came to place their vote on this year's proposed budget. After the budget was rejected by 62 votes, the school board, along with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cheryl Simone, went to the drawing board and began reconfiguring finances.

The proposed budget included an annual increase of \$144.24 for the average homeowner living in Washington Township with the assessed home value of \$129,902. Without the rejection of the budget, the district had already planned to cut 29 positions within the school system.

The internet social net-working website, Facebook, was used as a vehicle to spread the word about the vote by the students themselves in the weeks before the vote.

"The District administration intends to work closely with the new Board ...to minimize the impact of this unfortunate financial setback in the classroom."

**-Dr. Cheryl Simone
W.T. Superintendent of Schools**

Comprised of hundreds of WTHS students, the online group dedicated to "saving" the teachers that faced cuts from the district, was created and supported the budget throughout.

"It's horrible that a school is forced into letting go teachers," says Keith Marr '10, a member of the Facebook group. "Hopefully, everyone involved looks at all the options before making any final decisions. No one deserves this and its just bad for everyone."

"The Board is disappointed [about the budget's rejection]," Simone said. "The District

administration intends to work closely with the new Board and with members of Washington Township Town Council to try to minimize the impact of this unfortunate financial setback in the classroom."

With class selections now in jeopardy and teachers and familiar faces losing jobs, anger and uncertainty are widespread in the high school hallways from the 9/10 to the 11/12.

"62 votes is what upsets me the most. The budget is always so close, but it never seems to get passed," Janel Eldridge '12, said.

As a lacrosse and field hockey player, she worries most about the effect the budget will have on her teams.

Cara Swetsky, 2010, also has concerns for her clubs that she's involved in.

"With swimming and diving, I hear different things about it every week from different people. One day its cut, and the other its not. Right now, I just want to know what's going to happen next, so we can all be ready for it."

Minutemen battle through a tough season

Kevin Whitehead '10

Their record does not show their talent. But their talent produces wins. Their problem? Intensity.

The 2009 Washington Township Minutemen finished their season 13-11. A season filled with heartbreaking losses and triumphant victories has given the Minutemen something to build on going forward into next season.

"Our record doesn't show how good we are [as a team]," left handed starter Adam Warburton '10 said, "We were there every game. The talent was there, but there was no intensity."

A club filled with junior players, the Minutemen leaned on top players like shortstop Nick Favatella '10 and starter Joe Jankowski '09.

Favatella, who led the team with

nine homeruns and 24 runs batted in, was SJ Player of the Week, first team All South Jersey, All Conference and Group IV. Favatella batted number three in their lineup (usually the team's best hitter) and was a run producing machine.

[Quote from Alvaro]

Outside of Favatella, the Minutemen's offense is not a power hitting club. They often found themselves in close games and playing small ball of working to get men on base and using bunts or steals to advance, and to manufacture runs. Second baseman and leadoff hitter Nick Valori '11 had to get on base and be in scoring position so the middle of the lineup had an opportunity to drive runs in.

"Our offense was pretty good this year. We got hits when we needed them. We had players that could get the hits when we needed them,"



Kevin Whitehead '10/ The Patriot

The Minutemen adopted a scappy style of play to manufacture runs. Here they score against Eastern.

Eldridge, McChesney lead charge for tennis

Cody Hudnall '09

The Washington Township High School Tennis team had a tough schedule this year. They faced Pennsauken, Cherry Hill East, and powerhouse Bishop Eustace.

Township competed with Cherry Hill East, but lost, in the only opportunity that these two teams met. The Minutemen also played Bishop Eustace and defeated them 6-3.

Weston Eldridge '10, Joe McChesney '09 and Justin Bernardo '09 performed very well all season.

Along with seniors Bernardo and McChesney, Eldridge was a team leader on. The three have earned varsity letters throughout their high school careers.

Most of the players stated that they wanted to play more tennis than they were able to this season. The inclement weather this year forced a lot of cancellations.

"We played to our full potential against the tough teams."

- Coach Flemming

"Our season was relatively good, I believe that but I wish we didn't have as many rainouts as we did," head coach Mr. Richard Flemming said.

Overall the WTHS Tennis team played a vigorous and difficult schedule. The experience gained should help the team in the

future. They will need to adjust to the absence of their seniors.

"Bernardo and McChesney will be missed", said Flemming, "They were the leaders of the team and I am looking for someone to step up for next year."



Kevin Whitehead '10/ The Patriot

Along with Jankowski, Warburton anchored the rotation for the Minutemen.

Warburton said. "When we were put to the challenge, we came through."

One instance of the Minutemen's clutch performances is when they beat the best team in South Jersey, Bishop Eustace. In fact, they tore the cover off the ball, scoring 16 runs, including 12 runs in the first two innings. Jankowski also added a homerun in that game.

The offense has shown potential, but did not stay consistent.

"We definitely need to work on our hitting," Favatella said. "The defense will be there, but we need the bats working."

Next year, the Minutemen will

be relying heavily on the junior class of players. The Minutemen will be losing seniors Luke Atzert, Jim Berardinucci, Anthony Cauley, Russell DePiano, Joe DiMento, Dan Dougherty, Cody Hudnall, Jankowski, Michael Northcutt, and Rob Swift. Some of which include major starters and players that were key to the success of the Minutemen. Other players need to fill their void.

"We have a nice group of sophomores coming in. There are players down there that can hit and pitch," Warburton said.

Warburton thinks that with the combined efforts of next year's junior and senior class will be vital to the Minutemen. They need to stick to the main goal to win as many games as possible.

They lost in the first round of the state tournament to the Cherokee and left some unfinished business out on the diamond.

Cherokee will be losing a lot of seniors. This gives a window of opportunity to capture the Olympic American Conference crown.

"With the sophomore class coming up, we should have no problem with winning," Favatella said.

The sophomores have big shoes to fill, but they have the talent to help the Minutemen.

"I really have that feeling that we will be one of the best teams in South Jersey," Warburton said.

Sports

Lacrosse captures SJ Group IV title

Miranda Steinman '09

The title of South Group IV Champions belongs to the 2009 Washington Township girls' lacrosse team.

"The season was incredible and one to remember and cherish always," said Coach Sandy Stockl.

The girls started and ended the season strongly. Coach Stockl along with captains Kirstyn Urbas, Alyse Maiden, and Tori Jordan led the team to several victories and ended the season with a record of 15-7 and an impressive title.



photo courtesy of Victoria Jordan

The lacrosse team and coaches were all smiles after their historic victory.

"I want to thank my coaching staff. They are also a big reason for our success," said Stockl.

Stockl had high expectations for the team before the season began.

Her goals for the season were "To always work hard, be competitive and win a Championship,".

All three of these goals were met and the team couldn't be happier about the outcome.

The starting line up consisted of seniors Bridget Bollendorf,

Mandy Bushong, Tori Jordan, Alyse Maiden, Kirstyn Urbas, Sarah Dollarton, Samantha DiCastelnuovo, Chrissie Duffield, Devyn Mulholland; and juniors Taylor Foussadier, Lisa Patrone, and Erin Waller.

The girls loved working together this year and had a great time doing it.

"The reason why the team was so successful this year," said Urbas,

"is because of the chemistry the girls had, from the freshman all the way

to the senior class."

All the captains would have to agree that teamwork was one of the biggest factors this season.

"The team was more like a family this year, and that's why we made it so far and made history with the first SJ Group IV title ever," said Jordan.

The leadership quality that the team possessed was another important factor in making this a memorable season.

"There was also great senior

leadership and it was very easy to lead such an amazing group of girls all the way to the state championship," said Urbas.

This season was such an amazing one that none of the girls wanted it to end. While they do leave behind very big shoes to fill, the team plans to build on their success.

Stockl said, "The players have set the new standard on work ethic, future program expectations, and the level of lacrosse that comes out of Township, Together With Pride."

Injured pitcher contributes at plate

Briana Franks '11

Robert Swift '09, a 2008 starting pitcher for the Minutemen, was limited by arm surgery to a designated hitter role this season.

Swift has been on the field for as long as he can remember. He never imagined not pitching his senior season. He said it was "heartbreaking" when the doctors gave him the news.

Over the summer he tore his UCL ligament in his pitching arm which resulted in the surgery and an additional ten to twelve month recovery time. He went under the knife on Oct. 27 and plans to fully return to his sport in mid June or July. Until then he has assisted the team with his bat and in the field if his doctors permit it.

"It's hard not to help my team out on the mound, but I hope to help them with my bat," Swift said.

During the summer he pitched for the Philadelphia Senators and was recognized by many college scouts and even pro teams. Ohio State, Hofstra, The University of Southern California, George Mason, and Rider are a few colleges that tried recruiting Swift. He also heard

from the Washington Nationals, Kansas City Royals, Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox, and the Seattle Mariners. Though undecided, he plans to play in college.

"My dream school would be Ohio State, I have always loved the Buckeyes and my best friend goes there," Swift said.

Swift has been a varsity starter for the Minutemen since his sophomore year.

"He's a great teammate and an even better friend," said teammate Luke Atzert.

"He's the type of guy you want to have on your team,

on the field, and by your side through life."

Swift looks forward to this season and compliments the team for their past achievement.

His most memorable moment of his high school career was winning the 2007 State



photo courtesy of the Swift family

Swift has been scouted by five Major League teams.

"I am really going to miss it after this year. I hope one day I can play as well as him. He is my real hero" said his younger brother Ryan Swift.

"I look forward to coming back stronger and ready to win this summer."

Championship.

"We didn't just win as a team, but as friends," he said.

When he visits next year he hopes he will have left an impression on his teammates.

"I want to see the underclassmen follow in our seniors' footsteps. Always playing hard and never giving up he said."

He thanks his parents for always supporting him and sitting through every possible weather condition with smiles on their faces.

Swift has been an idol for younger WT baseball players. His younger brother is following suit. In fact, he is the bat boy for the Minutemen.

Sprachfest celebrates German culture

Katie Mount '09

On April 4, Washington Township High School hosted its first Sprachfest. This German festival is a day-long series of competitions, which highlight the German language and culture. The event was sponsored by the South Jersey Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, a national German teachers association. Sprachfest was previously hosted by Rowan University or Haddonfield High School. However, it had not been held in a few years. Ms. Angela Bacher took the opportunity to volunteer WTHS.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity for WTHS to host [Sprachfest]," Bacher said.

With the assistance of Mr. Ray

Anderson, the two began organizing and planning during the fall semester. They planned activities that would occupy and entertain the students. Eight different schools from New Jersey and Pennsylvania took part in the event, with a total of a little under two hundred students participating. Local schools included Orchard Valley Middle School and Bunker Hill Middle School.

"There was something for everyone to do," OVMS seventh grader Charlene Park said. "It was really fun."

These activities included: baking contests, designing shirts, vocal and instrumental performances, skits, and poetry recitations. The activities also challenged the students' knowledge of the culture and language with such events as the spelling, vocabulary, number and geography bees.

Anderson stayed after school and worked with the students as needed. Some class time was used to study the vocabulary words, geography, and culture questions. Over twenty students competed in the vocabulary bee, and Anderson's help proved useful to winner Nick Favatella '10.

"I felt very prepared," Favatella said. "I didn't expect to win, but it's a good honor." Students were judged during many of the events and competed for faux Euros. These would be used later in the day to bid in an auction of German memorabilia.



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

Students participated in many activities which helped them use their language knowledge. Many enjoyed German versions of classic board games.

Judges included retired WTHS German teachers Mr. Leo Kulp and Mr. Donald Rainey. Anderson's former professor and mentor, Dr. Dagmar Wienroeder-Skinner of Saint Joseph's University, was also a judge. Other teachers and parents also helped with the event.

"[Volunteers] gave up their time to assist us," Anderson said, "and for this we are most appreciative."

After the activities were finished, the day was concluded with lunch. Traditional German entrées and desserts were served. During lunch, the auction took place. Some of the items auctioned off included mugs, shirts, and chocolate.

"It was a really nice way to end

things because everyone was so enthusiastic," said Prachi Parihar '09.

Anderson and Bacher considered their first Sprachfest hosting to be a success, and would like to continue having the event at WTHS. Schools normally host for at least two years. It is possible that a school could host longer, if no other schools volunteer. Anderson admits that planning the event was a lot of work, but believes it was worth the effort.

"It was a ton of work," he said, "but to see how much fun our students had speaking another language and participating in the events was extremely rewarding to us."



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

One event highlight is the abundance of German dishes served. Many are prepared by students.

Competition for summer jobs heats up

Luke Verrillo '10

The temperature is warmer and Memorial Day Weekend gave students a taste of the upcoming summer vacation. With many counting down until June 19, sights are set towards the school-free vacation. However, summer isn't cheap and students at WTHS are scrambling to find jobs.

"My parents are making me get a job for the summer," Ryan Callahan, '11, comments. "Last summer got pretty expensive for me with movies, the beach, and most nights. If I want to have any kind of social life, I need the money."

Many students this year have taken jobs at

local pools as lifeguards. After completing a training program with the American Red Cross, Kyle Hill, '12, got his first experience as a working lifeguard during Memorial Day weekend.

"It was pretty intense, I'm not going to lie," Hill says about his time working at Greenwood Park Swim Club. "Thankfully, I didn't have to save anyone but it's a lot of responsibility."

Leah Power, '10, also works as a lifeguard. "It's a pretty easy job. You have to vacuum the pool everyday and sometimes deal with annoying pool-goers, but at least you get a nice tan."

Ice cream and hot summer days go hand-in-hand. Cara Swetsky, '10, found a job in Wildwood working for Cool Scoops ice cream parlor.

"It's the greatest job I've ever had. I get to work with my best friend and hang out on the beach after work," Swetsky says.

However, not all jobs are the perfect fit. For some, work is getting harder and harder to find.

"I can't find a job anywhere in Township. If I don't get one soon, I'm going to have start mowing lawns," Matt Zambino '10 said, "I hate yard work so there's no way I'm spending my summer doing other people's [yard work]."

Summer is a time for fun, yet these days, nothing in life is cheap.

Students who have parents who are fed up reaching into their own wallets may want to start job-hunting right away.

Supplies in demand

Operation Backpack helps needy kids

Brenda Savelski '11

Operation Backpack. Those two words have been buzzing around Washington Township High School throughout May. But what exactly is it? Operation Backpack is a charity drive in which school supplies and backpacks are collected for children who may not be able to afford all of their materials. The goal is to give needy children new or gently used supplies in order to make them feel at ease on the first day of school.

Operation Backpack began in early April and ran through May. Supplies were donated in any of the three main offices in the high school. There were also drop-off boxes in the elementary schools. Some of the donations went to students in Washington Township through Mother's Cupboard, and the rest to Volunteers of America's backpack drive.

The drive was held by Future Teachers of America (FTA). Club advisor Mrs. Debbie McFadden said the club has about twenty-seven members. Caitlin Donahue is the corresponding secretary for FTA and was also the officer in charge of the project. She sent out emails to the



Patriot photo

Future Teachers of America members work on posters promoting Operation Backpack. The fundraiser outfitted over 40 local children with school supplies for September.

school district, sent letters to businesses, and organized drop-off boxes for the drive.

FTA members are well known around Washington Township as being "teacher's helpers" in the elementary schools. Most of the members go to the elementary schools on a regular basis and help the teachers with their classes.

"Our club is meant to work with students who are interested in

teaching as a career and provide them with experiences that help them explore a career in education," says Mrs. McFadden.

The goal of Operation Backpack was to collect twenty backpacks completely filled with supplies. Students in FTA put in a large amount of effort to promote this project. This is the first community service project being tackled by the club. FTA actually

did not run for a long time and was just revived this year.

"When we were looking for ideas, it seemed to work to get kids prepared for school," says McFadden about the service project.

Students in the club are responsible for making the posters and fliers that lined the hallways. Club member, Greg Furman even made the Operation Backpack commercials on the morning announcements that have caught the eye of many students.

Fortunately, the club is not alone in their efforts. Bunker Hill Middle School Futureact club promised two filled backpacks for the drive and staff in Hurffville Elementary school also helped out by planning a "dress down day." Staff members who wished to participate donated five dollars to the cause and were able to "dress down" on the specified day. Even individual teachers in W.T.H.S. such as Mrs. Leigh Ann Hall and Colonel Joseph Wolozyn have made generous donations.

McFadden feels that even though Operation Backpack had a slow start, help from people all around Washington Township is giving the project a promising future.

Band wraps year with spring concert

Kelsey Wainwright '11

On May 13, the three high school bands had their final spring concert of the 2009 school year.

With a few surprises here and there, and a finale with the three bands performing two pieces together, the concert was a success for everyone in the music program.

The concert featured performance by the concert band, symphonic band, and wind ensemble, led by their conductors Mr. Casey Corigliano and Mr. Jim Beyer.

Performing first was the concert band. Comprised of students who experimented with other instruments instead of the ones they originally

played, the band put forth a new, brassy sound with the help of student teacher Mr. Douglas Schwarz.

Equipped with a full low brass section, the band performed three beautiful pieces selected by Corigliano, "Temecula Valley Fanfare", "Rhosymedre", and "Voices of the Sky".

Nancy Chan, a trumpet, performed a solo in Temecula Valley Fanfare.

Then the symphonic band, under the direction of Beyer presented their repertoire which included "Helios", "Chorale Prelude: Be Thou My Vision", and two sections of River dance.

One of the most captivating

pieces of the whole performance was the first section of River dance, entitled "Thunder and Lightning". The percussion piece, performed by the combined percussion groups from all three bands, stole the show.

Also featured in the second section of River dance, entitled "Riverdance Finale" was a duet with Alyssa Camovale, on piccolo, and Paul Crosby, on tenor sax.

Finally, the wind ensemble performed after a short intermission (due to the fact that Mr. Corigliano lost his voice, a joke that was made about the shortened intermission).

The band, under the direction of Mr. Beyer as well, performed a wide balance of fast and exciting

verses slow and harmonious. They performed "Bassoon Concerto: Rondo", "Noisy Wheels of Joy", "Canterbury Choral", and "Malaguena".

The band enjoyed the contributions of a special guest in their concert; Mr. Dennis MacMullin, a professional bassoon player from TCNJ, sat in with the wind ensemble and performed as the soloist in "Rondo".

Finally, the three bands combined on stage to perform two final pieces. They performed "Prelude" and "Fugue in B Flat" and "Overture in B Flat". The overture featured a trumpet duet by Brad Leonard (wind ensemble) and Cody Little (symphonic band).

Music

Jonas' fans counting days to new CD

Liz DiLullo '09

Jonas Brothers fans are marking their calendars for the June 16 release of the group's highly anticipated fourth album, "Lines, Vines and Trying Times".

The heartthrobs explained the title on their website saying that lines are something that people feed you, whether good or bad. Vines are things that get in the way of the path that you're on. As far as trying times, even though they are younger guys, they are aware of what is going on in the world and trying to bring some light to it.

The frenzied anticipation of this album is apparent among all Jonas fans. Taylor Purvis from Sicklerville is so excited that she is pre-ordering the CD. Nicolette DiMucci '10 is so anxious to get her hands on the new CD that she is going to be at Walmart at midnight.

The first single, "Paranoid", was released worldwide on May 8. The song is a guitar driven, dance evoking song. Their music video debuted on the Disney Channel on May 23.

The fans reaction to the song and video has been extremely positive.

Gianna Pinto from Sicklerville says, "I really love the sounds of the song and thought the video truly matched the feel of it."

Purvis thought that the multiple Kevins in the video were funny and it was well put together.

Some influences the band cites for this album are Kings of Leon, The Zutons, Elvis Costello, Stevie Wonders, and Neil Diamond.

According to the Jonas Brothers website, their new album is more personal, and they used material from their own journals.

This album showcases the incredible musical journey of the Joans Brothers, as well as their growth as songwriters and musicians. They are still the same pop rock music group, only they are adding a more personal and grown-up sound. The album will also feature surprise touches of horns, funk, country, and hip-hop.

Their second song, "Fly With Me", is featured during the closing credits from the movie, *A Night at the Museum-Battle at the Smithsonian*. The Jonas Brothers and fellow bass player, Greg Garbowski, wrote the song. "Fly With Me" is sure to become a love song for the ages," said Nick Jonas on their Web Site.

According to their website, "World War III" is about a confrontational relationship and was solely written by Nick who pointed out "This is a personal experience for me. It deals with the challenge of a girl that keeps attacking you, but all the while, she's the only one fighting".

"Poison Ivy" is described as a Weezer-ish tune about a toxic girl that you can't resist. This song features a horn section.

"Hey Baby" has a classic rock n' roll sound.

Johnny Long helps with the vocals on this track. "Don't Charge Me for the Crime" is about

how you can wind up in the middle of a situation that you didn't ask for. Not only did the Jonas Brothers write this song, but their keyboard player, Ryan Liestman, also co-wrote. This tune has a hip hop vibe, and features rapper Common.

Fans seem to be more than happy to allow the Jonas Brothers room to grow.

DiMucci said, "It is really great that they are experimenting with new sounds."

Pinto ads, "It is awesome because they are

all good singers and musicians, and by changing their sounds, it will make them better artists."

Taylor Tarr from Washington Township personally thinks that they can explore new sounds because of their huge talent.

The new Jonas Brothers worldwide tour kicked off in South America in May and will wrap up in Europe in November. Their opening acts include, American Idol winner, Jordon Sparks and a new popular band, Honor Society, that the Jonas Brothers helped write and produce their debut album.

Music

Writing strength keys country singer's rise

Briana Franks '10

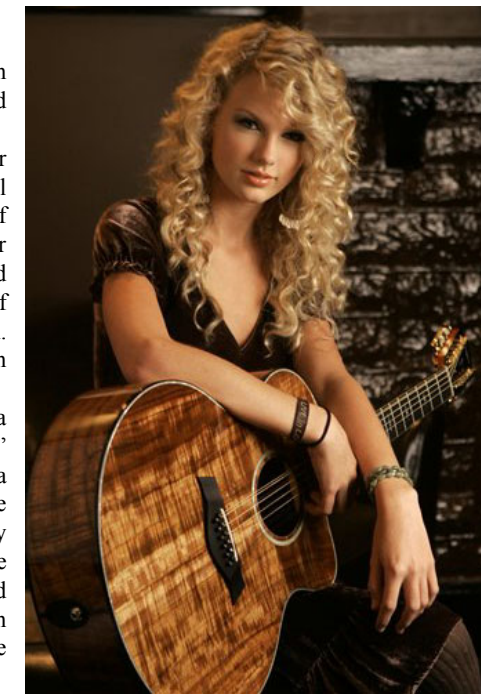
Country music icon Taylor Swift is known for her number one hits on the country music and pop charts.

At nineteen she is idolized by the younger country crowd. She started out singing at baseball games, festivals, and town events. At the age of fifteen she moved to Tennessee to pursue her singing career. Taylor writes her own music and shares her heart on a sleeve pieces with many of her fans. Her albums have gone gold and platinum. By making her first appearance at the age of sixteen she has become a well known household name.

Many believe Taylor's rise to stardom is a result of her first number one hit "Tim Mcgraw." She reveals the "bitter sweet" remembrance of a past relationship through her song. She wrote "Tim Mcgraw" for a boyfriend who inevitably had to go off to college. They both knew the relationship would have to end, so as she did many times Taylor wrote a song about it. Through the stages of the song you see her wipe away the tears of a broken heart.

Her songs relate to the common person. I'm sure every girl experiences a broken heart or goes through frustrating situations where the solution isn't her first choice. The song starts off with them together and then transitions into them "waking up to find that summer'd gone." After moving on she later finds herself on his street with a letter packed with their memories or more commonly known as the refrain of the song.

Her more commonly known single that raced to number one on the charts is "Love Story." It's a sensational song about young love including Shakespearian characters Romeo and Juliet. "Love Story" is found on her latest album titled



apimages.ap.org

Unlike many young stars, Taylor Swift writes most of her own songs.

"Fearless." Her two albums are filled with high school romance narratives with Fearless taking on a country pop twist.

Taylor is the first female solo artist to have written or co-written every song on her platinum selling album. Since the first release of her self titled album she has sold over three million copies. Her success doesn't just come from just telling a story but from having the courage to publish pages of poetry from her diary.

Music

Band's name says it all

Candace Brown '11

A lot of components can draw listeners into a band's music. For Say Anything those components are the vocals and lyrics. Led by front-man Maxim Bemis, their raunchy lyrics and raspy sound are hard to ignore. Backing the raw vocals are Coby Linder (Drums), Alex Kent (Guitar), Jake Turner (Guitar, Vocals), Jeff Turner (Guitar, Vocals) and Parker Case (Keyboards, Vocals).

When first listening to Say Anything, one should listen more closely to the lyrics. In "That Is Why" Bemis utilizes his wit and a clever vocabulary to get his point across: "With starry eyes, she's/ Warm-glancing, entrancing/ And now I'm through with all your sick, sad ranting/ And that is why/ You can't rock my world". Their songs range in topics from ex-girlfriends to times of depression.

The somewhat demented vibe of the lyrics can be attributed to the mind of Bemis. Bemis, who has had a checkered past of mental issues, vents his thoughts into his music.

"The weirdness, the quirkiness of the material and how it's very blatant, it's just sort of how I am as a person," said Bemis during a Q&A with *Spin* magazine.

"Here I am, laid bare, at the end of my rope. I've lost all hope. So Long!/ Molly Connolly just broke up with me over the revealing nature of the songs," are lyrics from Say Anything's song "Every Man Has a Molly"; the lyrics are, as Bemis said, very blatant.

Max Bemis's most recent musical venture is his collaboration with Chris Conley (lead singer of Saves the Day) to form the band Two Tongues. Max and fellow Say Anything member Coby Linder joined forces with Chris Conley and Dave Soloway to create this alternative super group.

It's not rare to find Max's voice on the albums of other bands. "You have a special gift/ But they still treat you like you're a kid/ It must hurt so bad/ With a knife in you're back..." belts Bemis in the song "The Spider and The Lamps" featured on Forgiving Durden's album *Razia's Shadow*.



SayAnything.com

Say Anything's eclectic personalities are evident in their music.

Say Anything does have a very unique style, but their sound is somewhat similar to a few other bands out there. The interesting vocal sound can be related to that of Patrick Stump, lead singer of Fall Out Boy.

As for their blatant and

oftentimes vulgar lyrics, they are slightly reminiscent of Nightbeast or Bloodhound Gang.

Looking for Say Anything in our area? According to online sources, they will not be visiting any nearby venue anytime soon. Keep your eyes open for any future tour dates.

Music

Genre mix creates hits

Candace Brown '11

"She makes the cutest faces when she screams obscenities/ And slurs her words because she's never not inebriated." Those lyrics from their song "The Queen and I" epitomize the style of Gym Class Heroes. Led by vocalist Travis "Travie" McCoy, they used eloquence and unique beats to create music that's new. Matt McGinley (drummer), Disashi Lumumba-Kasongo (guitarist), and Eric Roberts (bassist) complete the quartet that produces the unmatched sound.

Not many bands today can successfully include two or three different genres in one song. However, in just one track, you can hear a blend of rock/jazz/pop/rap.

You may also hear a few classic choruses with a modern tweak. Lyrics from the 80's Supertramp song "Take A Look At My Girlfriend" can be heard as the catchy chorus in Gym Class Heroes hit "Cupid's Chokehold". (and take a listen to the hook of "Clothes Off!!" featuring Fall Out Boy lead Patrick Stump.) "We have to take our clothes off/ We have to party all night/ We have to take our clothes off/ To have a



apimages.ap.org

Gym Class Heroes mix different styles of music to make their songs more interesting.

good time". Those lyrics may sound familiar; they are the slightly altered words in the chorus of

Jermaine Stewart song "We Don't Have to Take Our Clothes Off". These clever remixes of classic songs make all of their albums interesting.

Sometimes even more interesting than their songs, are their videos where the cleverness of the band really shines through. The Gym Class Heroes video for "New Friend Request" shows Travie taking part in a version of Myspace "in-person". He approves and rejects a long line of requests. The band also has a habit of featuring their label-mates in their videos. Artists such as Pete Wentz and Patrick Stump can be spotted in a few of their videos.

Though their sound is unique and diverse, there are a few bands with a similar vibe. The Hip-Hop/Rock duo 'Shwayze' and innovative group 'The Black Eyed Peas' have a style that is very similar to that of Gym Class Heroes. All of these bands have a way of blending multiple genres and thus attracting a diverse audience.

Gym Class Heroes are currently on tour with T-Pain, Keri Hilson, and Lil' Wayne. Though no dates have been posted in our area yet, keep a look-out for your new favorite band in an arena near us!

Commentary

Cuba policy change brings families hope

Brenda Savelski '11

Since Barack Obama has become president, there seem to be many changes on important issues in federal government. One concern that Obama has begun to address is the relationship between the United States and Cuba.

Although Obama is receiving criticism for only making relatively small changes in policy regarding Cuba, I believe that they are reasonable.

In a show of opposition to the communist government of Cuba, there has been a strict embargo banning almost all trade and travel with Cuba for the past fifty years. Even though this has not successfully stopped the communist government, it should remain in place. The American government should not support a government that oppresses its people.

On the other hand, there were many more restrictions concerning families under the Bush administration. For example, people in the United States could only send up to three hundred dollars every three months to relatives in Cuba and travel was limited to only once every three years.

The White House just publicized their decision to allow Americans more rights concerning Cuba. Families can now send unlimited amounts of money to relatives in Cuba and there are no time restrictions on travel.

This will greatly benefit families divided between Cuba and the United States. It was unfair and pointless to limit how much someone can visit family. Restricting visits of Americans into Cuba does not help the political situation at all or punish communist government. It only punishes the people and causes grief to the separated families. Reversing the Bush administration's rules on sending money to family in Cuba was also a good decision by the Obama administration. The government should not decide how much money someone can send to family. Situations could emerge in which more money than allowed is needed by family. For example, someone who needs an urgent surgery or has just lost a job should be able to receive as much money as necessary from family in the United States. Obama's new policy overturning these unreasonable limitations is to the advantage of many.

Hopefully, Obama will follow the path he has begun by overturning some of Bush's decisions concerning Cuba and take it even further by addressing other issues such as aiding Cuban refugees.

Benefits of abstinence

Briana Franks '09

Why are we taught how to have sex in school? Many kids get in trouble for talking about "inappropriate" topics in school but come sophomore and senior year we have classes where for one marking period it's okay. Everyone is brought up differently. Some parents tell their kids to practice safe sex some want their children to wait until marriage, and others really don't care.

Well let's go over the pros and cons of sex safe and abstinence. Safe sex requires some sort of contraception; the barrier method, pill, or gel that will prevent the chance of pregnancy. The chance of pregnancy never goes away, and none of these methods diminish the contraction of a sexually transmitted disease.

No sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are insignificant because serious ones will be with you for the rest of your life. If you contract one in high school you better believe you're going to have to tell your future spouse about it. Maybe you won't tell them but when you're trying to start a family and realize you can't get pregnant, your doctor will eventually reveal your past. The worst part about contracting an STD is that the person you so romantically got it from most likely doesn't know that they are infected. I'm not saying that everyone you're considering to hook up with has a STD but it kind of helps to check

before you make a life altering decision.

So before you go into your Sex Ed class, know that yes, they are teaching you how to have sex but they are also teaching you how to protect yourself. It's not just another class that you have to pass, because sex is a big deal. Our media's reflection of life with no consequences isn't true. Movies and television shows aren't real. They focus on casual sex. Abstinence is nowhere to be found in films and TV shows these days.

Our media's reflection of life with no consequences isn't true. Movies and television shows aren't real. They focus on casual sex. Abstinence is nowhere to be found in films and TV shows these days.

Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from sex until you're in a steady relationship such as marriage. If you and your partner choose this route there is no chance of contracting an STD. There is no chance of pregnancy. There is really no "chance" at all. The only problem is the waiting part. Everyone is not the same, but if you are looking to graduate from high school, get a degree in college, and get a favorable job by age twenty-three then abstinence is your best bet.

What ever your choice, get educated before you act. Don't feel pressured into doing something you don't believe in. If you feel forced into having sex then you're not with the right person. If you do choose to have sex then protect yourself. Listen to your Sex Ed teacher when they teach you different ways for prevention of diseases. Remember school isn't teaching you that having sex is okay, they're trying to save you from a lifetime of regrets.

The Patriot

Issue 4-June 2009

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The Patriot is published by the students of

Washington Township High School,
529 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road
Sewell, NJ 08080

The opinions expressed in the Commentary section and all articles labeled as opinion, as well as all reviews and columns, are the views of the writer indicated in the byline. They are not meant to represent the views of The Patriot staff, the students of Washington Twp. H.S. or its administration. Unsigned editorials are meant to reflect the views of the publication.

Please send all correspondence to: wthspatriot@gmail.com

Shelters great source for pet adoption

Taylor Perkins '11

Many people hear about animal shelters and think “those poor animals.” People think that the animals are being tortured and that they are miserable, but they are wrong. Yes, the animals are brought there against their will, but their stay at the shelter is a safe one.

There are a wide variety of dogs and cats that come in the shelter, even though most are pit bulls, they are very nice dogs. Most people have heard horrible stories about pit bulls and what they are capable of doing. But, what people don't know is that they are some of the nicest dogs and appreciate being loved. All of the dogs in the shelter are hoping to be adopted into a permanent home.

During an animal's stay at the shelter, workers treat them as if they were their own pets. All of the dogs are taken out for daily walks and played with for as long as an hour. The dogs are brushed, washed and given their medicines. They are taught how to act when a family comes and decides to adopt them.

Although most of the dogs are pit mixes, they need love and affection from a human too. I enjoy volunteering at the shelter because I



Illustration: Christina Alberici '09

get the chance to persuade families and show the animals what it is like to have a home again.

All of these dogs appreciate the love and affection that they receive, even the cats. The cats are a little easier to deal with. They are very calm and love to be played with and carried. Many of the cats are younger and it is hard to resist picking them up. All of the kittens are very lovable.

The only problem is that some of the cats are sick, and might not be adopted. There is a disease for cats that is called FIV, that is not contagious to people. The FIV-

infected cats are kept in separate cages together so that they do not spread their disease to the other cats. But even though these cats are very sick, fortunately they are still up for adoption.

Many people have the wrong idea about animal shelters and what they are all about. The animals are treated very well, and they have a very pleasant stay. When you go to other places to buy a dog it could cost up to \$1,000. At the Camden County Animal Shelter it only costs about \$120 dollars and that includes the animals' shots, and getting them spayed and neutered.

Ignorance isn't Bliss by Steph Daley '09

Child bride deserves say in own future

Each installment of Ignorance isn't Bliss will seek to expose students to an international issue that normally might go unnoticed.

No one in the United States is shy about expressing what they feel are faults in our country. Americans are constantly critiquing and complaining. We take for granted the rights and the freedoms that we use everyday. In other parts of the world, people are denied rights on a daily basis; even the right to choose their future.

In Saudi Arabia a mother is fighting for her daughter's future. According to CNN.com the child's father had her married to a man 37 years older than herself to pay off an old family debt. The mother is currently battling the court system for a divorce which is being denied.

Justice Minister Al-Issa told a daily newspaper in Saudi Arabia that he is planning to put in place a law that will “preserve the rights of children and prevent abuses.” In December the judge refused to annul the marriage saying that the mother, who is no longer with the child's father, is not her legal guardian and therefore cannot represent her in court. This was when the case began to take hard criticism.

The co-founder of the Society of Defending Women's rights in Saudi Arabia, Wajeha al-Huwaider, said in an interview with CNN.com that these underage marriages cause the young girls to “lose their sense of security and safety. Also, it destroys their feeling of being loved and nurtured. It causes them a lifetime of psychological problems and severe depression.”

Apparently when the marriage was first arranged the 47 year old man was forced to sign a pledge saying he would not have intercourse with the girl until she was older. Even with this consideration the marriage has taken away the child's rights. She is no longer able to choose how she will live her life. Her future has already been decided for her. Al-Jutaili, the child's family lawyer, says that at this point in time the child does not even know that she is married.

The responsibilities of being a grown woman are being pressed on a mere child. If the marriage continues she will not have a chance at love. She will never experience freedom or be able to make her own decisions. If rights like these were taken away here in the U.S. riots and protests would be constant and violence would outbreak. But the eight-year-old Saudi child has only her mother fighting for her.

New driving laws unfair to teens

Gina Peloso '09

Next spring, New Jersey teenagers will face two new driving laws. The first law requires any teenager under the age of 21 and any teenager that has had their provisional license for less than a year to be off the road by 11 P.M.

Police will be able to identify recently licensed drivers by a removable Velcro tag placed on the license plate. Failure to display the decal will be considered a secondary offence.

The second law prohibits the use of cell phones, including hands-free devices. Governor Corzine believes these laws will enforce and create safer driving.

I strongly disagree with both of these laws. I believe teens who have just received their license are more alert, aware, and cautious than individuals who have had their license for a long amount of time. Teens are not the only ones who get into accidents; adults do as well. Although there may be a decrease in the number of accidents, it will be due to the fact that there will be less people on the road.

Also, the Velcro tags could easily be forgotten to be removed if car is shared with an adult resulting in being charged as a secondary offence.

I also believe that displaying the Velcro tags will influence authorities to pull over those vehicles assuming that teenagers are doing something wrong.

As for the law prohibiting hands-free devices, I do not believe there is a difference between that and simply having a conversation with someone in your passenger seat or listening to the radio. At this rate, an everyday task such as eating french-fries or drinking coffee while driving will also be forbidden.

All in all, I believe the new laws that will be enacted next spring are both ludicrous and uncalled for. There are much more effective and fair ways to prevent accidents from occurring instead of restricting driving privileges of teens.

Film

Wolverine's story revealed

Luke Verillo '10

In the fourth installment of the highly successful X-Men film franchise, we finally learn the true story of the films' most popular character. With plenty of explosions and winks to comic book and movie buffs alike, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* provides a fun ride for all.

Hugh Jackman returns as the rebellious and gruff Wolverine, who was introduced to film audiences around the world in *X-Men* (2000). In his fourth portrayal of the character that raised him to A-List status, Jackman brings the mutant hero back to his gritty roots and reminds fans why they fell in love with him. Director Bryan Singer teased moviegoers in the first two films with flashbacks of the hero's shady past, but now—under new director Gavin Hood—answers are finally revealed.

Set mainly in the 1970s, we journey with Wolverine as he joins a shadow ops group under the command of William Stryker, who later is revealed to be one of the film's main antagonists. The bulk of the movie centers on the complex relationship between Wolverine and his brother Victor Creed. Liev Schreiber gives a chilling performance as the bloodthirsty Creed, creating a perfect villain to counter Jackman's Wolverine.

Foreign Film

Tragic story of singer's life

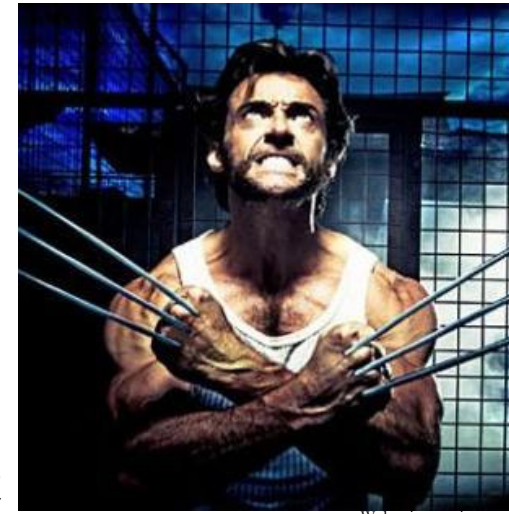
Brenda Savelski '12

La Vie En Rose (2007) is a foreign film of many firsts. It is a French film about the life of one of France's most famous singers; Edith Piaf. Marion Cotillard (Edith Piaf) won an Academy Award for best actress and it was the first time this was given for a French role. Cotillard is also the first to win a Comedy or Musical Golden Globe award for a performance in a foreign film.

La Vie En Rose is the first French film to win two Oscars (actress in a leading role and makeup) and Cotillard is the first French actress to win a Best Actress BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) award. These are only a few of the international awards received.

La Vie En Rose depicts how Piaf was raised in the slums of France and was able to overcome a myriad of obstacles to reach worldwide fame in her short life. Born in 1915 to a contortionist father and a street-singer mother, she spent her early childhood on the streets with her mother who ultimately turned her over to her father. Piaf ended up with her paternal grandmother who ran a brothel.

She was eventually diagnosed with an eye inflammation and was blind for several months, after which she miraculously recovered her eyesight. Piaf's father eventually took her back



Wolverinemovie.com

Wolverine is a fan favorite among comic book lovers.

Jackman and Schreiber lead an excellent cast that includes rapper-turned-actor Will.i.am who turns on a surprisingly good performance as John Wraith, a mutant teleporter. Ryan Reynolds gives the film a flare of comedy with his portrayal of Wade Wilson, a character many fans of the comics have been waiting to see since the first film in

2000. Danny Huston, Lynn Collins, and Dominic Monaghan round out the solid cast.

It wouldn't be a comic-book film without action and, this film doesn't disappoint. From the very first minute to film's climatic battle at Three Mile Island, the action doesn't stop. It seems with three X-Men films already under their belt, Fox Studios has only improved the special effects and made this prequel truly eye-popping. There's a helicopter sequence in the second act that ends with Wolverine atop the aircraft—you won't want to miss it.

Accompanying the story of Wolverine's beginning, the film is packed with nods to the comic book fans and cameos of past characters. Patrick Stewart makes a brief but significant appearance as Professor Charles Xavier, who audiences will remember from the first three films. His scene alone renews the possibility for further sequels and/or spinoffs. Also, make note of the young boy with the red sunglasses. Does he look familiar?

You may know where the movie has to get to in order to fit its label as a prequel to *X-Men*, but the journey of the character is what makes this film worthwhile. *Wolverine* sets the bar high for the summer season, and continues the X-Men franchise's strong following.



Google Image

La Vie En Rose is an award-winning drama about the life of famous French singer Edith Piaf.

to live with him. He soon discovered her talent for singing and her career began a few years later.

Life marred with tragedy, her first manager, Pere Leplee, was shot after her career had begun. She lost popularity, although eventually was able to regain it with a new manager.

Throughout the rest of her life, Edith Piaf struggled through the deaths of loved ones, addictions, and poor health. She had a tragic though famous life.

Cotillard's performance in this film is worthy of the awards it received due to the complexity of the role she played. Because the film follows Piaf's life though to her death in 1963, Cotillard transforms from a lively young woman to a sickly middle-aged woman, appearing much older than her true age. This progression is also credited to makeup artists who were able to make one woman appear completely different in one scene than she did in the one before.

The director, Olivier Dahan, shows his talent throughout this movie. Not only does it follow Edith Piaf's life through to her death, but it goes back and forth between her life in chronological order and scenes of her in old age.

La Vie En Rose features astounding acting on the part of all of the actors and much effort from everyone who worked on the movie. It is a stunning true story about a world many of us have never even imagined. Although tragic, it is a movie I recommend everyone should see.

Arts & Entertainment

Oscar's best picture a must-see

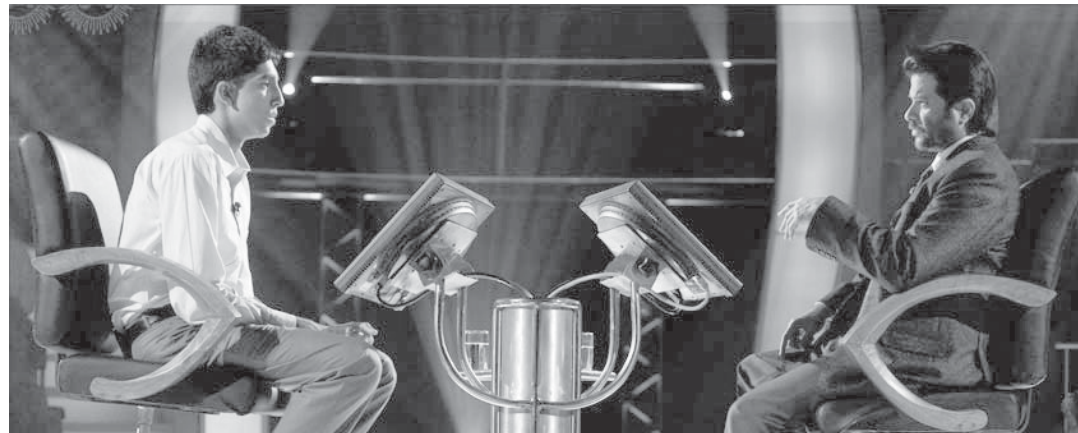
Chloe Dawson '10

Though it was a hit at the Academy Awards many people have yet to hear about *Slumdog Millionaire*. It is a story of an 18 year old orphan; Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) who experiences a thrilling day in his life.

The movie is set in the slums of Mumbai and shows how Jamal is adept in answering game show questions because of life lessons he experienced. The film has several plots. The first takes place on the game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*.

The second is when police arrest Jamal on suspicion that he is cheating. The third is his childhood. As Jamal recounts his life stories, his past is revealed in an attempt to convince the police that he wasn't cheating.

One reason why this movie made over \$140,000,000 is because of the acting. Dev Patel delivers an enthralling performance while playing Jamal. Throughout the movie you can sense his struggle



slumdogmillionairemovie.com

Jamal (Dev Patel) becomes an unlikely success on a game show. He goes through many misfortunes, even torture in his effort to escape the horrible poverty in which he was raised.

trying to stay alive in the slums. His co-star Frieda Pinto plays the beautiful Latika. Jamal and Latika's relationship is very convincing. Their award for being Best Motion Picture of 2008 is supported by the realism of their acting skills. This film has won many awards that prove its success.

British Director Danny Boyle captures the true intensity of how

Jamal was tortured in the police station. Not many directors could also create a film in Hindi and in English. As you watch the movie your attention is directed on the foreign language in the scenes.

One of the main purposes of this movie was for other people to understand what a "slumdog" is. The movie portrays this as someone who lives in a poverty-stricken

community and has low expectations for moving up the social ladder. It shows what people have to do just to get by in such a terrible environment. Many harsh living conditions were not shunned by Boyle and screenwriter Beaufoy.

Boyle did a wonderful job creating a realistic film. This movie will be watched and enjoyed for years to come.

DVD extras give insight to film, culture

Julia Hahn '10

The famed movie *Slumdog Millionaire* has finally become available on DVD! The spectacular film is brought to DVD so that you may watch it



slumdogmillionairemovie.com

Jamal and Latika (Dev Patel and Frieda Pinto) share a tender moment.

in the comfort of your own home. The DVD is just a simple one-disc but it is loaded with special features. Probably the best added bonus to the DVD is the remixed version of the initial scene of the film.

The significant change is when the main characters are being chased through the alleys of the slums of Mumbai. The scene runs a little longer than the original scene and the background music is M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes" instead of the exotic Indian music that was played in the cinema version. The new chase scene is just one of a few deleted scenes available on the DVD. There is about a half hour of deleted footage on the DVD.

Most deleted scenes on DVDs are ones that the movie definitely could have done without, but that's not the case with *Slumdog*.

The deleted scenes are worth the cost of the DVD alone! Some of the deleted scenes feature the three young stars in their early "three musketeer" days, a scene that follows the older teenage version of Jamal, and another scene focusing on one of the questions on the game

show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*.

Probably the most interesting group of deleted scenes are those that focus on the police chief, who interrogates Jamal because he is accused of cheating on the game show, arguing with his superior. The chief's superior obviously wants Jamal arrested for cheating and the chief releases Jamal in spite of his career.

In addition, the other special features given on the DVD are pretty commonplace. There are two commentaries and a making of the promo. Director Danny Boyle and leading actor Dev Patel (who plays the leading character Jamal) are the commentators and stray away from the usual boring dialogues that tend to take place on most DVD commentaries.

They offer an interesting look on how stressful and at times difficult it was to shoot on location in the slums of Mumbai.

The movie *Slumdog* was no doubt a masterpiece and the DVD can't help but to live up to the hype of the Oscar winner, but the deleted scenes are definitely worth a look!

No time to slack

Briana Franks '09

Senior year is glorified by many underclassmen as being their year of freedom; their year to relax academically and do whatever they want.

Well sure there are senior privileges like driving to school and having a parking spot, coming in late on a couple days while the rest of the school comes in for a test, senior trip, and senior prom. But behind all of the privileges still remains the stress that you experienced prior years.

The leading contribution to stress is picking a college. You really didn't have a choice in picking your high school whether you liked it or not you were to spend the next four years of your life there. When you have the choice to pick where you're going to live or the size of the campus or maybe if you have to leave some friends behind, it gets stressful!

Not to mention picking a major. You are around eighteen years old and you're picking a career you will do for the rest of your life. Do you want to be happy and have a fun job with little stability or focus

on money and work for something you don't really want to do. Picking a major ties into picking a college because if you absolutely love the campus and they don't have your major you have two choices: find a new major or pick a different college.

The myth of relaxing academically senior year isn't true.

The myth of relaxing academically senior year isn't true.

If you apply to a college and send in your transcripts, your senior year grades will be on the transcript. So if you work hard all the way up to senior

year then you slack off well that won't look to hot to a college admissions officer.

If you have an academic scholarship, they have the right to revoke it if your grades start to falter. Applying for scholarships are time consuming and you feel like you're wasting your time because there's a ton of other students applying for the same one.

Don't get me wrong I would pick senior year over junior year any day but don't think it's the year to slack off. It's a year of life altering decisions. It's a year of drastic change. It gets overwhelming at times but the light at the end of the tunnel is graduation.

Time to expand school driving privileges

Candace Brown '11

Senior privilege is something that we all wait three years to take advantage of. But there are some privileges that would be beneficial for juniors too. One of those privileges is driving to school.

I, and many students have a birthday early in the school year. This means that we'll have our licenses by the beginning of junior year. For these students it would be an awesome privilege to be an exception to the "seniors only" rule.

Because driving to school is traditionally a free senior privilege, juniors could be charged [to obtain] their spaces.

Many people would argue that there's no space for junior drivers, that the advantage should be reserved for seniors. However, if the idea was actually thought upon it could be easily executed.

First, cars could be parked along the back gate towards O'Brien Hall. Those unutilized spaces could become junior parking. Another space that could be used is the parking lot of the CAC. The only problem with this idea would be the use of these private parking spaces.

The CAC may want compensation from the school for the use of their parking lot. This issue also has a simple solution. Because driving to school is traditionally a free senior privilege, juniors could be charged for their spaces. A monthly fee could be required of any junior wishing to use the CAC parking.

As for the spaces on campus, they could be assigned without a fee on a first-come-first-serve basis. Those spaces could be for those who happen to request them first.

So really, if you think about it, it would be pretty easy to accommodate all students who are of legal driving age. Even the juniors.

Exam exemption requirements too stringent

Brenda Savelski '11

In Washington Township High School, it seems like hard work pays off.

If for a semester a student gets high grades and meets criteria, they receive a Renaissance card.

There are all kinds of perks that come with the different color cards; gold, blue, and red. Some include hall pass and late bus privileges, discounts on school events and school store items, and discounts on home athletic events.

But the main reason why everyone seems to want a Gold Card or a Blue Card is final exam exemption. With a Gold Card, students can choose to be exempt from two final exams and

students with a Blue Card can choose one. This seems like a good deal, but there is a catch. The student must have an "A" for all four marking periods in that class.

This is easier said than done. Because students that hold Renaissance cards are generally good students, what often happens is that they are unable to "skip" certain finals because of a "low grade" (usually a B) in one marking period.

This seems a bit drastic simply for receiving a B. Is a 92% all that different than a 93%? It is possible for a student who received a B one marking period to have a higher year average in a course than a student who received an A every marking period. Why should the student with the lower average have more privileges than the one with the higher average?

It is much more reasonable for the requirement to be simply an A average for the whole year. Students should not be punished for scoring a lower grade one marking period if they received high As in all the others. Many students who have a Renaissance card are unable to use it to gain an exemption from finals because there is no class they received an A in for every marking period.

Clearly, if a student managed to receive an overall A average in a course, they succeeded and deserve a reward. Allowing students who received an A for their overall average in a course to be exempt from that final with a Renaissance Card would be a sensible alteration in the rules.

It is possible for a student who received a B one marking period to have a higher year average in a course than a student who received an A every marking period.

Letters to the Editors

Room for improvement

I understand that it is time consuming and at times challenging to finish issue after issue but I have a few suggestions that you may want to consider.

First, I suggest that you more carefully scrutinize the paper before printing an issue. Past issues have contained grammatical errors. It is embarrassing to hand out a copy to a middle school student who looks up to high school students and have him or her notice simple errors such as misspelled words.

Another thing you might want to consider is adding crossword puzzles or something to entertain readers and motivate them to pick up a copy.

One final consideration is to add promotions. Township is constantly conducting activities to ensure that the students are actively doing productive things. Help this cause and promote the many activities in the paper by creating very detailed and elaborate ads that can draw the attention of the student body.

The paper has been around for years, as editors you have the chance to set a precedent that will motivate future generations to pick up an issue of *The Patriot*!

- Laura Sosa '10

Doing it right

I never really realized how good *The Patriot* issues are. I am a little embarrassed to say this, but until this year, I had never even read a copy of *The Patriot*.

I have been missing out.

It is written excellently and presents many interesting articles that are appealing to me. I particularly like the articles that aren't about the school. I also like how there's a section that addresses some debatable topics that are going on in our teenage lives.

The writing is very professional and unique. If I didn't personally know some of the writers, I would honestly think that they were working for a big newspaper company.

- Jon Graham '09

This edition of the school newspaper [March 2009] was very enjoyable. There are so many different articles to read. The Patriot touches on all school sports and events. I really liked the personal interviews with the student athletes. Even the off-campus sports like the Washington Township ice hockey team have an article in there.

Even though I am a sports fan, I also liked the non-sports articles about many of the events happening in this school like Monzo Madness and the hoagie sale. I like when you cover events that don't get much publicity such as the induction of the National Honor Society or articles about what the teachers are teaching.

The March issue was one of the best newspapers this year. It touched on most of the major events. Keep up the good work.

- Mike Ottaviano '10

Personal music has its place in class

I agree with Diana Lezenby ["Music enhances learning environment" March, 2009] that listening to music during class and/or testing would help relax me and also make going to class easier. I too enjoy listening to my iPod or the radio while I am studying, reading, and doing homework.

Listening to music helps me to concentrate and clear my mind to do what I have to do. Some of my teachers over the years have let me listen to my iPod and it allowed me to relax and because of that my scores were higher. My friends also agree with this because it has also worked for them. I feel that as long as the students stay on topic, do the work in class then having music in class shouldn't be a big deal. Maybe, even some of the poorer test takers will be put at ease and do better.

Overall, I am just glad that someone chose to write on this relevant topic. Hopefully some of the teachers and administrators have read this article and will consider this option or at least do a study to verify if music influences student grades.

- Emaline Decker '10

Tanning not worth the risks

I strongly feel you should add more eye-opening articles such as the story you had on sunless tanning. This definitely caught my attention because I used to tan on a daily basis. However, I stopped after I heard a related story about an eighteen year old girl who lost her life to skin cancer.

I was at the nail salon, when my mother began talking to a woman who openly came out about how her daughter had died from melanoma. My jaw dropped in shock. I couldn't believe such a tragic thing could happen to someone so young. The woman explained to me that being tan isn't worth it and to warn my friends about how dangerous tanning can be.

Reading this article in *The Patriot* really jogged my memory on the situation of how dangerous tanning can be. I thought this was an appropriate article to stick in the paper because many girls in Washington Township tan year round.

I am semi-guilty myself since I have found myself continuing to tan for dances or special occasions. While I may continue to tan, I feel that my addiction with tanning has been improved from my old habit.

I wish we could make pale the new tan and ban tanning, so it's less of a competition over who is tannest and who has the best glow. If teenage girls took a minute to consider the impact on their future, they might draw the same conclusion.

- Victoria Sheekey '10

Marley review tells half the story

I am writing in response to the article "Dog tale captivates audiences" [March, 2009]. It was a positive review about the recent movie *Marley and Me*. For the most part I agree with the writer.

Marley and Me was a great movie about the bond owners have with their dogs. But what the review does not mention is the sadness behind the story. About 70 percent of the movie is heart-warming like the write said, but the other 30% is extremely sad. I personally cried twice during the movie.

While I would also recommend that animal lovers see the movie, they should not expect to leave the theater happy. Marley will make you laugh and make you cry, he will make you want a puppy and make you second guess it. *Marley and Me* is definitely a movie to see but you should know what you're getting yourself into...a two-hour rollercoaster of emotions.

- Casey Rozmes '10

Send your letters to...

wthspatriot@gmail.com

The Patriot reserves the right to edit all correspondence for clarity, brevity and/or appropriate content.

Tech Talk

Apple shakes up latest Nano

Katie Powell '12

With the way Apple sells iPods, it is easy to question the value and quality of the music players. But, many people are happy with their iPods, and very few people have complaints about them.

The most recent addition to the iPod family is the iPod Nano: Fourth Generation. This iPod offers many new features unavailable in the old Nanos. For example, if this iPod is turned on its side, it automatically goes to Cover Flow, which allows the user to scroll through to see all the albums on the iPod. Also, it has an extra large screen that makes



http://www.roseateamarketingtips.com/wp-content/uploads/new-ipod-nano.jpg

The iPod Nano comes in many color choices.

watching movies and music videos shaking it. This function can be a lot of fun, but can add frustration if you

Nano. Besides that new feature, there is a novel function that allows a music-savvy individual to pick a favorite song of theirs and find other tunes that go well with it using Genius technology. Finally, this iPod offers an easy way to change the song, especially when the owner is feeling a little frustrated:

drop your iPod, which can change the song as well. But, with this function, it is easy to change the song quickly without having to look at the screen. However, for those of us who like to dance while listening to their iPod, this function can be turned off to prevent accidental song changing. The new Nano is available in all colors, from orange and green to traditional white and black. It is very thin and is easily carried and taken care of.

Unfortunately, some people have complained of problems with this iPod. Sometimes, it can be a little slow to react when it is shaken to change the song. Also, sometimes iPod malfunctions can cause the wrong title to show up for a song, or even cause the iPod to stay locked after it has been unlocked. However, these problems are easily solved, and if not, to protect the hardware itself, a warranty is available for purchase at the time the iPod is bought. A twelve month warranty on any iPod is available for free, but an extended one, which lasts two years, costs 39 dollars. I suggest buying the warranty, especially if it will get a lot of use because although this iPod is thin but durable, if dropped enough, it could break.

I recommend this product to anyone who is getting one for the first time. It is easy to function and is not as small as the iPod Shuffle, as cumbersome as the iPod Video, or as expensive as the iPod Touch, so it is right in the middle. Overall, this iPod gets four out of five stars for appearance, sound quality, easiness of use, and price.

These absences are very significant, but even more devastating is the absence of late Metallica

[The absence of some Metallica songs is] very significant, but even more devastating may be the absence of late Metallica bassist, Cliff Burton.

bassist, Cliff Burton. Cliff, one of the most influential bassists of all time, and an original member of Metallica is nowhere in sight. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Orion" without Cliff seems like a crime, and even though Rob Trujillo is a fantastic bassist, he just isn't the same.

Another turn off of the game is that it is not very long. In the end, *Guitar Hero: Metallica* was a good buy for me, but I still wish that the game could have been improved a little bit. In conclusion, if you are a Metallica fan, this game is definitely a good buy.

Solid sequel misses some notes for Metallica fans

Dane DiJosie '12

In the world of music games, *Guitar Hero* is truly a rockstar. In the past year, the series has released two games and announced a handful more games. When *Guitar Hero: Metallica* was released in March, many people rushed out to the store to buy it. Before you go out and buy it, take this review into consideration.

The game has basically the same game play as *Guitar Hero World Tour*, so if you did not enjoy *World Tour*'s gameplay, then you may have second thoughts about buying this game. Of course, if you are a Metallica fan, like I am, then the game is well worth the money. The game includes such favorites as "Master of Puppets", "Fade to Black", "Creeping Death", "Fight Fire With Fire", "For Whom the Bell Tolls", "Welcome Home (Sanitarium)", "Battery", "Seek and Destroy", "Whiplash", "The Unforgiven", and "One".

The game also has many other things for the common Metallica fan. For every song in the game, there are Metallifacts, which are videos of the songs that have captions that tell you all about the song that it portrays. They have many interesting stories and tidbits that many people do not know.

Also, for every song, there are the lyrics and other interesting things. *GH: M* has adapted the same

Enjoy writing game reviews?
Then write for *The Patriot*!
Email us at wthspatriot@gmail.com

Books

New twist on classic novel

Julia Hahn '10

When you pick up any copy of *Pride and Prejudice*, you certainly don't expect gruesome words like "zombie" or "flesh-eating", but Seth Grahame-Smith has recreated the way we read *Pride and Prejudice* with his novel *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies*.

The book opens with a mysterious plague taking hold of the quiet English village of Meryton, and those who die are coming back as zombies! Our heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, is determined to get rid of the zombie threat, but soon gets distracted by the coming of the arrogant Mr. Darcy.

It begins with a twist on the famous opening, "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a zombie in possession of brains must be in want of more brains."

Grahame-Smith has created a pop cultural phenomenon and has definitely created a lot of excitement. He has truly enticed audiences to read this refreshing remix. You would definitely be missing out if you didn't pick up a copy.

The author does such an excellent job in placing himself inside the classic novel and adding his new twist. He puts his zombies side by side



A classic Jane Austen novel is turned upside down when zombies invade the plot.

with Ms. Bennet, her sisters, her mother, father, and of course Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley. Plus, the ninjas are a great addition to the cast! *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies* is actually a great comedy

filled with the expected civilized arguing between Bennet and Darcy with the added violence of fighting zombie scum.

A teaser from the novel... At a neighborhood ball, Elizabeth, Darcy, and Bingley come upon unmentionables feeding on some slaughtered servants.

Mr. Darcy says, "I don't suppose...that you would give me the honour of dispensing of this unhappy business alone. I should never forgive myself if your gown were soiled."

Ms. Bennet replies, "The honour is all yours, Mr. Darcy."

Following this discussion, Mr. Darcy "cut the two zombies with savage yet dignified movements. He then made quick work of beheading the slaughtered staff, upon which Mr. Bingley politely vomited into his hands" and in the end, "the dead continued to claw their way through crypt and coffin alike, feasting on British brains!"

Will Elizabeth be able to destroy the Satan spawn, along with trying to overcome the social prejudices and standards of the world around her? This remix of a classic is something you will want to pick up and finish.

Memorable blending of forms

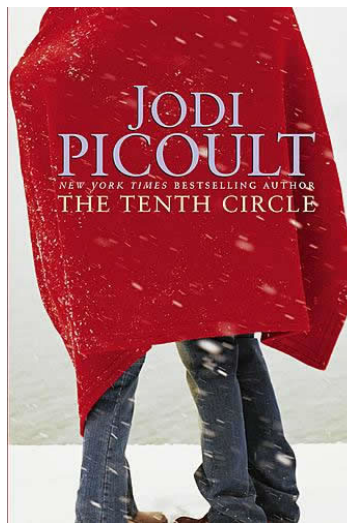
Miranda Steinman '10

The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult is a jaw-dropping, fast-paced novel that shows how a rape can affect the lives of not only the victim but everyone around her.

Trixie Stone is very close to her father Daniel. Her mother, Laura, is the working parent which makes her more distant from her family.

Trixie had been dumped by her boyfriend, Jason, of three months and is dying to get him back. One night while at a party, things get out of control when Trixie tries to make Jason jealous. Jason goes to comfort her, and then the book skips to Trixie shivering in her bathroom where she tells her father that she was raped.

Picoult takes you through the twists and turns of the beginning of a rape trial; the examination, the counseling, and the denial of the perpetrator. As you read, you start to wonder if Jason really raped



Picoult deals with sensitive topics in *The Tenth Circle*.

Trixie or if she is lying. The novel also depicts just how far a father will go to protect his daughter.

The Tenth Circle is also part

graphic novel because Daniel is a comic book artist. The reader can see his point of view by reading his own comic strips every chapter. Daniel draws himself as the hero who is sometimes uncontrollable. His daughter is captured by an evil villain, which symbolizes Jason stealing away her childhood.

Throughout the book, as Daniel is trying to save his daughter from suicide, his superhero counterpart is trying to save his daughter from hell. The superhero battles through the nine levels of hell until finally reaching his daughter in the Tenth Circle. The story drawn in the book directly symbolizes Daniel's real life struggle.

This novel shows how hard it is for families to overcome the obstacles of life, but how they are willing to do whatever it takes to make it through. This book is a touching and relatable read for any teenager or parent.

Looking for a good book?

Check out summer beach reads!

The IMC has compiled a list of student and staff beach read suggestions. Visit the IMC homepage to see the list.

Lifestyles

Fashionista by Elizabeth DiLullo '09

Spring into Summer

The Essential Accessory

With the country in a recession, many designers have focused their attention on accessories, like handbags, rather than garments. They believe that many people may be unable to splurge on a new wardrobe, but will satisfy their fashion "sweet tooth" with an indulgence, like a new handbag.

Handbag designers have played with proportion, color and texture for spring and summer 2009. Trends of this season vary from highly practical totes to tiny clutches. Every woman of fashion will be able to find something that suits her style and taste.

The classic strap her style handbag, worn on the shoulder, is fashionable and practical, as this allows you to have both your hands absolutely free. Wide, very comfortable bags, in all colors imaginable, will be extremely popular this season. They are intended mostly for everyday wear like shopping, work, and college classes because they are so roomy.

If there is one classic look that is timeless



Handbags come in a variety of colors and patterns and make a colorful accessory for summer.

this season, it's the chain bag. This bag manages to look both classic and edgy at the same time.

Some tempting textures this season include quilted and woven materials. Fringe is going to be a hot ticket item, too. Buttercup, orange tangerine, coral shades, and cobalt blue are just some of the hot shades in this season's bold color palette.

If classic is your thing, white and black bags are going to be popular, too. Always remember that a handbag complements a woman's personality and style. Today the handbag is no

longer considered a mere accessory that can be included or may be ignored. It has become an important part of a woman's look.

Face the Color

The make-up trends for spring-summer 2009 are all about fresh colors. Poppy, orange and fuchsia will be all the rage. The good news is that everyone will be able to wear these luscious colors, as long as you choose the correct shade for your complexion.

Poppy is a pinkish-red color that brightens skin and makes teeth look whiter. Apply lipstick in a gorgeous poppy shade and pair it with a watermelon blush on cheeks. Matte poppy looks glamorous on pale-skinned women, while sheer gloss boosts golden complexions.

Orange offsets a tan like nothing else. Gals with pale skin will never go wrong with a sheer apricot or peach gloss, while darker complexions can try tangerine in matte. Anchor the lip color with a nude liner and get a faux glow with bronzer on cheeks.

Last but not least, fuchsia is more rock 'n' roll than paler pink. It's most flattering on olive skin tones where it gives off a luminous glow. But women with pale skin can work it, too, for a look that's ultra dramatic. Complement the fuchsia lips color with a light pink blush on cheeks.

This season is all about paler eyeshadows, so that your blush and lip color can pop. Black eyeliner is a must, but use it on the upper lash line only. This season's delicious colors will ensure that no one will look washed-out or dull anywhere that she goes.

Classic sandwich caps Phillie's experience

Nick Raggio '10

Looking for a meal the next time you're at the Phillies game? Just leave your seat and, in every direction, you find yourself surrounded by decisions. Hot dogs, a cheese steak, or the Bull's Barbeque are always great choices.

In my opinion though, the greatest sandwich for your money is located behind section 139. That sandwich is a little piece of heaven known as The Schmitter.

Many have never heard of the glorious Schmitter. Let me educate you on what it is. The Schmitter is a version of a cheese steak with differences such as a Kaiser roll, grilled salami, tomatoes, and "special sauce." (There is some speculation that this "special sauce" is actually

just Thousand Island dressing.) The rest of the sandwich includes, you guessed it, cheese and fried onions.

While many out of towners will be immediately drawn to the tourist trap that is the cheese steak, the Schmitter is a sandwich of comparable, if not better, taste for the same price but without the incredibly long line. Also, there is only one way in which the sandwich is served so there is no time waiting for that New York fan to decide whether he wants provolone or whiz. The only decision that would need to be made is how many sandwiches you would like to purchase.

The Schmitter is located near the third base gate. It will be off to the right if you enter through that side. For those of you who don't know where

the third base gate is, it is the entrance with the statue of legendary hall of fame pitcher Steve Carlton outside.

For those who wish to sit down and eat are able to purchase the Schmitter at Harry the K's. Although, I recommend going early if that should be the way you choose to eat as Harry the K's usually fills fast and waiting in line can take several minutes, if not innings.

While the Schmitter is delicious enough to be enjoyed on its own, Crab Fries are most definitely recommended to accompany your sandwich. The tricky part is if you want them both hot somebody would have to go to the Chickies and Pete's stand early while another friend gets the Schmitters; which, if you think about it, is really worth it in the end.

Good Eatin' by Chloe Dawson '10

Local cuisine offers variety

Authentic Mexican food close to home

La Esperanza means “hope” in Spanish. It is also the name of an authentic Mexican restaurant in Lindenwold about twenty minutes from Washington Township. If you’re used to the traditional beef tacos with chips and salsa, there is something more for you here.

When most people are asked about Mexican restaurants they think of chains like Taco Bell or Don Pablo’s. A good way to broaden their horizons is with this family owned restaurant. The chefs of La Esperanza will bring you Mexican familiarities as well as many other Latin American specialties that make them one of the most authentic Mexican restaurants in the area. It was even honored as the winner of the Philadelphia magazine’s Best of Philly- Mexican Restaurants 2003.

As you browse their menu at, www.mexicanhope.com, you can appreciate the variety of choices.

Many of students in Spanish learn about “bistec” or steak. La Esperanza offers a variety of dishes for all meat lovers. “Bistec Salvadoreño” is served with a large steak and seasoned onions, tomatoes, bell peppers, and rice and beans. The most classic “carne”, or meat is “Chuletas Fritas” which are fried then

“Pechuga a la Mexicana” a finger licking [chicken] dish with diced onions, jalapeño peppers, tomatoes and seasoned with cilantro that is cooked in a spicy sauce.

The hours of the restaurant are also very good. On weekends they are open until eleven o’clock. This makes this a great place to take friends or a date.

Compared to other Latin-American and Mexican restaurants La Esperanza creates a warm and comfortable feeling at their tables. The decor of the dining room includes authentic Mexican dolls or masks that are sure conversation starters.

The wait staff is very consistent and attentive in their work.

Prices are also reasonabl. A meal for two could cost less than thirty dollars. This makes it an excellent place for a day out with friends or going somewhere with a boyfriend or girlfriend without having to ask your parents for a lot of money.

La Esperanza is one of the most authentic Mexican restaurants in South Jersey and is certainly worth checking out.

An affordable taste of Old Italy

Pasta Pomodoro is located in the heart of Washington Township just seconds away from the high school. It opened in November 2002.

This restaurant is operated and owned by the Saporacio family. Next door to the restaurant is Sal’s Pizza, also owned by the Saporacios for nearly two decades. As our township started to grow and expand the family wanted to extend their restaurants. Pasta Pomodoro offers wide varieties of Italian dishes from Northern and Southern Italy.

While most of the business is take-out, they have a small but very cozy dinning area suitable for a night out with family or friends. The proprietors have many authentic vases and artwork that surround the dining area which create an Italian feel. You feel at home because you are so close to your family and friends while you are dining.

Whether you are having dinner or lunch you should try their amazing appetizers which are priced under ten dollars.

My waitresses pointed out that the majority of customers order Bruschetta with diced tomatoes, garlic, basil and extra virgin olive oil for \$5.25.

Or you could skip a warm up and dive straight into the main course for the day. For under \$17.00 you can try a house special, Ravioli Monteverde, raviolis served in a pesto cream sauce topped with fresh tomatoes, sun dried tomatoes, spinach and shrimp. Another meal that customers favor is Chicken Parmigiana and Chicken Marsala. All of their chicken entrees are served with warm bread and Penne Pasta Marinara and everything together costs under \$15.00.

The menu items are very

marinated in garlic chipolte sauce.

If you aren’t a steak lover you can always try “pollo”, or chicken. La Esperanza describes “Pechuga a la Mexicana” a finger licking dish with diced onions, jalapeño peppers, tomatoes and seasoned cilantro that is cooked in a spicy sauce. The menu is well- developed and appeals to everybody and every taste.

authentic and have descriptions underneath their names.

The restaurant also serves fresh salads, veal, and seafood. Even veal and seafood are very reasonably priced. Only about ten of the of the entrees are priced over \$24.00!

Today, if you wanted fresh and a variety of dishes you wouldn’t be able to find that and a great price. The family owned restaurant always keeps its customers in mind and knows what they like.

If you need an event catered Pasta Pomodoro can do it for you. All of their normal dishes can be easily prepared for you in a larger quantity.

Pasta Pomodoro, located on Egg Harbor, offers a colorful menu of Italian dishes that is sure to please anyone. You could find directions at www.pastapomodoro-bygiovanni.com.

Roadhouse overhyped

Luke Verrillo '10

This spring, Texas Roadhouse opened for business on Cross Keys Road, and instantly became a favorite of many in the township. However, after recently dining at the steakhouse, I realized that it doesn’t live up to the hype.

Upon my arrival, my party and I were forced to wait outside for over an hour—despite the fact that we arrived on time and with a reservation. I don’t mind waiting to sit when there’s the dinner rush, but the lack of seating outside had me leaning up against parked cars. Also, unlike most restaurants known for their busy evening hours, Roadhouse doesn’t provide waiting guests with devices that will let them know when they will be able to be seated. Instead, we were forced to keep our eyes on a sign that displayed four constantly changing three-digit numbers. If we missed our number, we’d miss our meal.

The interior holds true to the Texas theme, the inside is decorated with Southern memorabilia and a sea of cacti. The floor may be covered in peanut shells (which are conveniently placed on the table when you arrive, along with freshly-made dinner roles), but it only adds to the roadhouse atmosphere. This place is meant for a fun night with your friends, not a stuffy dinner with the extended family.

The food itself is good enough, but nothing spectacular. You won’t be able to tell the difference between their burgers and Applebee’s or Friday’s. However, their main specialty—steak—can’t be beat. Before you are even seated, you can pick out your own cut of steak right at the kitchen door. Few other restaurants in the area offer that choice, putting Roadhouse slightly ahead of competitors in that department. The menu offers a variety of choices, but it’s nothing we haven’t seen before.

Texas Roadhouse is a fun place to eat and spend time with your friends, yes, but the restaurant never transcends the bar set by existing area eating establishments. It’s in no way a bad restaurant, yet it fails to live up to the expectations set for it.

2009 WTHS Teachers of the Year



Photo courtesy of Mr. Jerry Cullen

Made it to the big show. Mrs. Ann Hill and Mrs. Debbie McFadden prepare to take the field at Citizens' Bank Park on May 12. The pair kicked off Washington Township Night at the ballpark with McFadden throwing out the first pitch to Hill.

An advocate for students

Miranda Steinman '09

“I’m very honored,” says Mrs. McFadden regarding her 2008-2009 title of Teacher of the Year. She is especially honored to be associated with all of the other “past teachers who have been great.”

McFadden works in the language arts literacy program preparing students for the HSPA testing and also facilitates the students who did not pass the test.

She attended University of Dayton in Ohio, and earned her Bachelor Arts degree. McFadden is certified in special education and regular education, and has taught every grade from kindergarten to 12th.

She discovered her love for teaching while attending high school.

“I was the type of person who was always found around kids,” said McFadden,

“In high school I had the opportunity to work with a mentally challenged student. I actually taught him how to tell time. It was inspiring to see someone learn.”

After college, McFadden began to teach in a small, low income, farming community in Ohio. It was not hard for her to get a job here, because she taught where no one else wanted to. Although

satisfied with that teaching job, McFadden had to leave it when she moved to NJ. She came to teach at Washington Township, and has been an important member of the staff for 22 years.

McFadden’s contributions do not stop at teaching. She was previously the Interact adviser, she has run the faculty talent show, she is the Future Teachers of America adviser, an honors coordinator, and People’s Choice co chair person. “I’ve been recognized for advocating for kids in the program, and I am very involved in the school community.”

Although at first, she may seem stern, McFadden’s teaching style proves to be effective. “I have very high expectations for students,” she says, “The kids don’t fail me; they rise to the occasion.”

She is very devoted to the classroom and her students, but outside of school McFadden enjoys reading and gardening. She is a huge baseball fan. Her favorite team is the Phillies and she and her family like to travel to ball parks around the country.

McFadden has put much effort into her teaching career. She feels fortunate that she has not had many hardships along the way. McFadden is a well deserving teacher for the Teacher of the Year title.

Keeping IMC cutting edge

Katelyn VerSprill '10

The IMC is a place of learning, literature, and technology. It is also the workplace and passion of Mrs. Hill, one of this year’s Teachers of the Year.

Hill, who was nominated by a library assistant for the award, was “shocked” when she heard the news. In fact, she did not even hear her name called because she was too busy congratulating Mrs. McFadden.

“The award is not mine,” Hill said. “It belongs to every one of the women who work in the library.”

Before becoming our well-loved librarian, Hill was a Social Studies teacher with a BA from Penn State and a Masters in Social Studies from The College of New Jersey. However, she became restless in her chosen field and decided to earn another degree: a Masters in Information and Library Science from Rutgers University.

After graduating, Hill saw an ad in the paper advertising the position of librarian at WTHS. She has graced our IMC ever since.

“I am blessed everyday I come to work,” she said.

While the library is stocked with a wide selection of books and has some of the best new technology available, Hill still has goals she would like to reach.

“The goal is to make this library the best it can be for the students,” she claims. Such a goal includes learning about new technology and keeping up to date with the latest literary crazes by intergrating it into the IMC.

However, Hill is willing to commit. “The library combines reading, technology, collaboration, and teachers,” she said.

The IMC also receives generous funding, enabling the purchase of new software and books. A little help from the administration also aids in making the library the best it can be.

Because of her hard work and dedication, it is easy to see why Mrs. Hill has won the Teacher of the Year award.

“She bends over backwards to help whoever needs her,” says coworker Mrs. Hackett.

With such a love of “working with the teachers and students” as well as a love for the library itself, Mrs. Hill makes the IMC a warm and welcoming place.

“It’s interesting and fun,” says coworker Mrs. Partridge of working with Hill. “She inspires us to learn more.”

People

Freshman swims towards success

Katie Powell, '12

Many people in our community are ambitious individuals who want the best for themselves and will work as hard as necessary to achieve their pinnacle.

Jessica Seigel, a freshman at Washington Township High School, is one such person.

Seigel is very accomplished in many areas of life. She is a talented artist, pianist, and swimmer for two teams: Greater Philadelphia Aquatic Club (GPAC), and the Washington Township swim team.

In fact, one of her greatest accomplishments has been making the Junior Olympics for swimming. "It has encouraged me to keep swimming and trying to do well in all areas of my life," she said.

Seigel enjoys attending school each day, especially English and art. "It helps my creativity flow," she said.

While for many students the day ends at 2:10, Seigel's day is only just beginning. Mondays bring a musical element to Seigel's life when she takes piano lessons. Then, she applies her lessons later in the week as she teaches younger children to play piano as well. On some days, she can be found staying after to solidify her understanding of the day's lessons and skills.

Before important high school meets, Seigel will most likely be in the pool, under the watchful



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

Seigel can be found in the hallways long after the final bell. She often stays after for swimming, mock trial, or academic help.

eye of Coach Jess Slates. Then, every night, Seigel finishes the day with a grueling two hour workout with the GPAC, where she not only becomes

more physically and mentally fit, but she also gets the chance to hang out with many of her friends who she wouldn't see otherwise.

Seigel participates in mock trial, which she enjoys for many reasons, mostly because it prepares her for her dream career as a lawyer. "I like to argue," She said. "I'm very competitive."

Along with her ambitions to be a lawyer, Seigel also wants to publish a book and be a politician. "I love to write," she says. Although her now life-long dream is to be a lawyer, Seigel wasn't always so sure.

"When I was in first grade I wanted to be a marine biologist, but then I found out they made no money. Then I wanted to be a fashion designer or the fashion editor of Vogue."

To further her chances of achieving lawyer/politician/writer status, Seigel enters many writing contests and works hard in all her mock trial competitions.

Like any humble citizen, Seigel's favorite topic is not herself. However, one of her favorite traits about herself is her sarcasm and sense of humor, because she can make other people laugh and feel good about themselves.

Seigel is not always perfect.

"The other day in biology, I said Africa looked like an upside down thumbs up. Then I realized that an upside down thumbs up is called thumbs down," Seigel admitted, "so then I felt really stupid."

Senior stays on track, looks to the future

Anthony Rue, '09

Jordan DiPinto '09 is involved in various after-school activities, clubs, and sports, and is a model of excellence and consistency. He has managed to maintain a GPA grade of 96 and a class rank of 115 simultaneously.

DiPinto is a member of Interact, Student Council, and DECA. He considers National Honor Society to be his favorite club.

"It's a great honor to be apart of NHS," he said, "It's considered a prestigious group and it's a really positive thing for colleges when they see you've been involved in it."

DiPinto is very active in the community and pole vaults for the track team during the winter and spring seasons. DiPinto has had his share of success despite the past two seasons.

"I've suffered season-ending injuries in the past 2 years, so I haven't been very lucky but I'm glad I have stayed healthy all season this year," said DiPinto.

Some wonder how DiPinto is able to stay focused on school work with all of these different

activities.

"I just try to stay organized, manage my time wisely, and get all my assignments done when they're due," DiPinto said.

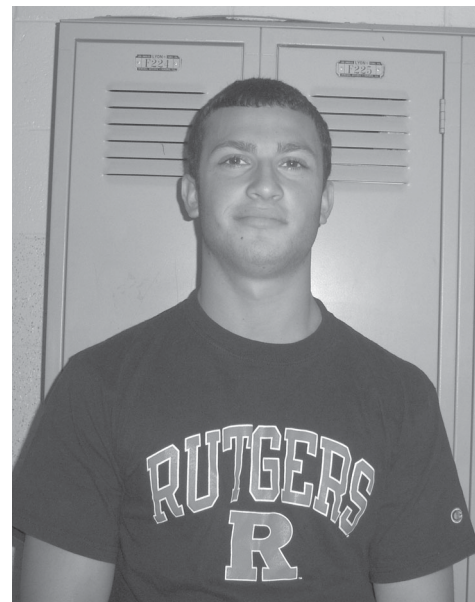
He may be a modest person, but all you have to do is ask one of his fellow classmates to find out just how hard he works.

"[DiPinto] is always organized and consistent. He's been that way ever since I've known him so it's not a surprise that he's been so successful," said Mike Kratchwell '09.

As for what lies in the future, DiPinto has that figured out already. He is looking at a career in marketing. After investigating college choices, he decided on Rowan University.

"I chose Rowan based on its excellent business-marketing program. I felt it was a good fit for me because it allows me to stay close to friends and family," he said.

DiPinto envisions becoming an executive for a major sports marketing organization. With the effort and determination that he puts forth with everything he does, it's only a matter of time before his dream is realized.



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Jordan Dipinto plans to pursue a career in sports marketing.

Home workout offers savings, convenience.

Esther Kang '10

According to an online statistics, 54 percent of Americans are considered overweight and 20 percent are clinically obese. With these escalating numbers, it is obvious that most people continue to gain weight because they do not act and try to change their eating habits. Thus, it is important that we try to correct ourselves while we can. An excellent way to both lose weight and "keep in shape" is to exercise. Exercising does not necessarily mean that people have to go to a local gym and use professional equipment. There are many ways to work out at home and in other

places, besides a gym. The convenience of working out at home makes it much easier for people to actually exercise.

One method of having a "gym of your own" at home is to purchase exercise equipment. Because of the high cost, many people are unable to do so, and they use that excuse to avoid working out. There are many alternatives

One of the best ways to work out the entire body is to run. A treadmill is not required and people can run almost anywhere: home, school, a local park, around the neighborhood, etc. Running not only helps to burn calories, but also works out the body and its cardiovascular system.

Studies have shown that running can help lower blood pressure and can strengthen the heart. If running is not something you like to do, you can always choose to walk a long distance, power walk, or jog.

Walking is something that most humans do solely to get from "point A" to "point B". It is a common thing and the average person does not realize that he/she is "working out" when walking great distances. Walking may not help much to lose weight quickly, but it definitely keeps you healthy. Studies have shown that walking can reduce certain medical conditions such as high blood pressure and heart disease.

Another way of working out the entire body is simply jumping rope. Rope jumping is something almost everyone can do because it's really easy to learn. The only thing you need is a jump rope. Also, because it's portable, you can jump rope anywhere you want: in the living room, bedroom, kitchen, etc. Along with the benefit of being portable, it is also affordable. Instead of wasting a lot of money on a complicated exercise machine, you can be frugal, yet wise by buying a jump rope. When you jump rope, you're using all of the major muscle groups of your entire body. This helps to lose a great deal of weight, quickly. You can lose up to 1000 calories in an hour. In addition, because you are in constant motion, you are going to tone your muscles.

Stomach fat is a big concern of many who are overweight. The best way to lose that "jelly belly" is to work out your abdominal region. Sit ups are popular methods to work out the stomach area. By doing this exercise, you can lose the fat and tone your stomach at the same time. Within a matter of months, you can drop weight and have a lean, defined stomach. You can do sit ups almost anywhere, anytime. No equipment is necessary!

A lot of people use the excuse of unable to going to the gym as a reason not to exercise. With these small, frugal exercises you can help improve the well-being of your body while not spending a great deal on a membership to a gym or buying expensive equipment. Everyone can exercise and you can too. Start exercising now and take the initiative to live a healthier life!

Learning to save eases financial woes

Gina Peloso '09

Many working teenagers become so overwhelmed with school work that they lose track of what they are spending their income on. They become used to spending their entire paycheck. This can often lead to hard times in the long run when you're independent and your income becomes your life line.

When it comes to establishing a budget, the first thing to do is make a list of all of your expenses for the next two weeks. Make sure to include money you will need to pay for gas, car bills, cell phone costs, and any other extra expenses you will owe for that month.

You should also include on the list a percentage of money you will need for any social activities and outings. After your list is made, estimate how much money you will need to pay for all of these expenses. If possible, try to minimize the amount of money you will need by cutting out some of the unnecessary expenses.

Once you have an estimate of the amount of money you have, ask your parents, or if you are eighteen years of age, to look into opening a savings account at your local bank. This process is quick and easy and will be a sure way to keep track of and help you save your money.

When you open a savings account, you are given a savings book. This is a helpful

visual to see how your money is adding up. Each time you deposit or withdraw money, it will be stamped on your savings book. This will make you eager to save your money and anxious to see it add up. A savings account also helps resist the temptation of spending money because it will not be in your pocket, but instead stowed away safely in the bank.

Once you have your paycheck, your list of money needed, and an activated savings account, fill out a withdrawal slip withdrawing only the money that you will need. Make sure to put all of the extra money into your account for safe keeping.

It is in your best interest to keep your deposited money in your savings account as long as possible. This will become beneficial for you because the longer your money stays in your savings account, the quicker it adds up.

For every month your money is left in your savings account, a percentage of interest is added. This can eventually add up to high numbers and ultimately leave you with more money.

All in all, saving your money properly is a crucial part of becoming independent. By following these simple steps, saving and budgeting the money you earn will come at ease. You will be surprised how quickly your money adds up when it is properly and safely put into the bank instead of your pocket.

A savings account also helps resist the temptation of spending money because it will not be in your pocket, but instead stowed away safely in the bank.

Are you interested in drawing, photography, or graphic design?

Email the Patriot at www.wthspatriot@gmail.com for more information on how you can use your artistic talents!

Odds & Ends

Say "hola" to Dora's new look

Audrey Althouse '12

"Come on Boots! Vamanos!" Many will recognize this line, popularized by the *Nickelodeon* show, *Dora the Explorer*. Since 2000 Dora, along with Boots, Backpack, and her other amigos, has found her way to hearts of many children, and parents. Her iconic look is known by almost every kindergartener. But Dora is soon expecting a huge change.

By fall 2009 Mattel will be releasing a new interactive Dora the Explorer doll that will be able to hook up to a USB port. But here is the twist; the doll will be Dora, only 10 years older. This would mean a whole new tween look for Dora. The new makeover will include, a whole new outfit, longer hair, and lip gloss. But Dora's outfit change leads to other changes.

When it comes to the new Dora makeover, expect Dora to be backpack-less, and with none of her exploring companions. Dora will no longer have Boots, Backpack, or Swiper. Nick Raggio '11 says about *Nickelodeon* getting rid of Dora characters, "It is fine that Nick wanted her to grow up, but they're just taking it to far, like, why get rid of Boots?"

This Dora will not replace the loved Dora the Explorer show. It will just be a new interactive online doll. When the doll is hooked up onto the computers USB slot, a virtual world for children



The "older" look of the Dora the Explorer interactive doll has many former fans throwing tantrums.

comes to life. You will be able to change Dora's hair color, eye color, and her outfit. Along with Dora in this virtual world, you will discover mysteries, meet new friends, and get to go through all kinds of Spanish speaking levels. According to Mattel, the interactive doll will come to \$59.99 and will be out by fall '09.

The main reason why Mattel and Nickelodeon are releasing the new Dora is for making money. Brenda Savelski '11 says "I would not spend that much money, and kids probably shouldn't be allowed to get \$60 toys. They don't learn

how to respect that." But Mattel still expects the Tween Dora to go flying off the shelves.

Yet many moms disapprove of the new Dora. It is the idea of having a child's role model growing up so quickly. The new Dora may cause a reaction of kids wanting more materialistic things. The tween Dora wears lip gloss, and has trendy clothes. Mothers are afraid that their young daughters might start wearing lip gloss now, and grow up too fast.

On *Facebook*, the socializing network, you can join groups such as "Keep Dora's image clean" or "Moms against tween Dora."

Emily, a kindergartner at Grenloch Terrace, still loves the old Dora too. Emily said "I really like Dora with Backpack, and she was funner when she was small."

But for anyone agreeing with Dora's new image, don't worry, you are not by yourself. Many others believe that since kids who started watching from the beginning of Dora are grown up, maybe now Dora can grow up too. She can show the way towards growing up, and entering new schools, or places.

The Dora change is a big topic among parents, and anyone else who loves Dora's image. Whether you agree with the new Dora doll, or just want Boots and Backpack back you're going to have to just get ready for the change.

Noticing the 90s by Alysa Couce '09

Girl, boy groups set tone for decade

Alyssa Couce '09

Can you remember music from the 90's? The Spice girls were always a favorite group. Remember jamming out with your friends or jumping on your bed using a brush as a microphone? The five London goddesses, Sporty, Ginger, Posh, Baby, and Scary, were a rage in the 90's, incorporating "girl power" in every song.

The Spice girls were known for their crazy but cute outfits and their catchy songs. Even to this day, when I hear one of their songs, I remember all the words, especially my favorite song, "Stop (right now)." I can still remember having a sleepover and me and my friends dancing all around my living room with my Aunt blasting the song through my stereo.

Another popular group was the Backstreet Boys. The quintets were made up of A.J. McLean, Brian Littrell, Howie Dorough, Kevin



The Spice Girls always dressed to match their vibrant personalities.

Richardson, and Nick Carter. Their two famous songs were "All I Have To Give" and "I Want It That Way." I can remember buying their cd and listening to it over and over again. Can you

remember seeing their music video singing "Backstreets back, ALRIGHT!"

Who could forget Britney Spears? With her outrageous media coverage, no one can. Back in the 90's she was known for her talent and innocence, not for her obscene behavior and trashy ex-husband. Britney's first major song was "Hit Me Baby One More Time". I can remember watching her music video and listening to her songs over and over in my room. Her CD, "Baby One More Time", was girly and pink and showed her sitting on her knees looking completely innocent.

Britney Spears was a rage for kids all over. She was not only an amazing singer but a role model. It's funny how most of us spent so much time reading about how phenomenal she was and now we spend so much time discussing every mistake she makes. Even with all her mistakes; it doesn't change the hours we spent listening to her songs over and over learning every word.

Recession changes spending habits

Luke Verrillo '10

America's current economic recession has added stress to everyday life, making each dollar bill saved more important to millions of Americans. With the country's financial system out of whack, teenagers must find ways to endure these times.

The stock market's decline is forcing people all over to give up the luxuries in their life and teenagers are no exception. For them, this often means no movie theaters on Fridays or settling for a less expensive prom dress.

"Just hanging out with your friends at someone's house can be just as fun [as going out]," Cara Swetsky '10, comments. "Carpooling, too, is always something that my friends and I do."

Experts on news networks channels like CNN advise people to moderately cut back on expenses but stress the importance of not letting the economic condition halt their lives. Smart shopping, such as using coupons or waiting for sales, is encouraged.

"My mom always keeps her eyes open for coupons and gives them to me before I go the mall," Janel Eldridge '12 said. "I don't have a job right now, so every little thing helps."

Netflix DVD rental service, boasting a collection of 100,000 titles and beating the competition by about 97,000, has experienced a record-breaking quarter. Video stores like Blockbuster are significantly more expensive than Netflix and don't offer as much time for each rental.

"Right now we think [the surge in success] is because the value argument is stronger," Netflix spokesman Steve Swasey adds at a recent press conference. "[Netflix's] offerings are resonating loudly with concerned consumers."

Video games too, experts are advising, are smart buys in today's economy and provide for countless hours of entertainment.

"Even if it seems pricey at \$60," Scott Steinberg, publisher of DigitalTrends.com says to CNN, "[video games] can amount to a much sounder investment...from the comfort of one's home."

From shopping to movies to video games, teenagers can still enjoy their favorite things in life without worrying about the recession. Evaluating the bottom line and spending one's money smartly will go a long way.

Japanese club blossoms

Jennifer Russo '10

Anthony Nastasi '12, better known as "Nino" isn't happy that many are generalizing his club as an anime club.

The Japanese are known for their many animated stories such as "Naruto" and "Full Metal Alchemist", but this is not what Nastasi's club is about. This is a club to learn about the Japanese people themselves.

The first half of this club is treated as a Beginning One language class, learning the basic fundamentals of the language.

But the second part is quite different then many language classes here at Township. The second part of this club is where you learn many things about Japanese culture, from how you start a class to how the Japanese celebrate Christmas.

This club has met every other Wednesday since mid-October, in F-19 switching off with Asian Awareness club. For a brand new club just starting out this year, it has hit off well, with a full classroom of students every time leaving the later arrivals to the meetings with only standing room. "I was surprised at the number that should up" Nastasi said. Even though he knew that many wanted to attend, the sheer number that came still surprised him.

Nastasi idea of starting this now popular club was simple from a book he read. He was so eager in starting this club, that he started to work for it's acceptance by the Board of Education immediately, even though he is a freshman.

The adviser for this club, Mr. Dempsey, functions as only the supervisor. "...Nino is running the show. He takes attendance, comes up with lesson plans and teaches the class." Dempsey said

Nastasi is planning to do events outside the classroom as well. He plans to go to a Japanese restaurant, where they cook in front of the patrons, and attend the Sakura ("Cherry Blossom/Tree") Festival in Philadelphia. The Sakura Festival, happening only in Philly, is the oldest and most attended anime convention in the Pacific Northwest.

This club is also a great opportunity for any willing student, to learn Japanese. It is the only place in Township that one can officially learn this language.

"I've always wanted to learn about [the Japanese], but I never had a chance because I didn't know how," said one of the club members, Samantha Stewart.

"[Japanese] is really interesting and is actually easy to learn." says Aleks Fritz another member.

"From a Westerners stand point the difference in cultures interests me," said Dylan Giffin. The culture of the Japanese is very different from ours. When the teacher walks in the classroom, for example, you have to stand and until your name is called. When it is your name called you say "Hai" and then sit down.

"I like the fact that people want to learn Japanese. I don't feel like an outcast anymore" said club member, Kaitlyn Uhrick.

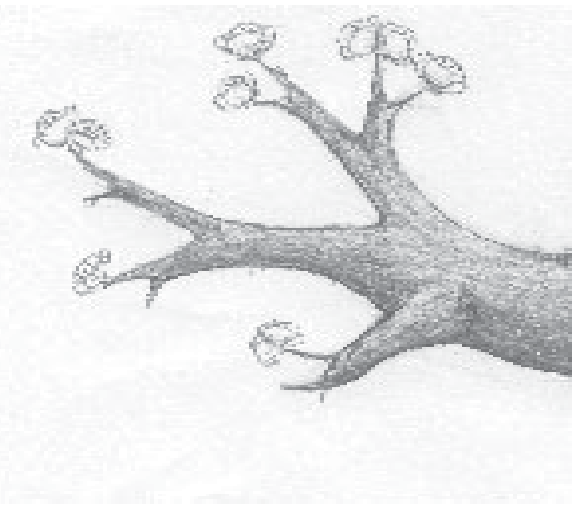


Illustration by Christina Alberici '09

Japanese club educates members on social and historical aspects of the Japanese culture

Do The *Write* Thing!
Join The Patriot
 write - edit - illustrate

Swastikas on the ceiling

Artwork evokes Holocaust memories

Theresa DiGravio '12
photos by Gina Parker '09

For the last ten years, room D-16 has been somewhat of a mystery to outsiders. Artwork replaces the ceiling tiles. The extremely graphic tiles glued to the ceiling have caused many people, staff and students alike, to stop and stare. After a simple walk by the room, people are left with questions concerning those pictures.

Mrs. Debbie McFadden and her teaching partner Mrs. Carol DeLucas decided to create a quilt project, a collage of student posters based on the book *Night* by Elie Wiesel. For years the quilts were hung on the library walls and voted on by teachers. However, as the number of classes involved in the *Night* project expanded, the amount of space decreased.

In 1999, McFadden observed an art class where, to her surprise, she looked up to see the students' paintings on the ceiling. This sight impressed and inspired both her and DeLucas. They decided to hang the *Night* posters from the ceiling of their classroom, room D-16.

After DeLucas retired, Mr. Gerald Cullen became McFadden's teaching partner and they continued the *Night* project.

The teachers recognized that not everyone learns the same way. The idea behind the project was to reach students who might not test well. "Being able to draw a scene from the book allows the students to show how they have interpreted the book," said McFadden. It also allows students to show their understanding of the book's plot through a different form of evaluation. The only set guidelines are that the poster must illustrate a scene from the story or show five of the story's elements. Other than that, the reading of the book and the project are completed during class along a two month period. It all comes together to illustrate the main concept of *Night*, "Never shall I forget".

This project has been going on for over a decade. While the locations of the end result and even the teaching staff have changed, one variable that has proved irreplaceable is the book that this project is centered on. McFadden and Cullen continue to base the project on Wiesel's book because of the reaction of the students.



While some students are initially shocked by the ceiling on the first days of school, they quickly grow accustomed to it. Here seniors Shanayia Dausuel, Basem Youssef and J.D. Richburg work on an English assignment in D-16.



Created by students, the ceiling tiles in D-16 depict chilling images associated with the novel *Night*. While some depict specific scenes or events in the novel, others illustrate more general interpretations of the Holocaust and of the Nazi regime that was responsible.



The ceiling displays artwork from students dating back to 1999.

McFadden said, "The book creates feelings of empathy within the students."

When this story takes place the author is in his early teens. The fact that our students are near the same age allows them to better put themselves in his shoes, to see what life was like for him."

"The book creates aware-ness of other forces in the world that are evil," said Cullen. Students have enjoyed the project and the experience so much that some have come back years later just to see their tiles.

Despite the gruesome details held within many of the posters and some parental concerns, McFadden and Cullen have received nothing but support from the school's administration, Mr. Joe Bollendorf in particular. You don't have to be in McFadden and Cullen's classes to read *Night*. Both teachers would recommend the book for anyone age fourteen and older. Wiesel's story has captured hundreds of peoples' attention over the past few decades. From high school students who have never liked reading to adults who read a new book every other day, *Night* has stood out and captured many people. *Night* provides an insight into the mind of a young Jewish boy forced to work in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. It also provides knowledge of the time period. If you have the chance, visit room D-16, where the searing images are fixed on the classroom ceiling.

My Peruvian Adventure

Briana Franks '09

Two summers ago I went on a medical mission trip to Lima, Peru for a month. Our team administered basic medical care to orphanages and rural villages.

I didn't know what I was getting myself into. All I knew was that I wanted to go into the medical field, and I figured this would be a great opportunity. After my first night there, I wanted to go home. I couldn't contact my parents, we didn't have showers, and we didn't exactly have toilets. We had a hole in the ground that we had to pay to use. I was way out of my comfort zone.

After our first orphanage trip I realized why I was there. We had around 50 kids, and I helped with dental work. It broke my heart to see two year olds that didn't have teeth because they had rotted away. In America we complain when we have a small cavity; these kids had huge gashes in their teeth with no way to fix them.

I will never forget a little girl that came up to me crying and holding her mouth. I can barely speak Spanish so it was extremely hard to communicate. She just held on to me and wouldn't let go. I broke down. I thought of all the times I



The kids were in desperate need of medical attention. Dozens of families would show up each day seeking care.



photos courtesy of Briana Franks '09

The warm welcome we recieved from the local population was reassurance that we were doing something worthwhile.

had ever complained. I never realized how materialistic I had become. I took everything for granted, even my family. I had changed so much that no matter how hard I tried to explain it, no one really understood the impact it had on my life.

The second week we traveled nine hours to a small rural village called Huanuco in northern Peru. The bus ride was long and the roads were extremely bad. We were traveling into the mountains, and between the altitude change and motion sickness all of our volunteers were getting sick. That was possibly the hardest part of the trip. When we arrived, we were able to help out with the medical tents and hospitals. Well, the first tent I walked into I thought I was going to pass out. Right before we arrived, that tent was used for the

O.R. The walls were covered in blood. The tent was to be used for pediatrics and I was scheduled to help the doctors examine the kids.

After our first week of working in the medical tents, I knew I would never be the same. Once while I was helping the kids in the pediatrics unit, a nurse came up to me. I couldn't understand what she was saying but she handed me one of the medical reports and pointed to the trauma tent. As I waited for the doctor to read the medical report, a rush of people burst into the tent.

Through the chaos I caught a glimpse of a man saturated in blood. I will never forget the faces of the staff as they rushed to save the man's life. Suddenly a doctor grabbed me and started yelling in Spanish. He started to point at the man's wrist where he was still gushing blood from a deep wound. He took my hands and squeezed as he wrapped them around the man's wrist. We didn't have any supplies so they were trying everything they could to clot the man's bleeding. It felt like time stood still. I realized I was covered in another person's blood. I was overwhelmed by the situation and I prayed for that moment to end.

I was speechless for days. I can't help but wonder if he survived. It turned out he was in a car accident two hours away and his only chance to live was through our efforts. Another incident I will never forget was when I spotted a lady sitting on a bench outside our pediatrics tent.

She was crying and holding her daughter who was also in tears. I tried to ask her what was wrong, and she gave me her daughter's medical report. I called over one of our translators to read it to me. It turned out that her daughter had a tumor in her stomach. Learning this I told her not to worry. Her daughter's case was treatable, and she just had to travel to Lima for the surgery.

She began sobbing as she said, "I don't have the money to take her."

It broke my heart because her daughter meant the world to her. I thought how much could it possibly be? The exchange rate for one American dollar is three soles. So I asked her how much it would cost for her to travel to Lima. She said, "25 soles each way [17 American dollars]." We weren't allowed to bring money to the medical sites, but for some reason that morning I put 50 soles in my jean pocket. The expression on her face and her embrace when I gave her the money needed to save her daughters life made me cry.

Not everyone has a life changing experience, but just think of everything that we have here in America, our education and opportunities that people in third world countries will never have. I went through culture shock when I came home.