

Interview

In stride with Anthony Dentino

Phil Jaffe '11

Anthony Dentino '11 is one of the stand-out athletes at WTHS. He has won meet after meet, and seems to be on the morning announcements every other day for winning one thing or another. This reporter was lucky enough to sit down and get some one-on-one time with him.

The Patriot: Thanks for sitting down with me. First off, what is your main goal in life?

Anthony Dentino: I'm going to be attending Rider University and majoring in secondary education. Once I get out of school, I'd like to teach and coach, probably at the high school level. And, of course, I'd like to live to be 200.

P: What would be some of your short term goals?

AD: Personally, I was really happy with my cross-country season... I got sick at the end but I was able to bounce back for track and I've also been pleased with my progress throughout the track season.

P: Who would you say are a couple of role models to you?

AD: I would say my two main role models are my parents. Without them, I would never be



Photo courtesy of Brittney Lillya

Anthony Dentino '11 has accumulated several awards throughout his high school career.

where I am now. They're always there for me and they help me out a lot; if I ever need them they're always there for me. From a track standpoint though, definitely Coach Bostwick. Without him I wouldn't be where I am in track. The one thing I pride myself on is hard work, but without his direction and coaching I wouldn't be the runner I am today.

P: What kind of advice would you offer to young, aspiring athletes?

AD: For runners, I would say that the biggest thing is to work hard. You need to trust your coach, and you have to understand, especially here at Township, for guys that are going to come into the program; if you just listen to the coaches, you're going to improve. And never hesitate to ask questions of the coaches or the older athletes. The other thing that I would say is that cross-country and track are sports where what you put in, is what you'll get out.

P: What would you say in terms of advice to young people in general?

AD: Definitely stay involved. The four years really fly by, and that's why you need to get involved. It's hard to make friends at first so if you get involved with a club or sport, it makes it a lot easier. And of course, work hard in school. Your grades are the most important thing.

P: How would you say the season went for you and your team?

AD: The season went well for us in both cross-country and track. In cross-country and outdoor track, we ultimately fell short of our goals of winning the Gloucester County Championship and the Olympic Conference title, but we had good runs in both. In the indoor season, we pulled out a shocker and were able to win the South Jersey Group IV Sectional title. I was really proud to be a part of that team because three weeks before we had only scored four points at the State Relay Meet, and to make such a quick turnaround was something that we all took pride in.

P: What about individually?

AD: Individually I was really happy with the cross-country season. I never would've expected to accomplish what I did this year, even as of last year. Breaking 16 minutes at Holmdel and winning sectionals were definitely the highlights of my season. I was really glad to see all my hard work over the summer pay off. Ultimately I did get sick at the Meet of Champions, and had a rough start to my indoor season but I kept at it and listened to Coach Bostwick and was able to maintain high mileage throughout my training and ended the indoor season on a high note. As for the outdoor season, I've been happy with my

progress. I was able to break 2 minutes in the 800-meter run, which was one of my big goals heading into the season, and while I wasn't able to break 4:20 in the mile, I was able to break the school record in the 5000-meter run, and I'm hoping to finally get the school record in the 2 mile, which I just missed at our State meet. One of the biggest reasons for my wanting to achieve this is that Coach Bostwick has coached every other record we have, and I'd like to be able to get him the one he doesn't have.

P: What's one big thing that you'd like to do in life?

AD: As I said earlier I want to teach and coach. As far as that goes, if I can change kids' lives for the better and help them accomplish what they want to in the classroom, in addition to on the track, then I'll consider myself a success in those areas. I'd also like to start a family.

P: Now, you're a big fan of basketball, so I have to ask: why did you stop playing?! You're ridiculous out there, and you're constantly getting your Jimmer on.

AD: Honestly I stopped playing basketball because I just love track. I think that I'm doing better in track than I would have in basketball. I mean, don't get me wrong, I definitely miss the game, but at the same time I pretty much fell in love with track, and I'm really glad that I made the decision that I did.

P: Who is your favorite player to watch?

AD: In all honesty I'd have to say the aforementioned Jimmer Fredette. I've never seen a guy with that kind of range, and still have the ability to be effective while driving to the basket. He was like the college Reggie Miller, minus the flopping.

P: Who is in your opinion the future of the Township track squad?

AD: Usually what happens is that a lot of guys tend to grow up a lot during their junior and senior years so there're a lot of unexpected guys that take over and lead the program. But right now there are definitely some kids that look like they're on the path to being big contributors to our team. Right now we have an incredible sophomore class, both in the sprints and the distances, and I can definitely say our cross-country team will really be good next year, and for a few more to come. We also have a solid core group of sprinters that will really lead the team when they become upperclassmen. On the distance side, leading that will probably be Kyle Leonard '13, and on the sprint side it will probably be Drew Balkenhol '13, AKA Specs. I would also have mentioned some of the juniors, but they've already taken a lot of leadership.

The Patriot

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Girls capture SJ Group IV

Provide strong effort in loss to defending state champs

Ally Gallo '11

The pressure was on.

The Minutemaids have played a season worth talking about and made memories worth remembering. For the first time, they girls won the first seed in the state tournament. The team won their first three games and was anticipating a fourth win. With a record of 16-2, the girls had high hopes for the rest of their season. They were going for the South Jersey Group IV Sectional title.

On May 26, the girls defeated Lenape 14-7 and became the SJ NJSIAA Group IV champs.

"Being a senior on the team made us all step up our leadership and strive to come out with a great end to our season," Erin Waller '11 said.

The lacrosse team is led by varsity coach Sandy Stockl. With a 200th win celebration under her belt this season; she was ready to start her path going all the way with her girls. She feels the girls' deserved every bit of success they had this season.

Stockl relied on the three senior

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Photo courtesy of MS. JENNIFER REALI

The WTHS Minutemaids celebrate on the field minutes after winning the South Jersey Group IV championship.

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Photo courtesy of MS. ELIZABETH LONGO

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Township's finest honored for success

Ally Gallo '11

Field hockey player Lindsey Hatch '11 and wrestler Christian Mathew Salera '11 were named the Courier Post Scholar Athletes of the year and will be honored on Monday, June 13 at Valleybrook Country Club for all of their hard work and dedication throughout high school.

According to the Courier Post, thirty-seven seniors, representing 22 South Jersey high schools, were nominated by their athletic directors and guidance counselors. A selection committee, composed of Courier-Post editors and the Kiwanis Club of the Haddons narrowed the list to 20. Ten boys and ten girls are being honored for outstanding academic and athletic achievement, two from WTHS.

This season, along with being named Courier Post's Scholar Athlete, Hatch had many other accomplishments. She won First Team All-Olympic American Conference, First Team All- South Jersey, First Team All - Group IV, and First Team All- State. She scored a total of 32 goals and made 21 assists. She was picked for the National Field Hockey Coaches' Association High School Academic Squad, South Jersey Senior All-Star Showcase, National Women in Sports Award, and she was named the Olympic Conference Scholar.

"It was an honor and a privilege to be

nominated, let alone named a Scholar Athlete in this school," said Hatch. "There are so many talented student athletes in Township and to be selected was a great reward for all the hard work that was put in both on and off the field."

Salera will be graduating in the top five of the class of 2011. He was the captain of the varsity wrestling team this past season. He was also the District 30 and Region 8 runner-up and a state qualifier. He won First Team All- Olympic Conference, Courier Post First Team All- Group IV, 2nd Team- All Gloucester County, the Wendy's High School Heisman School award, and the Gloucester County Academic Excellence award. He was also honored as "Most Studious" by his classmates back in November.

"It feels really nice to be honored for all the hard work that I put into school and wrestling," said Salera.

Both Hatch and Salera have their reasons for staying so involved in both school and sports.

"I think it is important to be an all

around person. Succeeding in both wrestling and school made me feel like I was achieving that," said Salera.

They also think their dedication in high school will have an impact on their future.

"I think success in both academics and athletics is important because after playing 4 years of college field hockey I will need to use what I learned in the classroom to build a career,"



ALLY GALLO '11/The Patriot

Salera and Hatch are both honored and appreciative for being named WTHS Scholar Athletes.

Hatch said.

She believes her very goal-oriented, determined, and motivated personality helps her succeed. Similarly to Hatch, Salera feels he shares those qualities.

"I never really needed people to tell me what to do," said Salera. "I would just do it on my own, like going for a run for wrestling or studying a little extra for a physics test."

This fall, Salera will be attending John Hopkins University and Hatch will be attending Fairfield University. Both WTHS seniors are thankful for all of those who supported them throughout the years and look forward to continuing on with their success in college.

Renaissance rallies for spring

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

All students holding a red, blue or gold Renaissance card filed over to the soccer fields for an hour long period of fun, relaxation and rewards. The Spring Renaissance Rally on May 25, put together by the school's Renaissance club was a game and festival themed rally to celebrate successful students' hard work throughout the year.

Featuring a moon bounce, blow-up slide, water ice, a DJ and plenty of games, students were able to forget about all of their responsibilities and just have fun with their friends. It was a welcome respite for overachieving students

holding Renaissance cards.

"I worked really hard this year," said Corie Yatzus '11, "and it was nice that I got to take a whole period off during school just to relax and socialize."

At the beginning of the year, students with the Renaissance eligibility were also given a Fall Rally, which featured an in school dance in the 9/10 gym. However, it seemed as though this season's rally was the one the students preferred.

"This rally was definitely a more fun experience," said Raghav Sahni '11, the featured DJ at the rally, "All the students seemed to appreciate going outside and playing all the games. The water

It was nice that I got to take a whole period off during school just to relax and socialize.

-Corie Yatzus

ice was a nice addition too."

All in all, the Renaissance club tried their best to reward all students with good GPAs and a myriad of extracurricular activities. Some teachers even halted working in class for a period so that students going to the rally could enjoy themselves.

"It was worth it to miss my eighth period class for the rally," said Began Yatzus, "my teacher exempted students from class work

who went to the rally that day, so I didn't have to worry about making anything up."

Most participants felt the event worked as an incentive for students to stay motivated, even towards the end of the year.

"Getting out of that one class period, even for only a day, is just another reason for me to keep working as hard," said Sahni.

For those looking to become eligible for a Renaissance card, all the qualifications are listed in WTHS's student handbook.

"Hopefully I get to DJ another Renaissance event like that," said Sahni, "just because it was the best one that I've been to."

Bright looks back on successful season

Phil Jaffe '11

The Washington Township Minutemen baseball team is having a successful season. One of the driving forces behind said success is senior pitcher Tyler Bright. Bright is 3-1 with one save and an ERA of 1.83 to go along with 25 strikeouts and only seven walks at this point in the year. Recently I got to sit down with the ace of the Minutemen pitching staff, and ask him a few questions.

The Patriot: So first off, how's the season going for the Minutemen?

Tyler Bright: It's going well, all around we're solid.

P: You guys recently won the Grand Slam Title. How'd it feel?

TB: We didn't really worry about it too much. There are other important events (the season as a whole, the Diamond Classic, and the playoffs) that currently garner more attention.

P: What do we here at Township need to know about our Minutemen? (big games coming up, tournaments, key players, etc.)

TB: The regular season's closing down now, but like I said earlier, the playoffs and Diamond Classic are coming up; for game times and locations feel free to check your local newspaper. As far as key players go, it would be hard to pick just a few. Everyone contributes in some capacity.

P: How about some young players who look like



Photo Courtesy of Tyler Bright

Senior pitcher Tyler Bright has created a buzz throughout South Jersey.

they're going to be good for a while?

TB: Sophomores Shaine Hughes, Matt and Ryan Long, Billy Grubb, and Brandon Diciano will support juniors Matt Laudenslager, Tyler Flockton, Tom Monteith, and Vinnie Nocella next year.

P: Do the other players and coaches often rip on you for having red hair?

TB: More or less just good natured ribbing. It always helps that Roy Halladay has some red in his hair too.

P: Speaking of Roy Halladay, a lot of people are excited about the Phillies this year. What's your take on them, and who do you think is going to be the best pitcher in baseball this year?

TB: The Phillies will go as far as the pitching

takes them. The offense is average this year, middle of the league to be honest, but it's more than good enough to allow the pitching to win. This year's best pitcher could very well be Josh Johnson of the Florida Marlins. With his big build and dominating repertoire he should have the stamina as well as the stuff to be a force this year and for years to come.

P: So let's get more into you. What kind of pitcher are you, what pitches do you throw, and if you had to pick one, what MLB player would you compare yourself to, and why?

TB: I've always considered myself to be more of a finesse pitcher with more of a reliance on movement and command. I throw a two-seam fastball, slider, and change-up. As for a comparison, I'd say Greg Maddux because of the afore-mentioned movement and command.

P: What are your plans for after high school? Planning on playing in college?

TB: At this point I'm going to George Mason University. As far as playing there, it would be a stretch seeing as I'd need about six things to go right, or wrong in their case, for me to make the team.

P: What things do you mean?

TB: Some of their players getting drafted, transferring, failing out, etc.

P: Good luck to you, Tyler. May your future in baseball burn bright.

Sparacio makes all-conference first team

Chris Bosnjak '12

As WTHS spring sports are coming to an end, awards are being given out to players who have excelled during their regular season. Golfer Nick Sparacio '12 has been honored with his selection to the first team Olympic conference team. With his three best scores being 37 (against Triton), 41, and 41, Sparacio put the odds in his favor for being selected to this team.

"[It was] probably one of the best days I've had in awhile. I couldn't stop smiling once the round was over," Sparacio said about making the first team.

Sparacio was the only WTHS player to make the first team this year while Justin Elwell '13 made the second team Olympic conference.

With outstanding players such as Sparacio and Elwell, the team was able to get off to a great start with a record of 11-3 and the possibility to win out and grab the conference title. This team turned a ton of heads after many students at WTHS were worried that they wouldn't do so well after losing some key seniors last season. Those doubts before the season fueled Sparacio's motivation throughout the season, as well as the drive of his teammates.

"We proved a lot of people wrong. Nobody would have thought that we would do well after losing three seniors from last year. The *Courier Post* said that we had no shot to do anything this year. Now, we're 11-3. We have 7 kids that can post quality scores. Everybody is doing their part; it is not a one man show this year by any means," Sparacio stated.

This year's team wasn't surprised by their success this season.

"We all knew we had good scores in us. It was just a matter us going out there and posting good scores against the quality opponents. Having freshman Joe Russo '13 on the team this year helped a lot. He gives us a bright future. Sophomore Frank Hughes has improved immensely since last year. Seniors Jack Loeber '11 and Eric Naccarelli '11 put up solid scores consistently, in high thirties to low 40's," Sparacio said about his teammates.

This year's team also qualified for states placing 5th out of 14 teams. Because the team didn't place last year, the feat is all the more impressive.

To carry this season's success into the offseason and next year's spring, Sparacio plans to be out on the golf course every day or as he would say, "Practice, practice, practice. The more we play, the better we'll be."

It is exceptionally difficult to find time for practice while being in various after school activities. However, Sparacio manages to do his all of his school work while participating in after school sports and clubs. Taking the challenge in stride, Sparacio has worked hard to achieve the prestige of being inducted into the National Honors Society.

"I manage everything by just making sure I get done all my work no matter what. If that means I'll stay up late at night to finish some problems, I will. Even if I have to complete some work a couple periods before, [I'll do] whatever it takes to keep it up," Sparacio explained.

With his success on and off the course, the future of both Nick Sparacio and the WTHS golf team looks bright. Only time will tell whether or not the high expectations are met in the years to come.

Township Sports

Boys lacrosse has memorable year

Emily Bierman '11

This year, the boy's lacrosse team ended their season with a record of 12-3. The team said goodbye to captains Ryan Francisco '11, Rayd Barqawi '11, and Steve Chapman '11 as they get ready to go to college in the fall, along with the nine other players and the three managers on the team.

"It was a fantastic experience to play along side such a great team and to create so many memories with Township lacrosse," said Barqawi.

The team accomplished a lot this season. They were able to win the Gloucester Cup this year, which is the Championship game between two of the four (Kingsway, Clearview, West Deptford, and Washington Township High School) teams in Gloucester County.

"As a team this year, we did amazing. This year was definitely one I won't forget," said Francisco, a defenseman playing three years for the Minutemen. "Getting revenge on Kingsway and winning the cup felt great."

The team played their typical rivals, Clearview and Cherokee, but



RYAN SMITH '14/The Patriot

Solid teamwork helped the Minutemen achieve a successful season in 2011.

another rivalry was Shawnee on senior night.

"It was an honor to have all the boys I grew up playing with recognized all together with me," said Barqawi.

The team definitely had their troubles against their competitors, losing their senior night game 9-10. Even with the loss, the team still enjoyed senior night.

"My favorite part of senior night was being able to hear the

senior speeches," said Matthew Borie '11.

The team was led by a great coaching staff this year. Dan Wilber from Drexel University joined Bruce Jones and Steve Arata as the assistant defensive coach this year.

"Coach Bruce always has a smile and looks for the best in all of us," said Francisco. Coach Arata won coach of the year, which speaks for itself."

The junior varsity team also

had a lot of potential this year. They had a great win over Clearview, and a huge win over Shawnee. John Steck '14, Alex Chalef '14, Issac Egizi '14, Jeff Phillips '14 and TJ Mulderig '14 were five freshmen who were brought up to varsity this season.

Although their season is over, the boys have created everlasting friendships.

"The greatest times we had were always our bus rides home. I'll miss the brotherhood the most and team bonding, especially the pasta parties," said Francisco.

Borie also talked about the strong bonds he made with his fellow players throughout his seasons playing for the Minutemen. "My favorite part of the season was just the quality time with the teammates, and that's what I'm going to miss most about playing for Township lacrosse."

All of the players enjoyed their time together, whether it was on or off the field.

"The whole season all together was my favorite part, and I'll miss all the kids and connection we all had," said Barqawi. "I'll miss everybody because they're all family to me."

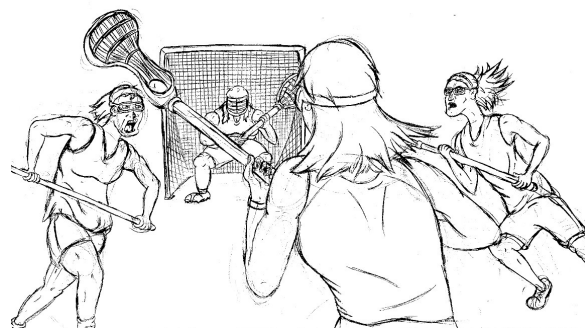
Girls lacrosse wins SJ Group IV

From LACROSSE Page 1
captains, Erin Waller, Taylor Foussadier and Sarah Kelly. The girls agree that playing on a team where they can depend on their leaders makes it easy to consistently win games.

"Our captains work really well together and are really good leaders," said Brittany Bollendorf '12. "They help keep the team together and pump us up before the games."

Other key players on the field are Megan Tiernan '12, Nicole Tiernan '12, Lou Kalitz '12, Christina Brennan '12, Katie Gill '11, Jill Spencer '11, Alyssa Remini '11, Brittany Bollendorf '12 and Meredith Bechler '12. The strong starting lineup helps them on the field.

"[It] is the connection we have along with the basic skills of throwing and catching. This team is extremely talented in all aspects. We are also extremely fast, which we use to our advantage," said Remini.



Nick LeDonne '12/The Patriot

The girls' started off the season from the very beginning making their fans proud. With a regular season record of 13-2 and then going undefeated in the Olympic conference winning the title, they contribute their success to the relationships they have forged.

"My favorite part about being on the lacrosse team is our bond on and off the field," said Waller. "Being great friends off the field helps us respect and trust one another."

On Thursday, June 2, the Minutemaids fell short by 3 goals in the Group IV State Championship with a final score of 14-11. As the season wrapped up, the seniors all agreed they wouldn't

have wanted to have it any other way to end their high school career.

"I would have to say that I'm glad we've come this far we have a really talented group of girls that play well together," said Spencer. "We're all friends on and off the field so it makes winning even better."

Academic effort recognized

Ally Gallo '11

Every year at Washington Township HS, the graduating seniors who are ending the year with a cumulative GPA of a 93 or above are recognized at the annual Honors Banquet. It is time to both celebrate and honor the most academically successful students of Washington Township High School. This year, 171 senior graduates of the class of 2011 were recognized at this event.

At the end of the 7th semester, each senior with a cumulative A average received a letter of invitation.

"My parents were so happy when they opened the letter," said Jenna Conroy '11. "It felt good to know how proud I've made them the past four years. The smile on their faces was really rewarding."

WTHS guidance counselor, Mrs. Tanya Brown-Johnson, organizes this event. Her duties included, sending the letters, collecting the responses, inviting the guest speakers, and arranging the dinner and table seating. She finds coordinating the Honor's Banquet every year to be very rewarding.

"I love seeing all of the parents' faces that night. It is such a beautiful event, and the families are so happy and proud to be there," said Brown-Johnson. "It's so nice to see everything come together."

On Wednesday, May 18, the honorees and their guests arrived at Auletto Caterers for a



ALLY GALLO '11/The Patriot

The 2011 honors graduates dressed up and attended a dinner at Auletto Caterers to be recognized for their academic success.

formal program. The night began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Student Council President Ryan Francisco and the National Anthem sung by senior Candace Brown.

11/12 Executive Assistant Principal Mrs. Theresa Pietrowski, Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, and Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Simone shared words of congratulations.

Guest speaker, 2002 honors graduate Blake Summerfield discussed how his hard work and dedication throughout high school played a major role in becoming successful. Class Council Executive Board Member Peter Spatocco then presented him with a gift.

After dinner and a musical interlude, 9/10 executive assistant principal Ms. Ann Moore

presented each of the Honor Graduates who took the stage one by one giving a briefly stating their future plans and to whom they attributed their success. They were then honored with the chord they will wear at graduation and two awards, one from the mayor and one from the principal.

To some of the graduates, talking on stage in front of over 300 people was harder than passing high school in the top of their class.

"I had my speech all planned out," said Gina Panchelli '11, "but when I got up there I just got so nervous. There were so many people staring back at me and I completely blanked out."

The night of the Honors Banquet was an awakening to the

seniors that graduation is quickly approaching. "It literally hit me that night that graduation is here. All of the speeches and everything made me realize that this is all over," said Carly Matticks '11. "Senior year went by so fast, and that night really made it official it's all ending soon."

Both the seniors and their families agree the Honors Banquet was a beautiful evening for the top academic students of the class of 2011 to be recognized.

"It was just relaxing. The speeches were entertaining, dinner was fun, and I basically just got to hang out with all my friends. It was a nice way to spend time with some people I'm going to soon never see again" said Mike Ziccardi '11.

Playwright headed for California

Sunset McCarthy '13

Washington Township High School student Samantha Smith '12 has won a gold medal from the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) for her one-act play *Broken Arrow*.

Smith plans to pursue a career in screenwriting for film and television. Though this is what she prefers, she also finds playwrighting interesting. Her genres of choice are romances and dramas.

Smith tells us about her reaction to winning, "I can't believe I actually won. I didn't put an extreme amount



MARK GIANNONE '11/The Patriot

Samantha Smith wrote a one-act play that took first prize in a state-wide competition.

of effort into it." Though she doesn't feel the play was excellent, other people do since she was able to get a gold medal for her work.

Three of her friends also competed in this competition in arts and science. Chloe St. George '12, Mark Cook '12, and Latoya Dove '12 competed in different categories. George was able to win a silver medal for entrepreneurship and Cook was able to win a silver medal for photography.

Smith's play centers around two people who recently broke up, torn apart by the disease HIV, who are speaking to a psychiatrist throughout the play. When asked

who the antagonist in her play was, she responded, "No one is really the bad guy because both are conflicted, both have their flaws."

So where is she headed now? Smith said, "Because I won the gold medal, I'm going to nationals in July in California." While in California she has to compete again. She'll be asked questions about her play, such as who the antagonist is and questions about the plot and such.

Smith goes to California often because she has family there, however this time it will be different. She said, "It's still really exciting to go for something like this."

Features

Rewind cast ready for Season 16

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

With an award winning communications program and excellent technological resources, it's no surprise that WTHS's Monthly Rewind has been such a success.

Each year, a large number of qualified students send in their applications, hoping that they will get the chance to take part in this monthly television show.

Communications technology teacher, Mr. Marty Bouchard takes his pick of eighteen students from the pile of applications and insures that each selected individual meets the criteria.

A Rewind cast member must have a good grade point average and a history of turning in telecomm projects on time. In addition, those applying for Rewind are asked to write an essay explaining why Rewind would benefit them as a student, and how they would be an asset to the cast.

When this year's acceptance letters were sent out to the Season

Monthly Rewind Season Sixteen

Nikki Sandelier: Producer
Kurt Beadling
Eric Brewer
Zach Summerfield
Kimmie Keppler
Lauren Rotella
Nicole Alexander
Dante Maglio
Olivia Dwyer

Brett Deckert
Jordan Colna
Lexi Morrison
Ashley Rosenberg
Shannon Heasty
Jill Nawoyski
Grace Dollarton
Julie Costa
Ryan Long

Sixteen cast members, those chosen were immediately excited to start the coming school year.

"I am very excited because I think we have a great cast and I'm going to have fun getting into crazy shenanigans with them," said Kurt Beadling '11.

Although some, like Kurt are looking forward to the fun times that this Rewind cast will have together, there will undoubtedly be a lot of work ahead.

"I'm definitely going to have my hands full trying to balance school, sports and Rewind. I'm just

really going to have to focus on keeping organized and managing my time in the right way," said Shannon Heasty '11.

Rewind requires each cast member to hand in a monthly segment, in which they preview or summarize an important event from the month before. However, handing in the segment on time each month proves to be a challenge, no matter how organized a cast member may be.

"Turning in a segment on time every month is so stressful. I'm constantly thinking about it. Then

as soon as one is done there's no time in between to start the next one," said Ally Gallo '12, a Season Fifteen cast member.

Despite all of the work Season Sixteen must endure, most of the cast members hope to continue their communications career in college.

"Ever since I was a kid, I loved to make movies. I think it would be cool and if not, I would at least do something television or film related," said Lexi Morrison '11.

Whether these students joined Rewind for the college benefits, for the fun or for the education in film and television, each cast member seems excited to top the previous season.

"This season will be different from the last because our group always puts a lot of effort into their work. We're all outgoing people, so we'll have awesome chemistry," said Beadling.

Monthly Rewind Season Sixteen urges everyone to tune in next year to channel 9 for Comcast, and 36 for Fios to watch them deliver WTHS's monthly news.

Perspective

Economy takes toll on babysitting

GINNA NEILL '12

Babysitting is the best job for someone who is under the age of 18 and has difficulty getting hired somewhere. Lately though, it seems as if more and more families are choosing to stay in on their Friday and Saturday nights now to spend time with their kids instead of going out and having "date night" or just getting out of the house for a little.

This seems to be somewhat of a good thing right? Well actually its bad news for teen babysitters. Recently, it's becoming harder and harder to find babysitting jobs nowadays because families are choosing to stay in. Let's face it, babysitters don't ask to be paid that much, even \$5 an hour is a reasonable price to babysitting or you base on how much you want to be paid by how many kids you're watching.

I used to babysit a lot, it's only been the past one or two years that I haven't really had any babysitting jobs at all. I used to babysit for a family that lives across the street from me who had two boys, one in elementary school and one in middle school. Since times have been hard

they have been having family members come over to watch them now and they're getting older so they don't need a babysitter really anymore.

Another family that lives around the corner from me, I used to babysit their two little girls for them. The one girl was about seven and her sister was only about one or two years old when I started babysitting them. I used to babysit them all the time in the summer, and not just for a couple hours, we're talking all day and all night. It was good money for me, I didn't ask to be paid much but the parents always went out of their way and did more than what I asked for.

Unfortunately, I drifted away from the family over this past summer and haven't really talked to them enough to start babysitting again, but they know I'm always there when they need me; they're just another family that either takes their kids with them or has a family member watch them instead.

It is a good thing to see families spend more time together nowadays, but I mean we all know parents need at least one or two nights of getting out of the house and having time to themselves.

Opinion - National Sports

Inside the Park by Rebecca Serad '11

Utley's return ignites offense

Rebecca Serad '11

As expected, the Phillies pitching staff has continued to put up spectacular numbers in the month of May. However, the offense has deprived the Four Aces of wins, due to the utter lack of consistency. Rarely have they scored more than three runs in a game, which is frustrating to say the least for the starting rotation.

The success of the rotation has been headlined by Roy Halladay and Cole Hamels. Both had a league leading seven wins as May came to a close. Right-hander Roy Oswalt had been pitching well before a back injury put him on the DL. Since his return, he has been stellar, only allowing three runs in three starts. Unfortunately, the Phillies will have to be cautious with Oswalt, due to his penchant for injuries.

Despite the lack of production in the beginning of the month, the long awaited return of second baseman Chase Utley has seemingly fueled the Phillies' offense. In Utley's first game since being activated from the disabled



AP Images

All-Star second baseman Chase Utley has been eased back into an everyday role by manager Charlie Manuel.

list on May 23rd, the team utterly crushed the Cincinnati Reds by a score of 10-3.

Notably, Utley had no hits in that game. It seems that his presence and his leadership on the

field alone sparked the offense with new energy. Once Utley gets into a groove at the plate, he will most definitely help boost the listless offense.

Contrary to what baseball

critics predicted, the Phillies bullpen has been one of the best in the Majors. Closer Ryan Madson has been dominant, only blowing two saves thus far. Since returning from the DL, Jose Contreras has fit nicely into the role of set-up man. Young pitchers Antonio Bastardo and Michael Stutes have proved to be crucial parts of the middle-relief corps. In order to continue nailing down wins for the rotation, they need to limit their mistakes in the middle of the plate and have confidence in their arsenal of pitches.

The outlook for the rest of the season isn't quite as bleak as it was after the month of April. This month has provided a boost in the form of Chase Utley and critical members of the heart of the line-up (first baseman Ryan Howard and left-fielder Raul Ibanez) have started to heat up at the plate. Once the offense starts to perform at the expected elite level, the team will collectively continue to rack up 'W's and should give them a comfortable lead in the NL East standings.

Pitching takes center stage in MLB

Rebecca Serad '11

Critics across the nation titled the 2010 season as the "Year of the Pitcher". It was a good name; multiple pitchers won over 20 games in both leagues. After the spectacular May showing, one cannot help but wonder if we are in the midst of the era of the pitcher.

Since steroids have been banned in professional baseball, Commissioner Allan "Bud" Selig has cracked down on the use of illegal substances. Players who violate the drug policy are subject to a fifty game suspension after a first offense. This strict policy has abruptly ended the career of superstar Manny Ramirez and is

sure to be beneficial in limiting the number of records that are accompanied by an asterick.

This unofficially marks the end of the Steroid Era. A new era is arising, where hitters once again have to use solely their own skills to prove their worth. One could say that the decrease in steroid-induced power statistics accounts for pitchers' success. However, pitchers like Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies are proof in themselves that hard work and perseverance are crucial to the rise of the pitcher.

In the month of May alone, two no-hitters were thrown within days of each other. Minnesota Twins pitcher Francisco Liriano

threw a no-no on May 4th versus the Chicago White Sox, saving his spot in the rotation. Just days later, fire-baller Justin Verlander of the Detroit Tigers blanked the Toronto Blue Jays on May 7. Even more impressively, Verlander continued to throw in the high nineties, and even reached 100 mph, in the ninth inning.

Through the first two months of the season, there are twenty-three starting pitchers in MLB who have an ERA under 3.00. Yes, it's still early in the season, but it is astounding to see so many pitchers in both leagues dominate the opposition. Some of those pitchers are expected to have a small ERA, like Marlins' ace Josh Johnson and

strike-out king Tim Lincecum. But others, like Cleveland's Josh Tomlin and Justin Masterson, are a new class of rising stars who are ready to leave their mark on baseball.

Although nothing is guaranteed, this season of Major League Baseball is shaping up to promote the talents of starting pitching more so than in years past. With two no-hitters already in the books for 2011, it is more than likely that there are more to come. Regardless of what the future holds for the hurlers who have been successful thus far in the season, one thing is evident: baseball is no longer a game of only home-runs and RBIs.

Join the Patriot. Meetings will begin in September

Ellie Goulding's shining debut

Rebecca Serad '11

When most Americans hear the name Ellie Goulding, they either naively shrug or remember her as the singer-songwriter who was personally chosen to perform at the wedding reception of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

However, Goulding's debut album, *Lights*, has finally been released in the U.S. and is quickly climbing up the iTunes charts.

In terms of her vocal ability, Goulding has a feathery mezzo-soprano voice that compliments her British accent. While she isn't a powerhouse vocalist like other well-known Brits Adele, Amy Winehouse or Duffy, her unique tone helps her to stand out.

In addition, her lyrical content is through the roof. Unlike most musicians of today, Goulding wrote or co-wrote every track on the album, with the exception of one cover. Her lyrics can be deep and insightful and are consistently radio-friendly due to the accompanying electronic beats.

Among the stand-out tracks are the title track, which includes an



Google Images
Ellie Goulding rocks the music world on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

addicting melody in the chorus and the cover of Sir Elton John's "Your Song". The latter is stunning because of its simplicity and the sincere way that Goulding sings the verses. Her piano performance gives the listener a glimpse into her live performances, which often lack the dance-pop background music that is featured throughout the album and allow her to showcase her vocal ability.

"Every Time You Go" explores the effects of a strained relationship. You can feel the depth of Goulding's desperation to keep the one she loves, despite his tendency to leave her when she sings, "I'm tired of trying to keep you. All I want to do is sleep. Then perhaps, when I'm sleeping, you'll get back on your feet."

Goulding reminisces about a passionate fling in the catchy "Starry Eyed". The playfulness of the lyrics allows the bright and soothing melody to take center stage. While it may not be her most serious song, the level of excitement

in her voice is so audible that the listener can't help but enjoy it.

Ellie Goulding's debut is a shining effort and will help her make a name for herself across the Atlantic.

It's Simple: Plan on buying this album

Jenn Gordum '12

After staying dormant since 2008, Simple Plan is prepared to release their newest album, *Get Your Heart On*, on July 21 of this year. Though three years have passed since their self-titled album was released, the band refuse to stay quiet any longer.

Though the album isn't due out until summer, Simple Plan has just recently released a music video for the album's first single "Can't Keep My Hands Off You". The song features Rivers Cuomo of Weezer and takes a step outside of the band's comfort zone. Though the song is genetically more "pop" sounding, the song still has traces of the band's infamous alternative style and a classic "big" chorus. The song is easily sung along to and will make you want to get out of your chair and dance.

Along with the music video, the band has also released another new song which will from the new album. "Jetlag" It features something that a Simple Plan song has never done before: two versions. One version of the song features Natasha Bedingfield—a British pop singer best known for her 2005 single "Unwritten". The second version is sung in French and features Quebec pop star Marie-Mai.

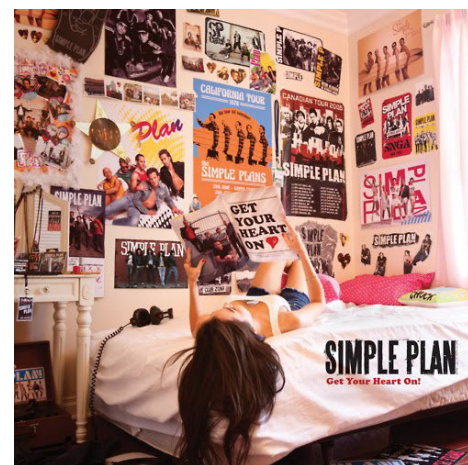
Both versions of the song are now available on I-tunes.

With the long wait for the new Simple Plan record almost over, the band still wants to give the fans something to pass the time. Their website features a "Jetlag Airlines" homepage, and allows the fans to click on a new flight to "board". Each day a new flight is available, and when clicked, the flight will feature new, never before released information. Some flights include the lyrics to new songs off the new albums, video blogs from the band members themselves, the track listing of the new album or pictures and tour dates for the upcoming Simple Plan tour. Each weekday, new information will be revealed until May 9.

The album will feature eleven songs, all produced by Brian Howes who has worked with various artists such as Hinder, David Cook and Daughtry. The track listing was released on April 29, and include songs like "Astronaut" and "This Song Saved My Life". *Get Your Heart On* is believed to deal with songs dealing more with relationships and how they affect the 'heart' to compliment the album title.

Though the songs that have been released are a bit more on the "pop" side, they still have the classic vocal styles of the band and bring the same amount of energy to each song. You can

buy and download any three of their newest singles, and log on to www.simpleplan.com to check out all the new information on the album release on July 21.



Google Images
Simple Plan's is set out on a mission to impress old fans and attract new crowds with their newest CD, *Get Your Heart On*.

If you enjoy music, films or television consider writing reviews for The Patriot. Meetings will begin next September.

An Artistic Viewpoint

Natasha Hesketh discusses her creative influences

Noel Abastillas '11

An up and coming artist, Natasha Hesketh plans on attending Platt University to pursue her passions. She was awarded the senior art award for a chalk pastel self-portrait. She is an artistic student that's deeply delved into the world of art. She's been drawing and painting from a young age, but her hobby developed into a serious commitment as a freshman in high school. Natasha feels that her favorite style to paint is the self-portrait.

"It's always available to you, and you're able to capture different views of yourself emotionally." says Natasha Hesketh. Currently, she's painting a water color self-portrait using shades of orange, red, and brown.

However, one of her favorite self-portraits is one she has displayed in her room.

"I used bright colors and shades of blue with an acrylic base [a primarily plastic base paint]. It gave the painting a dreamy effect and symbolizes my childhood." Painting is something she does normally, it's a creative outlet that expresses her emotions. She enjoys painting subject's faces with non-realistic colors to capture a side of a person's soul.



Noel Abastillas '11/The Patriot

Hesketh works on one of the many paintings in her portfolio.

"Every piece needs emotion behind it, or else it has no meaning." said Hesketh.

"The world needs to be more creativity" in her opinion. "I think people should be exposed to art, it's mind-broadening." Hesketh said, "it can transform a person and make them more accepting and more in tune with their emotions." Some of her favorite artists are Dali, Francis

Bacon, Kate Shaw, Jaspers John. From being exposed to the arts, she's never takes side to a story. Novels like *My Sister's Keeper* have reinforced her principle of trying to see things from everyone's point of view. She finds Jodi Piccolt's novels like *My Sister's Keeper*, *Nineteen Minutes*, and stories by Kate Chopin intellectually satisfying.

In the future, Hesketh plans on pursuing an art major. The art world is a very competitive business filled with talented people hoping to achieve the same goal as you, but if one can "make art your business" as Hesketh said, you'll most likely be fine. If she's not able to succeed an artist, she'll pursue a job of expression similar to that which will give her that freedom that the art world provides. From an entertainment level, things that she enjoys include films

like *Black Swan*, *Moulin Rouge*, and *Marie Antoinette*. And music like *Arcade Fire*, *Weezer*, *Kate Bush*, *Florence and the Machine*, *Regina Spektor*, *Lykke Li*, *Dirty Projectors*, *The Smiths*, *The Beatles*, and *Elliott Smith*.

From painting in her art class to painting in her room in her spare time, she has made the transformation from a mere student to an artist, in lifestyle and hopefully in profession.

Potter movie finale has fans spellbound

Christina Cockerill '12

Every year since 2001, a new Harry Potter book or movie has been released to millions of eagerly awaiting fans. With summer quickly approaching, so does July 15 and thousands will be gathered at midnight for the final part of the epic saga, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part Two*.

Fans of Potter have been there since the very beginning. Many have been reading the books or watching the movies for years; *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was released in 2001. Gus Totolos '12, remembers the first time he saw the movie. "I was with my older sister...I just remember thinking how amazing it was."

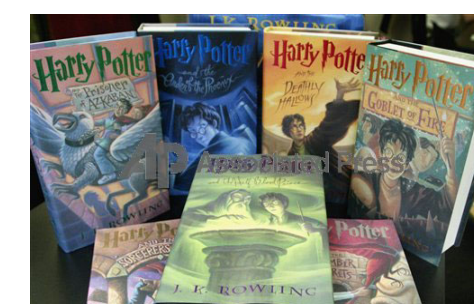
Alexandra Propati '13 was nine when she first began reading the Harry Potter series. "I was that young and I still cried when I read the fifth book. It was a tear jerking moment. It's going to be weird, I grew up with it and now it's finished."

Fans like Megan Messina '12 have had their lives changed by the books. "It's taught me a lot lessons—it really has a good message above love

and friendship. The books have inspired me, one of the few things I truly got into reading. I've been reading them since I was ten or eleven." With her senior year quickly approaching, she's eagerly anticipating the release of the final movie. There's a special bond with fans aged 17-18. For them, their lives are almost parallel with Harry's journey through Hogwarts and his battle against evil. While November's movie release and tantalizing cliff hanger left fans begging for more, the finale has some mixed feelings associated with it.

"I'm going to be a little sad that it's over," Messina said, "It's been something to look forward to every year. I grew up with Potter, but I'm still excited beyond words for this movie."

And, as always, plans for midnight release parties and movie marathons are many. "Thankfully it's summer time," Totolos stated, "I remember coming into school on the Friday afterwards, dead tired, and telling everyone how great it was." With Part Two, Harry's final installment will come to a close. In this, he'll pick up where he



AP IMAGES

Many young readers are enamored with the Harry Potter book series and movies.

left off last November in searching for the three "deathly hallows" in order to defeat Voldemort and his death eaters and fulfill the prophecy set for him since he was just a baby.

Fans who grew up with the series expect to be fulfilled as well. "Even when it's over," Messina said, "I'm always going to love these books. I grew up with them; it's a huge part of my childhood."

Commentary

AP summer reading clarified

Kelsey Wainwright '11

At the end of every school year, students pick up their summer reading books for the following school year.

With the number of books increasing and their choices being limited, students at WTHS aren't always the most receptive when it comes to some of their required summer reading books. Students entering into AP English 12 are surprised every year by an unusual selection on their list of required books: The Bible.

Some students are stunned by the choice and question it. Why do they need to read it? Will they be tested on the material? What purpose will it serve them in class? As someone who's been through the class, it's not as terrible as it may seem.

The AP classes use The Bible as a reference

Unlocking bathrooms a number one priority

Samantha Smith '12

When the clock strikes 2:10 and students start filling the hallways and filing out the doors, school is over. However for some people, school is in fact not over and many still remain in the building after the final bus has pulled away. Students are either staying after for extra help or running over to whatever club or activity they are a part of. So despite the fact that classes might be done, the building is still fairly active. Which brings to mind one unanswered question: why are bathrooms, a very useful commodity, locked after school?

Admit it, we've all had those times when nature called with a sense of urgency. They can't be predicted but when it happens, an immediate solution is necessary. There needs to be a place where students can meet this urgent need. There are a number of bathrooms available in both the 9/10 and 11/12 buildings. Why make them unavailable for student use?

We all recognize that an unlocked, unmonitored bathroom could lead to trouble. During the day, aids sit by the door and students have to sign in and sign out when using the bathroom. This is a good system and works effectively

With philosophical questions, some find it to go against their religious beliefs and have concerns upon receiving the essay questions.

tool to better comprehend other literature that is read during the beginning of the year, much of which draws upon biblical allusions or symbols. Students are expected to read the first 50 chapters of The Book of Genesis. The classes are never tested on it, but rather just expected to know what happens the principal events.

While the fear of another summer test is

passed after returning to the classroom, some students find it challenging to complete essays that are assigned a couple weeks into the school year. Presented with philosophical questions, some find it at odds with their religious beliefs and have concerns.

When the problem occurs, students are simply asked to take a stance that if they did believe in God, how would they answer the questions. Overall, it doesn't seek to challenge anyone's beliefs, be they religious, agnostic or athiestic.

Simply put, reading The Bible for AP may be a strenuous academic effort for adding onto the additional four summer reading books required for the course, but it only is used as a reference tool and discussion point and not as another test grade to add onto the beginning of the year.

The Patriot

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Enjoyable, romantic tale

Emily Bierman '11

Will Donner has been *Waiting for Forever* to tell his childhood best friend Emma Twist that he loves her. When an overly stressed Emma returns to her hometown to help take care of her sick father, Will also returns, hoping it is finally time for him to confess his love.

Will (Tom Sturridge) does not have a home, a car, or a life of his own. Years before, Emma (Rachel Bilson) stood by Will's side when his parents were killed in an accident. Every time Emma has moved, he has traveled to where she was, juggling and entertaining people to make money.

The film opens with clips of Emma and Will together as young children. Will is seen as an adult hitchhiking back to his hometown after hearing that Emma is returning home. He manages to catch a ride with a funny, elderly couple, Albert (Richard Gant) and Dorothy (Roz Ryan). While he rides with them to

his destination, he tells them Emma's and his story. Dorothy tells him to make sure he calls and lets them know what happens between them in the future.

Will returns home to visit his best friend Joe (Nelson Franklin) and Joe's wife, Dolores (Nikki Blonsky, Hairspray). He also visits his brother, Jim Donner (Scott Mechlowicz) who believes Will has a mental problem. Will is able to finally gain the courage to talk to Emma after all these years. In one day, they go back to the places they enjoyed together as children. Instead of meeting her boyfriend (Matthew Davis of *The Vampire Diaries*), Emma enjoys a day with Will.

Not everything is "peachy" though. After Will tells Emma how he feels and how he has followed her to where she has gone these past few years, she gets angry and upset.

Waiting for Forever is not a simple, lighthearted story. While it is not a complicated story, it is very



emotional. Those who often cry during movies will find themselves tearing up within thirty minutes of the film. The movie goes at the perfect pace, although it does seem to end a bit quickly.

Sturridge plays the character of Will Donner perfectly. He is able to portray Will's heartfelt longing and

persistence, and he makes the audience believe in Will and Emma's love story. Although Bilson was cast perfectly as Emma, the filmmakers didn't seem to go as in depth with Emma's character as they did Will's. While it can be assumed Emma is a struggling actress, that is only because it is mentioned once about how her show has been cancelled. The audience is left to fill in most of the blank space left in her characterization.

There are bright supporting performances. Although Mechlowicz isn't the main character, he stands out in the film. Both Mechlowicz and Sturridge are able to capture the tension between Jim and Will perfectly.

While *Waiting for Forever* is not a well-known movie, it is a movie worth watching. Director James Keach does an excellent job telling the story of two best friends who grow apart, but with the constant persistence of one, they have a second chance to be together.

Blast From The Past by Mariatu Santiago '11

A tale of two screen stars

Recently we all said good bye to one of our nation's biggest stars, Elizabeth Taylor. She was one of a kind; starring in major pictures such as *Father of the Bride* and *Cleopatra*. She had an elegant "movie star" beauty that made her popular and besides her looks her acting was one in a million.

A movie that I recommend for anyone would be *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* it has captivating drama leaving you wanting more with each passing scene as well as superb acting that can't be matched even today.

Usually when we think of old classic, many think boring and uninteresting. But when you watch an Elizabeth Taylor movie all of those skeptical perceptions vanish.

A movie that kept Taylor at legendary status would have to be *Cleopatra*. However, Taylor's part as leading lady almost never happened. Writers and producers first considered Dorothy Dandridge for the big part.



Both Elizabeth Taylor and Dorothy Dandridge were considered for the title role in 1963's *Cleopatra*. In a different time the role might have gone to Dandridge

Dorothy Dandridge was the first person considered for the role of Cleopatra. If only Dandridge was born just a few decades later she would have no doubt gotten the part. Dandridge was a stunning African American actress who, like Elizabeth Taylor, was a superb

entertainer. Dandridge made her name in the industry with the lead role of Carmen Jones in the all black production of Otto Preminger's *Carmen Jones* in 1954, also starring major music star Harry Belafonte.

When I first saw this movie I was shocked that a woman like this

was so under appreciated. As an African American actress/singer in those days it didn't matter how talented you were, your skin was put before your talent. After her breakout role in *Carmen Jones*, Dandridge was the first ever African American actress to be nominated for an Academy Award. This was a significant moment in history, making it possible for actresses such as Halle Berry and Angela Bassett to make their mark in the industry.

There are not many things out there about Dorothy Dandridge because right after *Carmen Jones* her career went in a significant decline because of a lack of roles.

A biographical movie on her, starring Halle Berry called *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* is a great movie that shows an in depth account about what her life truly entailed. In the movie you see some of her hardships such as having to use a Styrofoam cup instead of using the toilets in hotels because of the color of her skin.

Entertainment

Pirates sequel, swashbuckling success

Kelsey Wainwright '11

The quest to find the Fountain of Youth is on in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. With new battles and strange faces, the story takes you into the pirate world.

The audience gets taken onto Blackbeard's boat in search of the truth. While some will be thrilled by the fourth addition to the popular movie series, others are destined to be more underwhelmed and disappointed.

At the end of the third movie, *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, it was inevitable that Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) would be back again to battle it out.

With stories of a fountain that takes one person's life span and gives it to another, the pirates, as well as some new guests, go on another search for their treasure. The legendary Blackbeard (Ian McShane) and his daughter Angelica (Penelope Cruz), as well as the Spanish Army, take their shots at finding the treasure.

It's an all out brawl between the Spanish, the English, and Blackbeard's in a race to find some necessary items in order to use the fountain. Their first task: take on and capture a mermaid



Disney.go.com/pirates
Legendary Blackbeard (Ian McShane) makes his appearance with Johnny Depp returning as Captain Jack Sparrow.

his character back to life once again to appeal to his fans. What will disappoint many is the disappearance of beloved William Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley). At the end of the third movie, fans were left with a thirty second excuse of why the two love birds wouldn't be joining Sparrow again on the silver screen.

Crowds are also likely to be underwhelmed by the strange storyline. While the main plot remained solid throughout the entire performance, the new characters and side plots got confusing. After watching an unnamed, die-hard Christian die twice during the movie, just to be taken away at the very end by a mermaid, movie goers were left with more questions after leaving

than when they entered.

Overall, the new *Pirates* gave crowds a definite mix of feelings. Some left the theatres in total awe of the new movie, others upset over the wasted money they used to get in.

Despite the mixed feelings, *Pirates* was definitely worth spending the money to see. Not only were the loose ends of the third movie tied up, but Depp and Rush provided Pirate fans with another action packed, love-filled movie in a long line of successful films.

Thor smashes box offices

Alexandra Propati '13

On May 6, *Thor* showed us just exactly what happens when a God disobeys his father. Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, gives an excellent performance as the God of Thunder.

The film is based on the comic book by Stan Lee. It centers on Thor getting thrown out of his home world for disobeying his father. Thor is sent to Earth, where Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) finds him.

Thor has to face the fact that he'll never be able to go home, meanwhile, his brother, Loki, is up to some mischievous things back on Asgard, Thor's home.

Hemsworth plays a con-

vincing god in exile. Thor's father not only sent him down to Earth, but also his hammer that gives him all his powers. However, Thor is not worthy enough to use it. Somehow, in a short time since they've known each other, Thor and Jane kindle up a romance. The romance is okay, but it really wasn't necessary to add it.

There was just so much action that there wasn't enough time for the romance to blossom, so it kind of feels like they fell in love out of nowhere. It was only about three days since they met, and then they're both in love. The most unrealistic thing in a movie about gods was the romance. It could have left them off as friends in the end, and that would

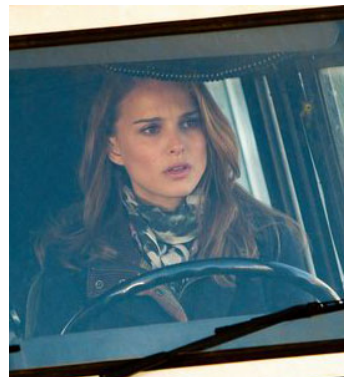
have probably sat better with me.

Everything else was great. There was laughter and heart wrenching moments along with it. Kenneth Branagh, the director, did a great job with all the scenes and special effects.

Thor was pretty cool to see in 3-D, however if seen in regular version, it will still be fine. There wasn't anything that really popped out, so I think I would have rather saved the extra money that it costs for 3-D and seen it normally.

Thor will be back, along with some other superhero friends in the Avengers.

Don't forget to stay after the credits, because the movie doesn't end until then.



THOR.MARVEL.COM

Natalie Portman continues her successful year in film as she stars as Jane Foster in *Thor*, the latest Marvel superhero to hit the theaters.

Transportation Trouble

Dylan Lambe '14

Washington Township High School needs a bike rack. Recently students have been talking about transportation funds being cut and some students losing their bussing. I live less than two miles away from the school and I too would be cut from the public transportation.

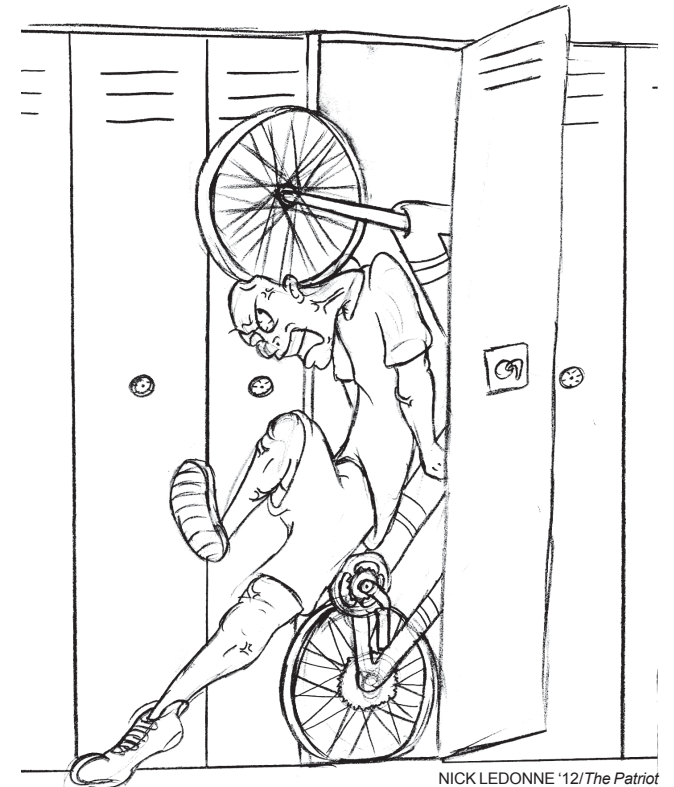
Now with gas prices constantly on the rise it's not exactly fair to make my parents drive out of their way to get me to school. So, the only other option is to walk or ride my bike. Walking two miles for the average person would take twenty to thirty minutes in comparison to biking two miles which would take half the time. So I decided to test my theory; the other day I missed my bus and decided to ride my

bicycle to school. I was right; it took me less than ten minutes to arrive at the core.

However, when I arrived, there was n-owhere to lock up my bike. For almost fifteen m-inutes I aimlessly looked around the school for a bike rack. I never found one, and I wasn't

going to leave my bike unattended and risk it being stolen. I ended up causing congestion in the halls of the high school by bringing my bike into the school and leaving it in the office to pick up at the end of the day.

What did the school plan on doing if four or five students brought their bikes? With the option of providing a safe, secure place to lock up our bikes more students may be compelled to go green and save tax money on transportation by cycling to school.



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

For almost fifteen minutes I aimlessly looked around the school for a bike rack.

Competition TV unrealistic?

Samantha Smith '12

Over the years, reality tv competitions have taken over the airwaves. From shows like *Dancing with the Stars* to *American Idol*, both celebrities and everyday people are competing against each other for prize money or the chance to be crowned a champion. Each of these shows has a different premise but

there's one thing that ties them all together and that's the voting system. Each one depends on viewer votes to determine who should win but is that really fair?

There have been a number of upsets on these shows in which talented people have been voted off before their time. Just this year, judges' favorite, Pia Toscano, got voted off of *American Idol*, causing thousands across America to be outraged. Many considered her the best and expected her to win. She wasn't eliminated because of her lack of talent but because she didn't get enough viewer votes. With a system

like this, is the best singer really being chosen?

Viewer voting systems also have the ability to turn into a popularity contest. People vote for all different reasons but it's likely that most of the time, people don't focus on who is the best singer or the best dancer in the competition. They base it off of other factors that have nothing to do with the skill that

contestants demonstrate on these shows. Viewer votes are being given based on the age, gender, or physical appearance of the contestant.

When people vote like this, it's not a talent competition anymore. The current voting system, especially online, can easily be messed up as well. It has been known that contestants have had voting lines that were down or hackers have hacked into the computer system and altered the votes. These faults can be responsible for someone losing the opportunity of a lifetime.

Giving the American people a

voice is important. Letting them share their opinion is a good thing. However what is the point of having judges on these shows if their analysis of a contestant's performance has little effect? They are experts in their respective field and know what it takes to be a great artist. The average American does not. On *American Idol*, it's entirely up to the country to determine who should win. The voting system would work better if the judges got a greater say in who should stay and who should go.

Same goes for *Dancing with the Stars*. Although, the judges' points make up 50% of the vote, that percentage should be larger. They should be responsible for the majority of the votes a contestant gets. That way there's no argument over talent leaving too soon and the focus will lie on the winner being the best of the best. With an improved voting system, these competitions will lose their reputation of strictly being a popularity contest and become known for the talent they showcase and reward.

Have an opinion you'd like to share?

Send it to us.

wthspatriot@gmail.com

Weight a second...

Teenage obesity can be countered

Jenn Gordun '12

Many teenagers are found obsessing over appearances. Whether it's getting a hall pass and fixing their make-up in the bathroom, or checking their hair in the hallway mirrors, teenagers are meticulous with the way they look.

A factor that plays a huge role into appearance is weight.

Obesity is defined as being at least 20% heavier than your ideal body weight. It is something that 15% of teenagers worldwide are going through, and 15% more are in danger of. Many people do not take weight very seriously. They figure, "I like to eat, I'm a little fat, so what?" Not many people recognize the serious danger that they put themselves into when giving in, and eating that one junk food that they cannot resist.

It's not just eating too many fattening foods that puts teenagers in serious risk; it's inactivity and not giving your body the exercise it needs. Many kids come home from school, and go right onto the computer, or watch TV. Some might not think that it's a big deal, but it's the little things that matter. Even just twenty minutes of exercise three to four times a week can help fight off obesity. It's not a difficult task to help keep you healthy, and it can be easy and fun.

Instead of coming home and sitting down to watch TV, just go for a walk, or do some quick sit-ups while watching TV to get your



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

blood flowing. The little things make all the difference.

The effects of being overweight and staying inactive are very serious. According to TeenHealth.com, increased inactivity can increase your blood pressure. Additional fat tissue in your body requires more oxygen and nutrients, so the blood vessels and heart have to work harder to get that extra oxygen into your body. This can eventually lead to high blood pressure.

Simply joining a gym for a minor fee, or merely getting a workout buddy can easily make all the difference between being overweight and being healthy. To find a workout buddy that will

help produce the biggest results, find someone who is highly motivated and can also inspire you as well.

Heart disease is also very common in obese people. The fatty tissue builds up in the arteries, making it harder for blood to get through. Eventually, the artery might completely close, causing a heart attack.

Having an increased amount of weight also affects the health of your joints and muscles. According to MedlinePlus magazine, adding extra weight to your body, stresses your knees and hips. Joint replacement surgery might not be an option because an artificial joint has a higher risk for loosening and causing damage. Obesity also causes for a higher risk of cancer in both males and females.

Obesity also causes extra weight to the chest and lungs and could cause sleep apnea (when people stop breathing for brief periods). This can cause little sleep at nighttime and drowsiness during the day. It also can cause heavy breathing and snoring. These are all affects to the respiratory system, when the added weight of the chest walls squeeze on your lungs. Sleep apnea is also associated with high blood pressure.

So think twice before you go home after school and go on the computer, or watch TV all weekend. Just a little exercise a few times a week can not only change your appearance, but it can change your outlook on life and your future health.

Prom organizers created memorable night

Mark Giannone '11

Seniors at WTHS have many things to look forward to during the course of the school year and few are bigger than senior prom. This year prom took place on May 6 and was located at the Sheridan Hotel in Center City. The weather outside was perfect for such an event not too hot with clear blue skies. Once inside everyone was treated to a buffet of food ranging from different kinds of chicken to a

few salad and vegetable choices.

The room had a very elegant feel to it as the lights were dimmed down low and the place settings on the tables made you feel you were at a five star restaurant and not a school dance. Compared to the junior prom the dance floor was very large and gave people enough room to dance without too much bumping in to the person next to you. The music however left much to be

desired playing at some points songs that seemed out dated or songs that you couldn't really get a dancing feel for. The poor song choices didn't stop the spirits of everyone who showed up they danced as if every song were the best one ever played. Towards the end of the night Mr. Bollendorf performed a song for the crowd which everyone enjoyed and kept on dancing for. Looking back on the night that was, its hard to pick out a sore spot if there were any. The whole prom was well put together by everyone who took part in the planning. They made the 2011 senior prom a night none of us will soon forget.

Everyone who took part in the planning...made the 2011 senior prom a night none of us will soon forget.

The Patriot thanks their senior editors

Leanne Abrams
Emily Bierman
Anthony Dentino
Alexis Donia
Ally Gallo
Phil Jaffe
Rebecca Serad
Kelsey Wainwright

Congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Concert offers hope to families

Robot Manhattan ready to conquer local music scene

Amy Dennis '12

The performing arts of WTHS brought hope to families in need through the benefit concert held in the TD Bank Arts Center on May 14. Including singing, dancing, and instrumentals, the concert offered the opportunity for many musically inclined students to show off their talent for a worthy cause.

The Township United Concert was organized in support of Township Hope, an organization put together to raise money for families in need. The acts were mostly comprised of popular modern songs by artists like Carrie Underwood, Lady GaGa, Mike Posner and Katy Perry and each of the students who performed were able to bring their own rendition to the stage. "I had a lot of fun singing," said Erika Van Mater '14 "the songs were really popular but we could all bring our own personality to them and that made it a special performance."

The concert was directed and originally conceived by Andrew Rimby '11. Inspired by similar benefit concerts held by professional Broadway theatres in the fight against AIDS, he couldn't help asking himself "Why not here in Township?"

Finding a worthwhile cause for the concert came easily through the school's Township Hope program which benefits anybody involved in Washington Township schools who has an illness or disability. With all the costs and funds of hospital care, Township Hope helps lift some of the financial burden for families in need. It helps the community come together to help take away some of that stress, allowing those families to

spend more time together.

After presenting the idea to Assistant principal Mrs. Theresa Pietrowski, Rimby began to generate other staff and student interest after Winter break and prepared a performance list made up of popular songs with a positive message.

"We tried to keep it open to all genres," said the director, "we had everything from Pop to Country so that everyone could have something to enjoy."

On the evening of Saturday, May 14, members of the Washington Township community came out to support the students and donate to the Township hope fund. A total of six-hundred dollars was raised.

"Since it was my first time as a director, I was especially proud that people came to support the show, and of all the students and staff members who stepped up to work together and make the performance so successful," said Rimby.

In hopes that it will grow larger and more successful every year, the concert cast has agreed to continue the tradition in the future. Performers Carmina Delfierro '12, Brandy Staffari '13 and Jackie McClear have all agreed to take it under their wing. They are already preparing ideas for next year, with Rimby promising to return as a producer for the upcoming shows.

"I had a lot of fun singing and dancing and it was a great experience to be in a concert like this," said Delfierro, "I'm looking forward to helping out next year with the directing and being able to perform again."

Venue experiments with local talent

Jenn Gordun '12

The South Jersey area is home to many talented and upcoming bands. With New Jersey's music scene becoming more developed and eclectic, the lack of decent venues for unsigned bands is dejecting and unfortunate. One popular venue that hosts shows almost every night is The Test Tube in Deptford.

With each show booking three to six bands, and the size of the crowd depending on which bands are performing, The Test Tube is a great place for the New Jersey musicians to come together and show off their talents.

One wonderful feature about the Test Tube is its location. It is located in a shopping center located off Clements Bridge road, filled with numerous stores and restaurants. If anyone gets hungry or thirsty, they can simply walk a few stores down to grab a slice of pizza or a soda. There is no need to worry about not being allowed back in because after paying a minor expense of five dollars, a simple hand stamp allows patrons

to enter and exit the venue without any problems.

The Test Tube is a great place to hear up and coming bands in South Jersey. Many of the bands that play there are on the verge of getting signed. Some are even playing at Warped Tour. Checking out some of the bands at The Test Tube may give music gurus their first sneak peak of some of the next rising musicians to come out of New Jersey.

The atmosphere at The Test Tube is one of pure excitement and support. Whether you are a new band fresh on the music scene playing for the first time, or just an eager audience member wanting to check out the local music scene, it is a place where everybody is welcome. Many of the bands that are not playing or are on deck will come inside the venue and listen in on the other bands in order to give their full support.

The environment of The Test Tube is always one of pure encouragement and it is what makes it a special and unique place. Check out The Test Tube on facebook to find schedules and times of shows.

Robot Manhattan ready to conquer local music scene

Christina Cockerill '12

Sicklerville's Robot Manhattan, a ska-punk band from South Jersey, has made their way into the second round, semi-finals of a Battle of the Bands. On June 11, at the Trocadero Theatre, Robot Manhattan will mount the stage for the second time to fight for chance win. Made up of seven boys from Sicklerville, Robot Manhattan has been playing together since last summer.

In January, they released their first EP with Test Tube Records in Deptford, New Jersey. It contained six original songs written by the band, such as their signature "11:11 Is A Lie" and "Low Expectations".

The band, which is made up of singer and guitarist Mike Campanelli, bassist Joe Romano, trumpet Joe Lees, trombone Justin Smith, saxophonist Joe Keating, baritone saxophone Dom Henry, and drummer Sal Dragone, have been playing together since summer, their first rehearsals starting in August, with a few line-up changes since.

"I'm just amazed we made it this far," Keating said, grinning.

Throughout late summer and fall, they played reoccurring house shows, school events, and small concerts at Savage School of Rock. In November, the boys entered "The Next Big Thing" contest, a competition for unsigned bands and played at their biggest venue yet—the Theatre of Living Arts.

"It's really awesome. I've been playing trumpet for, what, seven years? And now I'm turning on my iPod and seeing Robot Manhattan on there. It's amazing," Lees said, "We're really excited to play at the Troc; it's a huge stage and a great chance to get ourselves out there."

The next few months, they plan to keep selling their music and are hoping to go on tour this summer. They're still going to play their same local venues, yet continue to grow bigger. Plans for new material, both covers and original alike, are in the works. Whatever happens, they just love playing together.

"I have the best friends in the world. The songs and the music just write themselves," Campanelli stated proudly as he sold their EP to fans and friends.

Tickets for the show can be purchased by emailing Robotmanhattan@gmail.com or by contacting any members of the band via their facebook page, www.facebook.com/robotmanhattan. They're fourteen dollars and the doors open at one PM on June 11.

The Arts

Actors bring home accolades

Kelsey Wainwright '11

Students in Mrs. Cheryl Silverman's acting classes made a name for themselves at the Newtown Competition, June 2.

Winning awards for acting excellence were Kristen Lamb '11, Krystiana Shaeffer '13, Allison Murphy '13, and Renee Belsky '11. Best Actor of the entire competition went to Giovanni DiGabriele '11, and *Competition Piece* won Best Ensemble Performance.

This year, Mrs. Cheryl Silverman's classes put on two one-act plays. They were performed on May 12 and 13 in the 11/12 Auditorium.

The first, *Competition Piece* by John S. Wells, centers on three drama groups preparing for a competition and the various ways each group selects their play, casts the roles, rehearses their lines, and performs the final show. From the hippie teacher with a strenuous rehearsal schedule (Jessica Calderoni '11), to the overbearing teacher who loves her brown-nosers (Murphy), to the fired gym coach who lands an unwanted role in the theatre department (Shaeffer '13), the audience experiences three

extreme and unusual tactics in staging a performance.

Judged by some opinionated judges (Alayna Afanador '11, Kyle Collington '11, and John Maroldo '12), the groups go through harsh criticism. The witty comments and unusual styles of each play had the crowd laughing.

The second piece, was *Soap Opera*, written by Roger Heckerman. The story shows the disdain a husband (DiGabriele) has for his wife's favorite soap opera, *Vera's Vicissitudes*. After having an accident at his work and coming home to a long argument with his wife (Abby McCann '11), husband Ed falls asleep and dreams himself into the soap opera. With the cops on her tail and finding herself in the arms of a strange man, Vera (Lamb) brings Ed further into her tragic story.

Both acts were brought to life by the talented actors that are born and created in Silverman's



Mrs. Silverman's Actors' Studio students (left to right) Maura Kagel '13, Renee Belsky '11, Abby McCann '11, and Lauren Schwartz '11 rehearse their show, *Soap Opera*.

classes. They convince the crowd of their stories and transform the theatre into another world. The night was filled with laughs and was another success in the long line of plays staged by the classes.

Behind the Barricades by Samantha Smith '12

Fun in the sun: Tips for attending Warped Tour and other music festivals

Samantha Smith '12

Summer is coming and in the concert world this means one thing: music festivals. Bamboozle already happened this past April but coming up is one of the biggest festivals, Warped Tour. This is an all day music event held outdoors where bands like Blink 182, Green Day, and My Chemical Romance have graced the stage in the past. The festival will be here on July 21st at the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, NJ and if you're going for your first time, here are a few tips that'll help make your experience even better.

Tip Number One: Be aware of the weather.

It will most likely be a typical, humid July day so dress appropriately so you don't overheat. You'll be outside the whole time so the risk of becoming dehydrated is huge. It is important to bring water. Two bottles will not

be enough. There are a number of horror stories in which people have passed out from lack of water so think smart. Remember to keep the bottles sealed upon entry. If they're open, you won't be able to take them in.

Tip Number Two: Save money, buy wisely.

The set list paper is something you don't need to buy. It's a flyer that tells you who's playing when and at what stage. I know it sounds extremely helpful and it is, but it is not worth the money. Save that three or five dollars and take pictures of the set list either at one of the big boards at a tent like the AP tent or the big, inflatable list of times set up as soon as you walk into the venue. There are tons of booths set up with everything from band merch to jewelry or headphones and it's tempting to buy it all. Food will also serve as an expense since venues are always overpricing items. Bringing your

own water is also a way to easily save money. I recommend only bringing the amount of money you are willing to spend. It's easy to get carried away.

Tip Number Three: Have a twitter? Follow the bands playing for updates.

You might not have a twitter because you think it's lame but it is never more useful than it is here. If your favorite band is having a signing that day, usually they will tweet about it. If you want a chance to meet them, they might tweet where they are for a meet and greet. At the very least they will tweet what time they're playing. I recommend following Warped Tour's official twitter as well. They'll keep you informed with important updates, contests, and late changes.

Tip Number Four: Make a game plan.

If you're there just to chill and listen to some music, then you

won't have to but if you're on a mission to see about six or more of your favorite bands, you're going to need to plan it out. As soon as you get there, figure out what time everyone is playing. A problem I have run into was that most of the bands I wanted to see were playing at either the same time as another band or a signing I wanted to go to. You'll probably experience the same thing. There is no solution, you're going to have to choose which one matters the most. The only fix is to go to more than one date.

Tip Number Five: Have fun.

Honestly, Warped Tour is an experience you won't forget so it's important to just embrace it. I went last July and I'm still laughing about things that happened. Take a million pictures, collect as many free things as you can and listen to your favorite bands or check out some new ones. Do this and Warped Tour will be incredible. You'll leave already stoked for next year.

Views on Osama bin Laden's death

A time for reflection, not celebration

Ginna Neill '12

May 1, 2011 was a day that will be set in history. Osama bin Laden was killed by US Navy Seals that day and no one will ever forget it. That day is significant for many reasons. First, we killed Al Qaeda's leader. Second, we have no reason to believe that we are safer now. Lastly, why did the world react to his death as if it was a Fourth of July celebration?

When the news spread like wild fire around the world that Osama Bin Laden was dead, people celebrated like it was a New Years Eve party. The fact that there were people in streets and outside of the White House screaming and celebrating his death made us look like we were animals. Even though some of us had no problem with the way people acted, for all we know it could have gotten bin Laden followers even more outraged than before. In my opinion, I believe there was no reason whatsoever for people to have acted the way they did when we found out the news about the man who changed America's history forever.

There's some controversy among the people about if we are safe or not, now that we have killed the man who was the mastermind who took over thousands of lives September 11, 2001. Are we safe or are we in even more danger than we were before? In my opinion, and I know some people would agree with me on this when I say I don't think we're safe at all now. We just killed Afghanistan's leader, why would we be the safe ones? The tenth anniversary of September 11 is this year and we all have to take major precautions just to be on the safe side in case terrorists from Al Qaeda plan on attacking the US on that date or any day. We have to take major precautions also for the reason that we don't want to have to start another war with Afghanistan or prolong the war now.

Some people think that the US killing Osama bin Laden was the best thing to do, which on one hand it was, but on the other hand does it make us safe from terrorist attacks?

Event worth commemorating

Mark Giannone '11

September 11, 2001 will forever go down in history as the day that shook this nation to its core and tested the will of every man, woman, and child who calls these United States home. There is no secret by now as to whom the man was who lead the vicious attacks of that tragic late summer morning. Osama bin Laden in just a few hours became public enemy number one of every American.

We stood together as a nation and on May 1, 2011, nearly a decade

later, he was brought to justice.

Since the death of bin Laden not only this country but the world has had different opinions of how to take the death of such a sadistic man. Majority of Americans were celebratory to hear of the killing of such a heinous individual while others couldn't imagine being happy over the death of another human.

The true point here is not that we are happy for the death of just another person the street we are happy because this man struck pure fear and hatred into the hearts of all of us. This man sent his people into

WANTED



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

Osama bin Laden relinquished his position as public enemy number one when he was killed by US Navy SEALs in his Pakistan compound on May 1.

our country onto planes with our people and took out thousands of honest hard working American citizens.

Therein lies the real reason for joy of his death not because he is not one of us this is not a racial issue the fact is he sent men into our land to harm us. The final count of all the deaths from that day is nearly 3,000, thousands of American's lives just taken away because of the act of one person. To rub it in even more after the attacks happened video surfaced of people in the Middle East

celebrating the deaths of our people.

Americans were justified in their actions after learning of his death because so many of us were faced with death and heartache because of him. We showed the world that we stand together as one when we need each other the most and that's exactly what happened on the night of May 1.

Perhaps celebrating a death isn't the most civil or humane thing to do, but after a decade of hurt for the families of the victims and the families of men and women at war it was long overdue.

Enjoy writing? Join *The Patriot!* Look for more announcements in September

Lifestyles

Forever 21 open for business

Leanne Abrams '11

For those who love shopping at Forever 21, the hike to Cherry Hill Mall is over!

The Deptford Mall had its grand opening of Forever 21 on Saturday May 14. The store did not open until 10 o'clock but people started arriving at 6 a.m. just to be one of the first people to walk into the store.

The mall had advertised this opening online and informed everyone that the first 200 customers in line would receive a gift card. You could receive a \$10, \$20 or \$210 gift card plus a coupon for 10% off if you spend more than 40 dollars. The store opened at 10 am, but quickly the line grew and grew.

"I absolutely love Forever 21. I got up super early to wait in line to get a gift card, it was totally

worth the wait to get cute clothes for a cheap price," said Laura Synder'11.

Forever 21 is located upstairs right across from Charming Charlie and next to Payless. The store is huge and bright with many selections to explore.

For those who are not familiar with Forever 21, this store sells mainly clothes for girls, but they also have a small section for guys as well. In addition to their big selection of clothing, they have many different styles from which to choose

"Forever 21 is amazing! The long lines are always worth the wait because I always find adorable outfits. I always spend so much time looking around. It's great!" said Kelsey Magras'11.

Forever 21 also has a great accessory section to look at. It has everything from belts, shoes, scarves, jewelry, head bands and even



LEANNE ABRAMS '11/The Patriot

Forever 21 is located upstairs across from Charming Charlie in the Deptford Mall.

shoes. Everything is affordable and stylish.

"I go to Forever 21 because the clothes are always in fashion and so cheap," said Alex Centrone'11.

Now that Forever 21 is at the

Deptford Mall, fans of the store are thrilled.

"I am so excited forever 21 is out our mall now. I'll be shopping all the time now!" said Melanie Brzezinski '11.

Sunscreen vital as summer nears

Leanne Abrams '11

With summer creeping just around the corner, we are feeling the heat and sun light. Many people spend most of their day outdoors. Summer brings the activities such as long beach days, swimming, sports, and gardening that leave you in the sun for hours at a time.

Despite knowing the dangers few people wear sunscreen. People are aware of getting sunburn but do they really know what sunburn does to our skin. Sunburn can affect only the surface of the skin - or can go deeper, and actually cause serious skin damage. Sunburns don't just occur on hot days, sun exposure damages us through radiation, which is why we can be sunburn on cloudy days.

Sun block protects the skin by blocking out too much UV light from the sun also known as radiation the sun gives off. When deciding on which sun block to use, most people use SPF as a major factor in their decision. This indicates how long sun

block is effective on the skin.

The American Association of Dermatology (AAD) recommends that a "broad spectrum" sun block with an SPF of at least 15 that is applied daily to all sun exposed areas, then reapplied every two hours. But who really does this?



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

"I do not always wear sun block, sometimes I just forget and it doesn't run through my mind," said Alex Centrone'11.

When you hear a doctor say you can get sun damage if you don't wear sun screen, most think that's if you are outside for hours at a time. Regardless of how long you are outside, whether you are doing something like walking to your car or sitting by a window, you are exposing yourself to harmful

UV light. Some people are at a higher risk of getting sun damage; this could be determined by where you live, such as Florida or other places where the sun is usually bright all day. Also, if you are on any medications, make sure to read the side effects and warnings. Some skin medications to treat acne say to limit your sun exposure because you have a high risk while on the medicines.

Sun block only takes a few minutes to apply and could save your skin in the long run.

Books

Literature is his passion

Noel Abastillas '11

"You could be individualistic," Mr. Richard Valerio, AP English 12 teacher, said when talking about his favorite poets, "and break the rules."

A lover of the poetry of Walt Whitman and William Blake, Valerio has admired their thought provoking work since he was in college.

Valerio took many literature classes at Drew University, where he "gained appreciation of the possibility of language." He fell in love with the authors' "natural" informality and conversational tone. He became open to the intellectual realm in college, taking classes like the history of ideas and reading classic literature like *King Lear*, *Othello*, and *The Trial*. These things helped Valerio train his mind and question his beliefs.

In college Valerio became a playwright when he wrote a play with an existentialist undertone about two men on a tramp steamer. In his early college years, he hoped to become a magazine editor.

He gave this up when he realized his calling. Valerio knew he wanted to do something that would provide an outlet for his passion for literature. Teaching would be something that he could enjoy on a day-to-day basis and allow him that outlet for literary discussion.

One of his first teaching jobs was here at Washington Township, teaching a basic English class in A-hall. He describes this class as "a constant battle" between him and the students. He said that if he could go back, there are many

things that he would change.

Now that he's an experienced and adept teacher, he's developed a standard for teaching.

For example, he believes that teacher should always be "on." Teachers should never be selfish and say something along the lines of "I'm not going to reteach this..." it shows a lack of effort and shows no concern for the student's grade in the class. A teacher should be able to look back and be proud of their students indicate how much of knowledge they've accomplished to instill in their minds.

To help Valerio instill knowledge in his students he uses humor. He feels there's a performance aspect to teaching. A teacher should know how to grab a student's attention, articulate important information and discipline students while retaining their respect. Humor helps him "perform" he can laugh at himself, and find something interesting for his students, even on boring topic.



NOEL ABASTILLAS '11/The Patriot

Mr. Richard Valerio will go to any length to make a point to his students. He teaches AP and Honors English 12.

From his high school rise as a music and book lover, to his intellectual growth as a lover of poetry and plays, Valerio has come a long way since his rural farm childhood. He's an intellectual with an expansive knowledge of art, music, and literature is in a place where he can openly express it.

Supernatural Secret offers break from vampire trend

Samantha Smith '12

Camelia's life is simple all up until the day she almost dies. From there, nothing's like it used to be. Ben, the boy who saved her life, arrives at her school three months later and doesn't go unnoticed. He's labeled a murderer and as the rest of the school stays away.

However, Camelia can't help but be drawn to him and especially his touch. Things get weirder from there when one day, Camelia finds a picture of herself in her mailbox. Next she receives messages and phone calls from a stranger who refuses to reveal his identity. Ben insists she's in danger but as her world becomes more rattled, Camelia is left not knowing who to trust. She knows Ben's hiding something but she soon



finds that he's not the only one.

Deadly Little Secret is a thrilling supernatural novel from author Laurie Faria Stolarz. It's the first in

the Touch trilogy, a series centered on the characters of Camelia and Ben. Lately in teen novels, supernatural has meant non human characters like vampires and werewolves but in this novel, the theme centers more on a special power that one of the characters possesses. This is a nice touch, giving the story a more unique plot.

An interesting twist this novel has is that in between Camelia's narrative are what seem like diary entries from the boy who is leaving her the photos and messages. With each entry the mystery boy gets creepier and more possessive as his obsession. It adds even more thrill to the novel as the reader is left to wonder out of all the boys in Camelia's life, just who is her stalker.

The characters of Camelia and Ben are also written with a lot of depth. You get the feeling that you personally know them and therefore understand what drives them. The secondary characters like Camelia's best friends Kimmie and Wes aren't written with as much depth but it is fine when they both bring comic relief to otherwise eerie and tense situations.

If you're looking for a good read that will get you hooked, *Deadly Little Secret* is it. The novel is filled with intensity and the ending will leave you wanting more.

Fortunately Stolarz has released the next two novels, *Deadly Little Lies* and *Deadly Little Games* with the fourth, *Deadly Little Voice*, coming out in December 2011.

Tech Talk

The Alternate Gamer by Eric McComb '11

Old-school *Ninja* still packs punch

In the column, *The Alternate Gamer*, Eric McComb will look over different and under appreciated games and genres from the past and present.

Not many may recall gaming too well back in 1998. But for those who do would remember the amount of unique, often single player experiences offered on Nintendo 64, PlayStation One, Sega Saturn, and the other consoles of 'the fifth console generation'. A prime and pure example of this type of game is *Mystical Ninja: Starring Goemon* released in 1998 for the Nintendo 64. This title offered a bizarre journey combining platform elements from games like *Super Mario 64* and free-roaming action-adventure elements from games like *The Legend of Zelda* blending the elements into a nearly perfect mix.

The game follows a wise-cracking ninja by the name of Goemon, his chubby friend Ebisumaru, a robot ninja named Sasuke, and a sword-wielding female named Yae as they try to stop a group called 'The Peach Mountain Shoguns' from turning all of Japan into a giant stage and all its citizens into loyal dancers via a

giant peach-shaped spaceship that shoots lasers. To put it lightly, this game doesn't take itself too seriously. This adventure drags you all over Japan through incredibly bright and colorful environments filled with tasks that range from jumping on platforms, to beating up enemies, and often times battling giant robot. There's a lot to be explored in this game, which can be a problem considering this is one of the few titles for the Nintendo 64 that required a Controller Pack due to its size.

Alongside its absurd sense of humor is a decent soundtrack that doesn't get tiresome to listen to and a game-play style considered nearly flawless, combining different elements to guarantee a fun yet still difficult experience. However, as with most platform games, you will slowly learn that your worst enemy is the game's camera which you cannot control.

Because of its Japanese origins, some humor was lost in translation and censorship. Also, the game's story is told the majority of the time through dialogue text boxes, which can seem a little too boring for a more impatient player. Another dated aspect is the



Mystical Ninja mixes elements from such classics as *Super Mario 64* and *The Legend of Zelda*. Those able to get past the outdated graphics will find that it offers quality play for contemporary gamers.

graphics which, while amazing for its time, cannot compare to games of the modern era. However, I feel these last two points are nothing to complain about considering the game-play quality. Those who complain about its aged features are no better than the people who complain about black and white movies because of the lack of color

Mystical Ninja: Starring

Goemon is published by company Konami and produced by KCE Osaka. This title is rare to find and can often be found on eBay for a price ranging between thirty to forty dollars.

The game is rated E for Everyone due to animated violence. Please consider the rating before purchase and don't buy anything without prior research.

Opinion

Facebook filling many roles

Emily Bierman '11

Every surprising event that has hit the world this year has been publicized by the news and the internet. Osama Bin Laden is dead. The Flyers were swept in the playoffs. School is closed. It's snowing.

Facebook has always been a place to express your feelings in song lyrics or to tell everybody about your day or what that awkward moment was that happened to you. Now it's one of the best news sources on the internet. Not only is Facebook addictive, it's informative.

Many wonder if Facebook is a good thing. While it is definitely a distraction at times, many students are able to keep up with current events better. When somebody passes away, there is

instantly a status made. When school is closed, a status is made, and everybody scrambles to find out if school is actually closed. If a couple breaks up, or two people are now in a relationship, and it becomes "Facebook official," everybody knows.

While some things may not be as important, like a sports event's final score or how a movie was, other things can possibly change a student's life. Facebook makes it easier for people, especially students who don't watch the news or read newspapers often, to find out something faster that may have taken them a day longer to find out.

Some also wonder if some statuses on Facebook are too repetitive or too informative. While it's true that many students will often

post statuses with similar subjects (for instance if Danny Briere got a hat trick or Chase Utley hit a homerun, many statuses would appear concerning them), it's not really a problem. Every student is able to say what they are thinking. And while some statuses have been wrong (for example a "no school" status when school was *not* cancelled), they often are not. Usually, statuses are more helpful than not.

Students find out news stories on more than just Facebook. Twitter has also become popular concerning current events. With just 160 characters, a person can find out that their favorite actor or actress has died.

While social network sites may not always be a positive addition to our world, it cannot be denied that they are helpful.

Odds & Ends

Perspective

What is the world still doing here?

Sean McLaughlin '11

May 21 has come and gone and it seems that the end of the world jokes have flown out the window with it.

No more will Township students get to say "Don't make that due on the 25th: the world isn't going to be here then." No more wild speculations as to whether there is even a grain of truth in the ramblings of those driving around in the now infamous "van."

No, all that is left to do is shake our heads and chuckle at those foolish enough to dedicate their lives to one man's fairytale only to be disappointed. But what did they really expect?

Before I go any further let me just say that I respect all manner of faiths and beliefs. My mantra is whatever you believe; you should believe it with all your heart. The problem I have with the fantasy spun by Harold Camping is that he used people's beliefs to gain notoriety.

Harold Camping is president of Family Radio, a radio station based in California. For

months now he has been using his radio station to preach to America that the end of the world would occur on May 21 between 6 to 8pm.

But the real tragedy of the May 21st debacle is that some Americans went along with it. They allowed their beliefs to be manhandled by this psychopath and let 2000 year old prophecies dictate their lives. Some people went so far as to commit suicide in order to escape the coming apocalypse. In one horrible case, a woman slit the throats of her children and finally, killed herself in order to protect them from the terrible events Harold Camping foretold.

Harold Camping is a fool. Like the rest of us, he does not have special powers. No human being knows with absolute certainty what happens when you die or when the world will end. These are the biggest questions in human existence and there are no easy answers.

This is where faith comes into play; believing in something when there is no logical proof that it exists. It is a beautiful thing. But faith becomes dangerous when it is mistaken for

fact and allowed to rule our actions in place of logic. There are people like Harold Camping who take advantage of that fact. The best way to protect yourself against them is to understand that you can question what someone says about your faith without questioning your faith.

Don't let somebody tell you what you believe because belief is one of those precious things in life that is yours and yours alone.

George Carlin said "The great thing about death is that it's fair. Everyone catches it once."

We don't know when the end of the world will come. We don't know where we will be when it happens or indeed what will happen to us when we eventually reach our end.

The best way to pass the time until that great discovery is to make life as rich and fulfilling as possible. Leave something behind and make a difference in the lives of others.

Do that, and you'll find something more exciting and rewarding then wallowing away speculating about death and the end of the world...living in it.

Pokémon masters and the heart of the cards

Sunset McCarthy '13

So pretty much everyone thinks they have no idea what manga and anime is and that it has nothing to do with their life. If they thought this though, they'd be mistaken. Anime is a Japanese cartoon, many of which are translated into English and shown here in the US. Manga is a Japanese comic book, they're usually longer than typical American comic books and they're read 'backwards', right to left.

I'm guessing most of you still don't know what that has to do with your life, well how many of you remember Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh!?! Maybe you didn't realize it at the time, but those are both anime and they've both had manga and some game associated with them.

Did you want to be the very best, like no one ever was? If you were a kid in the 90's, you probably did. You remember collecting the cards and playing the games on your old Game Boys, I'm sure. Japanimation was a big part of our lives when we were kids; I know that I at least wanted to be a Pokémon master after watching the cartoon every day.

Pokémon started with the video games and became widely popular in Japan and America, which spawned the popular television show. We all know the ten year old kid named Ash who's trying to become a Pokémon master.

So what's Ash doing now? Well, sixteen years later he's still ten years old and pretty much just as bad as when he started. The TV show's still going on, but Misty, May, and even now Dawn are gone. He's hanging around with a new girl now, what a pimp. Even Brock is now gone and Ash is

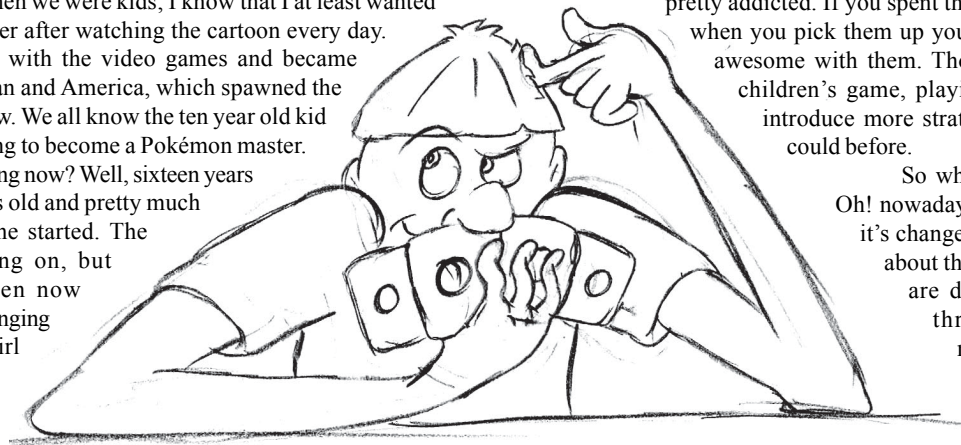
hanging out with some new guy as well. He's in a different region with the new Pokémon which are generally hated by the old fan base.

So Pokémon had a card game with it, but it could never compare to what I think is the most competitive card game to ever exist: Yu-Gi-Oh!. The show inspired by a manga showed us the intense card games where holographic monsters would be shown fighting each other and the main character, Yugi, would overcome his personal problems and the card games would be a big life changing experience for him.

Before the more light hearted episodes most of us remember, there was a Season Zero to Yu-Gi-Oh! which is a lot darker than the rest of the show was, with dark Yugi (Yugi's alter ego who would often come out while Yugi played card games) outright killing people. This amazing show got us all hooked on the card game we played more than we breathed. Personally, I'd have readily spent my food money on those cards.

The game's actually still fun now, it's just a card game but you can get pretty addicted. If you spent the time I did on those cards, when you pick them up you'll probably still be pretty awesome with them. Though you may think it's a children's game, playing now you'll be able to introduce more strategy to the game than you could before.

So what's going on with Yu-Gi-Oh! nowadays? The show's still on, but it's changed a lot. Though it's still all about the card game, the characters are different and writers have thrown card games on motorcycles into the mix to make it a little more 'epic'. Things have changed, haven't they?



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

Teachers of the Year

Ms. Marsha Brumberg

Chris Bosnjak '12

This year, Ms. Marsha Brumberg was selected as Teacher of the Year along with with *Monthly Rewind's* Mr. Marty Bouchard.

Brumberg teaches Calculus AB/BC, and Foundations. She has been teaching for 22 years and has had 38 years of education.

Brumberg or, "Ms. B" as her students call her, was finishing up class during second period when she heard the news of her selection.

"I was so surprised to win. I was truly, truly shocked," Brumberg said.

Her students weren't amazed by the news.

"I wasn't shocked because she is the nicest teacher I have had and [she] helps me whenever I am struggling." Danielle Guzzo '11 said.

She got into teaching because of the love of the students and that motivation is unchanged.

"I just love to help students and it's rewarding when a student tells me they understand something. It's a good career working with kids," Brumberg said.

Getting into teaching, she knew she had to help struggling students. She even stays after school for individual attention to students.

"I try to break down steps and give options to students. In math there's always more than one way to solve a problem." Brumberg said.



CHRIS BOSNJAK '12/The Patriot

Ms. Brumberg explains a difficult math concept to one of her students.

Her students are pleased at how she teaches.

"Ms. Brumberg really helps me out in class, I never really understood math as well as I do in her class because she really takes the time to help out every student that she can. She puts so much effort into helping her kids succeed." Kelsey Brown '11 said.

Brumberg said she feels honored to receive this award with Bouchard.

"It's great. We're friends and I admire him as a teacher. It was a great choice." She said.

Some of the perks to winning Teacher of the Year was that she got to throw the ceremonial first pitch at the Phillies game on Washington Township Night, May 5.

Although she and Bouchard were unable to meet any of the players, they still enjoyed it.

"It was the most fun I've had in a long time. I was grinning ear to ear the whole time." She said.

Although Brumberg won the award, she still is human and does have obstacles and challenges in her career. Her most difficult challenges she has encountered in teaching is to keep math entertaining and knowing all the material to teach to others.

She also joked that the most difficult thing is, "Teaching seniors in the spring."

Aside from teaching, Brumberg likes to head down to the beach, read and visit her kids. She also partakes in photography in her spare time. This summer she plans to teach summer courses at GCC and to go to the shore.

For those interested in pursuing a career in teaching, Brumberg has some advice.

"Make sure you love it and you love working with kids because it's challenging but also rewarding."

Mr. Marty Bouchard

Keli Sharkey '11

One of this year's Teachers of the Year is Mr. Marty Bouchard. He has taught as WTHS for over 26 years. What most people don't know is that he wasn't always a communications teacher but started as a wood shop and printing teacher.

Because he always loved doing hands-on projects, Bouchard attended Rowan University where he studied to be a wood shop teacher.

After graduating he got his first job at Washington Township. He worked as a wood shop teacher for a few years until new jobs started opening. Bouchard felt the newer jobs were more technically updated and he felt it was a good opportunity to open a new field in the school. He decided to go back to Rowan and studied communications before founding the communications program in our school.

He teaches the beginner class, Communication Technology, Advanced Communication Technology and Monthly Rewind.

Mr. Bouchard enjoys his job.

He said, "There are too many good memories to even mention."

He loves working with the kids and seeing what they have to give to the program.

One student said, "Mr. B is a great teacher. He always lets us be creative and we always learn a lot."

Mr. Bouchard is also in charge of taping after school programs and sports. Many times he is at the Friday night football games taping each play to make sure viewers at home can see it too.

Though Bouchard has been very dedicated to his job, he was surprised to win Teacher of the Year.

"I was shocked, honored, happy and surprised," he said.

Being one of the winners also

opened up a lot of different opportunities for him. He had to make a speech at the Honors Banquet, was part of the scholarship committee, and he participated in the opening throw for Township Night at the Phillies.

He explained how exciting and fun the game was and how it was neat to be on the field. His secret is that he is a diehard Mets fan.

"I had my Mets jersey on under my shirt at the Phillies game," Mr. Bouchard said. Although the Phillies aren't his number one team, he still had fun at the game and supporting Washington Township High School.

In his free time Mr. Bouchard enjoys spending time with his wife Renee, his two daughters Lacey and Madison and his dog Riley. He thinks spending time with his family is very important. He also enjoys playing the bass and going boating in Wildwood all summer.



Photo courtesy of MR. JERRY CULLEN

Showing his true colors, Mr. Bouchard, a die-hard Mets fan, wore a mets t-shirt under his Phillies jersey when catching the pitch from Ms. Brumberg.

People

Musician to record first EP

Noel Abastillas '11

"Music is everything, what I want to do, what I'm always doing, and what I'm always thinking about," Anthony Valenti '13 said.

Valenti is a guitarist, pianist, bassist, violinist, cellist, songwriter and lyricist. He'll soon be recording his first EP that will be released along with several artists for the opening of a new record label created by Valenti's friend, Ted. Valenti's focus is on creating an alternative sound with progressive, punk, and metal influences.

"It will sound reminiscent of the underground indie bands that existed in the 90s," he said, "so it'll have that distorted hazy sound."

He admits that he's not much of a lyricist but he his lyrics center on "emotional feelings, teenage problems, and experiences." Though the topics may seem cliché, Valenti takes a unique approach.

His first musical memory is of listening to jazz on car rides to kindergarten. His whole life has revolved around music since then.

The Beatles, Led Zeppelin then to Prog Rock bands like Yes, have buzzed around Valenti's head, or so he thought until he met an older kid named Jake.

Jake introduced him to the underground indie scene, with bands and artists like Pavement, Elliott Smith, At the Drive-in, Sunny Day Real Estate, Texas is the Reason, Dream Theater, and the Mars Volta. Those bands introduced him to punk, post-hardcore, and grunge. He became open to a new spectrum of creativity, ideas, and sound.

"How fast and clean you played didn't matter, composition and how it sounded mattered," Valenti said about how his musical palette has changed.

From there he started playing more unorthodox chords to convey murkier colors and took a more technical approach to creating songs. His six years of guitar and music theory has helped him do what he calls "conscious writing", focusing on trying to come up with musical arrangements on a specific idea and expanding on it, writing



Noel Abastillas '11 / The Patriot

Anthony Valenti is embarking on the journey of recording music.

several melodies for one song.

When he's not playing music, he's reading nonfiction work like biographies on Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, and C.S. Lewis. He finds pleasure in investigating the minds of very unique and different individuals and the opinions they express. In terms of fiction he likes

to read stories by Herman Melville and his favorite poem is "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Coleridge. He admires the meaning and metaphor behind it and holds that opinion towards music as well. Valenti is a musical talent whose writing ability has only begun to flower.

Student wins national award

Chris Bosnjak '12

This summer Kirk Butler '11 will be headed to Germany for the month of July. For scoring very well on the AATG German test, Butler qualified for an interview with a representative of the AATG and then to the National Committee of the AATG and was selected to receive a trip to Germany.

"It's going to be a great chance to experience a foreign culture not just as an observer, but as an active participant." Butler said.

Butler will be staying either in the famous city of Nuremberg in the German state of Bavaria, or Kulmbach, the capital of the district of Kulmbach in Bavaria. Both cities have a rich tradition and cultural history.

On his trip to Germany, Butler would like to visit Munich, Marktplatz, and Frauenkirche. Butler would also like to visit Dresden which is a city filled with things to see or as Butler said, "Too much art to name!"

German teacher Mr. Ray Anderson thinks very highly of him.

"I'm very, very proud to have a third student in

five years to win this national award! Kirk is a very outstanding person and intelligent student. I know he will excel," Anderson said.

Butler likes to be very humble and modest about his German Speaking abilities.

"I'm not fluent by any means. To be honest though, I really have no idea. Since I don't know any native German speakers, the only standards by which I can assess myself are my teacher and peers. By that standard, I'm pretty good, but in Germany it's a completely different story. We'll see how good I really am when I get there," Butler said.

Butler is in both the National Honors Society and the German National Honors Society, but even he was shocked that he won.

"I was very surprised and more excited than I can express in words." Butler said.

He is anticipating the trip.

"I'm not really a summer person. By July, I'm out of things to do, but this summer's going to be lovely." He said.

With a busy summer ahead, Butlers first time in Germany should be a great adventure that he will always remember.



CHRIS BOSNJAK '12/The Patriot

Kirk Butler was awarded a month-long trip in recognition of his excellence in speaking German.