

The Patriot

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

March, 2011

Girls grab Group IV

Ally Gallo '11

Washington Twp students saw up close and personal a live Cinderella story as the Minutemaids basketball team defeated number one seed, Cherry Hill East, to win the South Jersey Group IV finals on March 8.

The girls trailed in the third quarter by 13 points, but outscored Cherry Hill East 17-3 in the last quarter. With an outstanding block of a 3- point attempt by Gianna DiPietro '11, Twp brought home the championship title with a final score of 46-43.

Both Washington Twp and Cherry Hill East players and fans seemed stunned as the clock ran out. The Minutemaids got off to a rocky start in this 2010-2011 season. They finished the regular season with a record of 12-13, but made it to the playoffs as the 11th seed. Cherry Hill East was ranked number 1 in the Group IV division, 8th in the state.

"I was in disbelief. I honestly thought I was dreaming. Me and Gianna ran up to each other and



photo courtesy of Maureen Flemming

The WTHS Minutemaids rush the court to celebrate their victory. The team defeated Cherry Hill East to become Group IV champions for the first time in years.

pinched each other's faces to see if it was real," said Kelsey Brown '11.

"All we want is to win, and if that means doing the unthinkable, then we'll do it," DiPietro said.

They Minutemaids were considered the underdogs when they

went in to face their opponents, Vineland, Toms River East, and Atlantic City, the 3, 6 and 7 seeds, at the start of the 2011 playoffs. The squad seemed to take a fearless approach to the games and defeated all three.

"Our team is relentless; we never give up even when we are down. We keep fighting," said Delia Mercurio '11.

The team succeeded and made it this far under the direction of See **BASKETBALL** page 23

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Staff shows its talent

Emily Bierman '11

Two successful concepts, the faculty talent show and *Glee*, were combined to create *Township Glee*. This biennial event, staged before President's Day weekend, showcased the talents of the staff members of WTHS.

Many faculty members worked together to put on *Township Glee* this year. Over twenty staff members performed or helped out with the production. The show included two acts, each comprised of thirteen different groups. Mrs. Theresa Pietrowski and Mr. Shaun Giberson were the emcees that kept the show running smoothly.

"This is my first year participating in the show due to [previous] graduate education commitments. I thoroughly enjoyed co-hosting and look forward to doing it again in two years," said Giberson.

Teachers on the River kicked off the show with Mr. Ray Anderson, who appeared in the talent show for his fifth time, singing "Proud Mary" with his backup singers and dancers.

See **TALENT** page 3

Sorry for the delay.

This issue was scheduled to come out last week but a program glitch delayed production.

Our apologies,
-The Editors

Meet the Men

Mr. WT candidates make appearances around town

Ally Gallo '11

The nominees for the 2011 Mr. Washington Township have been announced and came as an honor to the 12 guys elected.

"I was really surprised, I didn't expect it whatsoever. So when they called my name, it was really touching," Pete Spatocco '11 said.

The boys soon realized that being a candidate for Mr. WT is not all fun and games and it takes a lot of hard work and dedication which includes necessary preparation before the night of the show. This all starts with practice. Practice began immediately after the guys were announced and are held every Monday and Wednesday night in the blue room and every Sunday at a choreographer's house for 12 weeks. The practices consist of long intense hours of hard working and sweating, in which the boys learn intricate dance routines taught by senior choreographers Ally Gallo, Alexandra Richards and Nicoleta Sinagridis.

"So far the practices are really intense. We learn a lot of dance moves, really fast. So it's hard to keep them all straight in your head," said Nick Maleno '11. The Mr. WT show is not the only that the town has an opportunity to see these boys. The nominees have already started



ALLY GALLO '11/The Patriot

The Mr. WT boys pose with their choreographers before their performance in Disney World. The guys showed a preview of their dance in Fantasia Garden's.

making appearances around town starting with the traditional basketball shootout contest. This year, the contest was held during halftime at the WTHS girls' basketball "pink out" fundraiser game. The boys and their escorts were introduced to the crowd and then the shootout began. Mr. October, Ryan Lawrence, won the shootout after being the only one to make the shot the first round.

"It was a great feeling to hear everyone cheering at the game after being the first and only one to make a shot!" said Lawrence.

The boys made their next appearance at

Twp's first annual Sadie Hawkins dance where the boys and their escorts were introduced once again and then took part in a slow dance.

One of the Mr. WT boys' most anticipated event besides the show is also a tradition of senior year at Twp. The boys gave a sneak preview of their opening dance during the Senior Trip in Disney World at Fantasia Gardens on March 24.

"I was so proud of the boys' performance. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it so I'm excited for the show!" said Richards.

Their final appearance will be during intermission of the WTHS Dance Concert on April 14 in the TDBAC at 7 pm.

"I think the appearances are part of the whole experience. They're really fun and they get a lot of promotion for the show, so it works great," Maleno said.

This all leads to the night of the show. Mr. WT will be on April 28 at 7pm in the TDBAC. All proceeds will benefit Project Graduation.

"On the night of the show, I'm probably going to be really nervous, but when we're on stage I think everything will turn out pretty good," said Reg Torrevillas '11.

The Mr. WT boys are looking forward to this exciting night.

"I know it's going to be really intense the night of the show and I know I'm not going to want it to end," said Spatocco.

Township accepts challenge

Amy Dennis '12

illustration: Nick LeDonne '12

When the eye-opening anti-violence seminar, *Rachel's Challenge*, came to WTHS on Feb. 10th, the students gathered in the TD Banks Arts Center were in for a lot more than just another school assembly.

The program is named for Rachel Joy Scott, a 17 year old junior student at Columbine High School in Colorado. The school became tragically famous when two troubled students entered the building on a manic shooting rampage and attempted bombing of the school in April, 1999. Twelve students and one teacher were killed that day and Rachel Scott was the first among these.

During the presentation, students learned of Rachel Scott's

love for writing and how through this, she managed to trigger her own "chain reaction" and further change the world. Through Scott's diary passages students learned what type of person she was. In a video, stories were told by close friends and relatives of Scott that revealed her unusually kind, compassionate and loyal personality.

Then the audience was introduced to a school essay Rachel had written shortly before her death. In her essay Scott records her "Ethics and Codes of Life". She explains how important it is to value faith, honesty and compassion in life relationships and that when you are generally kind and loyal to a person it "may just start a chain reaction" to make the world a better place. The theory and key points of this essay inspired family and friends to form what is known today as

Rachel's Challenge.

"I loved hearing about how Rachel reached out to help those kids who needed a friend" Said Bianca Zambino '12 "it really made me feel inspired."

Rachel's Challenge travels to schools across the nation to educate students on the power of kindness and friendship among classmates. The program proposes a series of "challenges" for students to accomplish in order to create a better school and home environment. Among these are keeping a journal, setting future goals, and being kind to others.

"A lot of teenagers just coast through high school because they just don't want to get involved," said Chris Andreas '12 "That's why most bullying gets ignored. Kids are afraid of being outcast for standing up for what's right."

Rachel's Challenge offers a follow-up club now taking place in school called "Friends Of Rachel". Through the club, students can share their own stories about bullying, teenage life and relationships. The goal of *Rachel's Challenge* becomes more possible with every school. By teaching students through real-life tragedies like Columbine and inspiring them with real-life heroes like Rachel Joy Scott, students are beginning to spread the chain reaction of kindness that Scott worked so hard to achieve.

"It's definitely had a good effect on the school," said 11/12 wing Executive Assistant Principal Mrs. Theresa Pietrowski, "I've seen a lot of students go out of their way to help others and it's really exciting to see the number of people that are still involved in keeping the message of kindness going."

Faculty displays other talents

TALENT from page 1

"I knew that I wanted to put together something special for this year's show. I thought 'Proud Mary' would be a fun way to get the show started and the audience energized. I really enjoyed getting to work with my backup dancers, Ms. Pietrowski and Ms. Jackson, and also my backup singers, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Petrongolo-Costello, and Mrs. Molotsky. They were a lot of fun and we worked well together to produce some positive energy. I think we gave the crowd quite a thrill with our performance," said Anderson.

Many students found Anderson's performance to be one of their favorites of the night.

"My favorite act was Anderson's because it was amusing seeing him dance and sing on the stage," said Kristina Sanchez '11.

"I loved Mr. Anderson's performance because he was absolutely hilarious," said Raina Dhir '11. "I also absolutely loved the duet between Mr. Lawler and Ms. Silverman because they were absolutely amazing."

Teachers on the River was only one of the memorable performances of the night. Another popular performance was Silverman & Lawler. Mr. Chris Lawler and Ms. Cheryl Silverman took the stage during the first act to sing together.

There were many entertaining performances, including 'A



photo courtesy of Mrs. Sybil Cohen

Mrs. Abby Molotsky, Mrs. Angela Petrongolo-Costello, Ms. Brittany Mason, Ms. Eisa Jackson, and Mr. Ray Anderson pose before their performance.

Dramatic Reading,' which starred Mrs. Abby Molotsky and Mr. Bill Hughes as they did "Who's on First." The faculty members performed the famous Abbot and Costello routine, only changing it from a baseball format to a classroom setting.

One of the performances that stole the show was Ms. Eisa Jackson's dance routine to the song "Let Me Think About It."

"I love performing. I am a dancer and have danced all my life so I enjoy being on stage," said Jackson. "I also like to get involved with things going on in the school. I

like this particular activity because the kids see a different side of their teachers and that is a lot of fun."

It was not only the students who enjoyed the show.

"My favorite act is a tossup between Ms. Jackson's solo dance. Really, a body can move in that many directions and that fast? 'Silverman and Lawler' was amazing. The range and quality of these two singers was amazing!" said Giberson.

Jackson contributed more than her performances. She also choreographed the "Gleeks" and helped Anderson with this Tina

Turner routine.

"It took some time outside of work to come up with choreography and spent several hours working with the teachers on their moves. I enjoyed doing it though. I enjoyed getting to know other teachers in the process," said Jackson.

One of the benefits from the talent show, is the proceeds go directly to Project Graduation.

"I do the show because it is a big fundraiser for Project Graduation. Obviously at my age and with absolutely no talent, I don't do it for fame! I volunteer on graduation night and I love seeing my students relaxed and having fun at Dave and Busters," said Mrs. Ann Marie Handlon, who has participated in the talent show since she started working at WTHS, thirteen years ago.

The staff members who participate volunteer their time because they support Project Graduation. It is a cause in which they strongly believe.

"I truly enjoy being an entertainer. I like it when people laugh and can forget their troubles for a while and just have a good time. I also participate in the talent show so students can see that teachers have fun and can rock out just like they can," said Anderson.

"Knowing students will be safe on graduation" is the main reason why so many people participate and get involved," said Giberson.

Buzz about *Township Glee*

compiled by Madison Sudano

"The Cha-Cha Slide Dance was amazing and I think we all had a blast"

- Alexa Scharf '13

"All the staff was awesome, but my English teacher stole the show."

- Kira Parkin '11

"It was hilarious and unexpected."

- Nicolette Vassallo '12

"It was exciting to see the teachers having fun and really putting themselves out there in front of so many people. It took a lot of guts to get up there and everyone was amazing"

- Phoebe Mullen '12

"This was something different and I hope to see another show like it."

-Deanna Nardello '14

"It gave me a different perspective on my teachers and guidance counselors."

- Raghav Sahni '12

"I did not know what to expect and was really surprised and loved it"

- Matthew Bergman '11

"I didn't think my teacher could dance like that!"

- Lisa Reeve '14

COW project goes on the road

Amy Dennis '12

On Wednesday, March 16 the C.O.W. (Changing Our World) and S.U.R.E. (Schools United for Respect and Equality) clubs of WTHS embarked to Rowan University for an educational field trip. The day featured an effective keynote speaker, and several workshops dealing with such issues as bullying, racism, and domestic violence prevention.

"It was a great experience," said Giselle Georgi '12, "It was so awesome to see everyone come together for a good cause."

Breakfast was provided in the morning as schools from all over the South Jersey area filed into one of the college's luxurious conference rooms. After a welcoming speech from Dr. Sean F. Dalton of Rowan University, keynote speaker Jim Donovan, a consumer reporter of CBS3 News took the stage. Donovan discussed his childhood and the type of bullying he was exposed to in his Staten Island hometown. He encouraged students to reach their goals and step out of their comfort zones in order to lead a

successful life.

"His message was really inspiring and I loved how much he could relate to us as teenagers," said Chris Andreas '12.

After Donovan's empowering address, students were free to select three of the ten featured workshops to explore during the day.

Many local schools participated individually in the summit by holding workshops in designated Rowan classrooms. The Gloucester County Institute of Technology performed a drama skit on domestic violence and the importance of raising awareness of this. Paulsboro High School organized a workshop based on the famous "Blue Eyes/ Brown Eyes" concept of preventing racism in our schools and neighborhoods. West Deptford High School also organized a conference on the negative power of bullying in high schools everywhere and how students can diminish that negativity through positive acts of kindness.

Following these small group sessions, the students proceeded to lunch where they discussed their day and individually comprised

a three word phrase to sum up what they learned from the conference that day. WTHS's appropriately stated "Let's not judge".

"I'm really proud of the kids," said Mrs. Eileen Lucarini "They not only enjoyed themselves but they got to see from different perspectives what it is to be a leader and they learned from the experience. The ultimate goal was to bring back what you've learned to get up, stand up, and make it better here at school and I think the C.O.W. and S.U.R.E. students really accomplished that."

After lunch, the C.O.W. club from WTHS performed a choreographed rendition of Bob Marley's "Get up, Stand up" with soloist Alexa Simone '11 taking the lead vocals and Rob Carvahlo '11 incorporating a rap into the performance.

"I think it was an awesome way to wrap up one of the best days of my life." said John Rattacasa '12, an enthusiastic S.U.R.E. member, "the summit was all about standing up to make our school a better place and I really learned from that."

Sophomores win March Madness



KENNY PATRONE '13/The Patriot



ROSHNI PATEL '13/The Patriot

Letters

Manuary needs to consider environment

To The Editor:

In the February issue of *The Patriot*, an article described the activities of a group of seniors who participate every year in a tradition called "Manuary." Let us first acknowledge that while we fully support the fundraising efforts of the group, we have grave concerns about one of their other rituals. According to the article, Manuary boys spend every Sunday in January cutting down trees. In both the photo published in *The Patriot* and those on the group's Facebook page, it is clear that the trees chosen for this activity are live. The S.A.V.E. club is obviously alarmed at such a practice, as the cutting down of healthy trees is detrimental to our environment on various fronts.

Trees play an indispensable part in our ecosystem. They help to mitigate the negative effects of carbon

dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. According to The Conservation Fund, one tree absorbs an estimated average of approximately one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Trees are also instrumental in preventing soil erosion, and providing a habitat for small animals and birds.

Perhaps the camaraderie achieved by the Manuary group by cutting down trees can be achieved in a more productive manner. There are many spots on our own WTHS campus that would benefit from the donation and planting of a tree. The careful removal of dead trees in wooded land could also help prevent the incidence of forest fires. The SAVE club hopes that future Manuary participants consider these more productive activities rather than continuing to take part in so destructive a tradition.

Sincerely,

The members of S.A.V.E.

Time to open all the doors

Dear Editor,

I feel that one of the most frustrating things about our school is the fact that there is only one door available in the core for students to enter through in the morning.

Imagine trying to enter through one door when it is pouring rain and the wind is blowing violently, yet there is only one way to get into the school and since there are about 2,500 students in the school about half of them use the one door. When the weather is brutal, students are in a rush just to get into the building. Students end up getting pushed, shoved, and sometimes even fall just trying to get in and stay dry.

I understand the school only opens one door for security reasons, but why not open all of the doors for students to enter in the morning and then lock the doors but one after homeroom. If the school is still concerned with security, have staff positioned near the doors and if they notice any suspicious students or activities, they can question the people involved separately.

I truly believe that if we could convince administration to open all of the doors, just in the early morning hours, it would make the beginning of the school day a lot smoother and more pleasant for all.

- Joe Tracy '13

Students worn out after testing

Dear Editor,

For the WTHS class of 2012, HSPA week is something we've been preparing for since our very first day of school eleven years ago. It's three days that are crucial to the rest of our high school career and for the juniors, these are three days filled with stress, frustration, and long hours in the school.

Meanwhile, the freshmen have their S test and the seniors and sophomores get to sleep in. For the ninth and eleventh graders, the rest of the school day is an annoyance and a distraction. Why should we have to be put through another four hours of school after working all morning on such a significant standardized test?

It's clear that all the students want to do after being tested like so, is to go home and sleep off the angst. The last thing we want is to proceed through eight more class periods that will likely assign homework we couldn't possibly focus on. Perhaps the school system is just keeping it this way because that's how it has always

been. But there are more productive ways to go about handling these few irksome days.

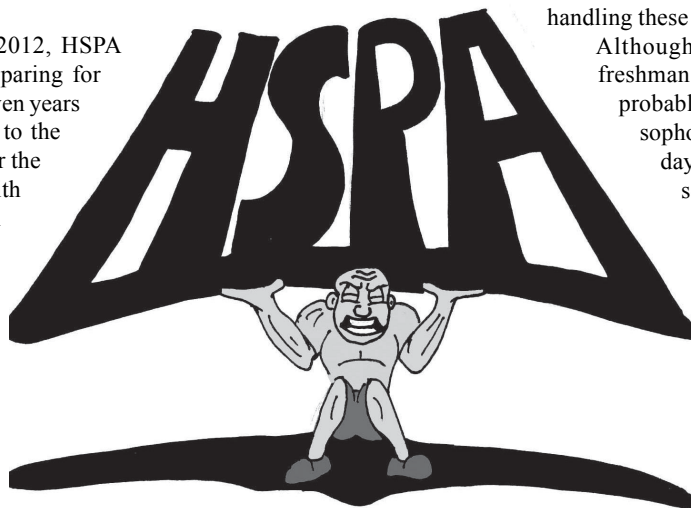
Although it would be convenient to send the freshman and juniors home after their testing it probably isn't a valid enough reason to give the sophomores and seniors three miscellaneous days off. But what if those HSPA days were scheduled as the teacher in-service days that we randomly get out of school for?

It seems like it would work nicely to "kill two birds with one stone" as they say. Ninth and eleventh graders could go home to relax, and the rest of the school can stay home because of the in-service.

Other similar ideas like can also be considered to make the HSPA week less of an inconvenience and more mutually beneficial. Maybe an assembly could take place during the after-testing hours and then an early dismissal. Surely, this could

inspire an academic as well as behavioral improvement among students, and those random days could matter more to everybody.

Amy Dennis '12



NICK LEDONNE '12/*The Patriot*

Commentary

A lethal leisure

Smoking teens may cause problems for their peers

Jenn Gordun '12

Many students walk from the CAC to the high school each morning. On the way, most of these students are exposed to thick clouds of smoke from cigarettes. Smoked by students lingering off school grounds at the top of the steps of the CAC, these clouds of smoke can be detrimental to innocent teens passing by.

Every teen in Washington Township High School has experienced something like this. The short and long term effects of secondhand smoke can be devastating to teenagers who are involuntarily inhaling this smoke each day. According to University of Minnesota's Division of Periodontology, only 15% of the smoke from a cigarette gets inhaled by the smoker, the other 85% of the smoke lingers in the air for others to breathe in. This secondhand smoke can be dangerous to the lungs, gums, and teeth of innocent bystanders.

About 3000 nonsmokers die each year from lung cancer caused by secondhand smoke. This illustrates the importance of keeping away from the harmful clouds of smoke they face every day while walking to school. Something must be done to mitigate students' encounters with cigarette

I believe that students who choose to smoke so close to the school should be more courteous to their peers. Smoking is a choice, and if they wish to do so, they should smoke in a place that is secluded.

smoke and to prohibit other students from smoking in general.

I believe that students who choose to smoke so close to the school should be more courteous to their peers. Smoking is a choice, and if they wish to do so, they should smoke in a place that is secluded. Instead of smoking at a location that

everyone must pass through, they should smoke in their cars or on the grass away from the parking lot.

Many students –especially the smokers, may believe that taking this measure is futile. They may believe that whether they smoke on the CAC steps or at home, they still will choose to smoke. This may be true, but by taking away the possibility of secondhand smoke near the school, there is less of a chance for students having health problems later in life.

WTHS students must realize that the TWP in the school name means Together With Pride. There is no pride in diseased gums, lung cancer, rotting teeth, bad breath and dying young. When the students of WTHS smoke, they not only make themselves look bad but make their school look bad. Smoking is a disgusting habit that must be broken, or later in life, students could be facing the devastating outcomes like heart disease, lung cancer, bone cancer, and emphysema.

Students of WTHS who smoke must realize that smoking not only hurts themselves, but their peers and friends around them. Maybe next time they decide to loiter on the CAC steps smoking, they'll think again of the detrimental results they can cause for themselves and friends.

Alternative choices provide prom savings

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

Prom dress: two hundred dollars. Prom shoes: thirty dollars. Prom accessories: forty dollars. Enjoying your time at the prom: priceless? With this year's junior and senior proms approaching, many are fishing into their bank accounts to make sure they look their best. However, is it really necessary to spend so much money on one night?

Granted, prom is considered a once in a lifetime experience, but there are cheaper ways to look nice and have a memorable night.

In order to cut costs on

transportation, groups should reconsider getting a limo. Although it may seem like a glamorous, more sophisticated way to arrive at the prom, limos can cost up to ninety dollars per couple. If you factor renting a limo in with the cost of tickets, attire, shoes, and other paraphernalia, prom turns into a huge expense.

By simply getting a friend or a parent to drive you and your date to the prom you can save a lot of money. Some people argue that having a parent drive to the prom is embarrassing, but in the grand scheme of things, being slightly embarrassed

is better than being completely broke.

Another huge expense, specifically for girls is getting their hair done. Girls have the misconception that only professional hairstylists can create the elaborate styles they see in magazines. However, this is not always the case. Sometimes a talented friend or family member can recreate the style just as well for free. This saves a trip to the salon as well as money that could be used to buy more expensive items such as a prom dress.

Manicures and make up can also

be done at home very easily. Convenience stores such as CVS and Rite Aid have manicure kits available for purchase which makes painting nails significantly easier. As for makeup, YouTube has a variety of makeup tutorials for just about any dress color and style that are easy to follow and simple to perform.

Spending exorbitant amounts of money on the prom may seem like it's worth the fuss, but if you're looking to cut costs, there are many reasonable and thrifty options that will leave you looking just as good as if you spent hundreds of dollars.

Send your opinions and letters to wthspatriot@gmail.com

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

State requirements too restrictive

Jenn Gordun '12

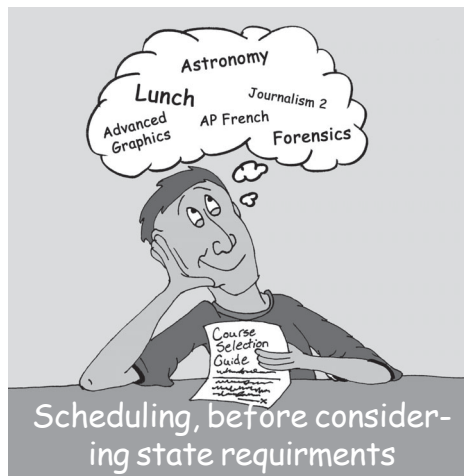
Mathematics, science, history, practical art, performing art and now *Financial Literacy*; choosing classes has become much more difficult.

Starting with the class of 2014, the state has required *one more* class on top of the mandatory classes for students to take in order to graduate. Students will be required to take a full year financial literacy class. To many, this demand seems frustrating and exasperating.

Many students come into high school excited and eager to try different classes that sound appealing and interesting. Now finally entering the school as freshmen, they are quickly learning that taking classes based on their interest may be tougher than anticipated.

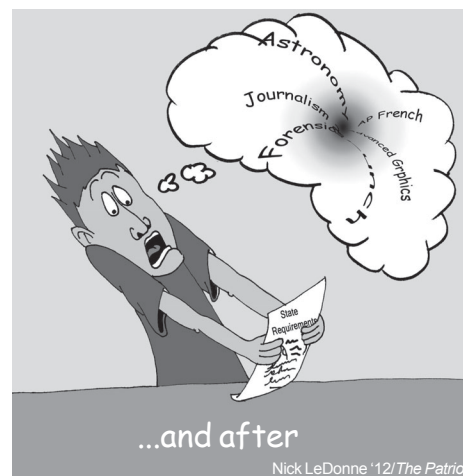
Before graduation, students must take an assortment of different classes for specific lengths of time. The state mandates that students take four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies, one year of a practical art, one year of a performing art, and one physical education class for each year enrolled in WTHS.

For students interested in a four-year elective like guitar or dance, an additional mandatory class may impair their chances to take all four years of that elective. Many students



already are sacrificing their lunches in order to meet the demands of the state and to meet their interests as well. With an additional class like financial literacy, students may begin sacrificing lunch for consecutive years in WTHS, and this may take a toll on the student body.

Without a class period like lunch, students will be deprived of a time not only to eat, but to have a small break in the hectic schedule of their day. Without this break, many students may become fatigued, irritable, and unmotivated.



Some students –instead of sacrificing lunch, may decide to give up a class that piques their interest. With so many required and only four years of high school, teens may begin sacrificing a class that appeals to them because of requisites.

High school is a time and place for teenagers to sample different academic disciplines and activities that they may use to pursue professions in the future. With increasingly limited choice in selecting classes, students are losing this opportunity.

Sadie Hawkins provides casual night of fun

Ally Gallo '11

It's amazing how much of a difference of a good time someone can have when they're not put under the pressure and stress that go along with proms and formals. I got the opportunity to spend the night dancing with my friends at a low cost and memories that will last long after high school.

Contrary to the usual tradition of guys asking girls for a date, WTHS switched it up when Student Council hosted its Valentine's Day themed Sadie Hawkins Dance.

The Sadie Hawkins Dance custom is for a girl to ask the guy to attend with them, and that is exactly what the students at Washington Twp HS did.

On Friday, February 11, Student Council transformed the 9/10 Gym to an adorable Valentine's Day atmosphere. The decorations were simple, but perfect for a casual dance just days before Valentine's Day.

Sadie Hawkins was opened to every grade, however only about 200

attended. It was a shame that not many people got to see the outcome of the well thought out dance. Student Council used DiNardo Brothers as their DJ, and they were in fact very good. They seemed to play everything the guests wanted to hear, and there weren't complaints about songs.

Some other positives were the snacks Student Council offered, and the casual format of the dance. Students seemed to really enjoy themselves because they weren't stressed out before the dance like they are before prom and homecoming. There were no worries about dresses, hair, or flowers. It was just nice and relaxed which made for a worthwhile time.

In the middle of the dance, the Mr. WT boys were introduced one by one with their escort, and then the two shared a slow dance. This was a nice addition because it got more people to come support their friends in Mr. WT.

Student Council should definitely offer more dances like the Sadie Hawkins Dance. Maybe more

advertising will make up for the low attendance. It was very nice attending a low key dance like this

one, and those who attended will definitely try to spread the word to others if there is a next time.

The Patriot

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**Washington Township High School,
519 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Sewell, NJ**

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Please send all correspondence to: wthspatriot@gmail.com

The Arts

Mirage steps it up

Kelsey Wainwright '11

After coming off a high from their previous seasons, the Washington Township High School Mirage Indoor Colorguard is out to take over their fellow competitors.

After scoring a 96 at A Weekend in Wildwood last April, the guard was promoted to compete in Scholastic A, a very prestigious group that only the best colorguards have the talent and skill to compete in.

"I was totally ecstatic and proud of my team, but I was a little nervous afterward. Moving up a class is a challenge, and we need to work much harder now," said captain Erin Signor '12.

After their strong finish last spring, the guard was back to prove themselves worthy of their victory during the outdoor season as well. Named best colorguard at every competition, the guard had their foot in the door, ready to take on the indoor scene.

"Our outdoor season is almost like boot camp for indoor. Even though it is enjoyable, the weather is our enemy," Signor said, "knowing we can succeed in rain or shine helps motivate our members for winter guard, which is a tremendous amount of fun inside."

Preparing since early December, the guard has been fighting to prove their worth. Rehearsing every Monday and Wednesday night, the guard works their hardest to finish their show for the remainder of their season.

"Rehearsals are fun most of the time," Sam Burns '11 said, "we really work hard (a



KELSEY WAINWRIGHT '11/The Patriot

On and off the floor, the guard is a family committed to each other.

lot harder than people give us credit for) and all the hard work at practice pays off so much in the show." Perfecting their show until Championships in Wildwood at the end of April, they're ready to take on a lot of pressure.

Their show, featuring *Not As We* by Alanis Morissette, shows the emotion of the song through their performance.

"This year's show is about expressing a feeling of deep loss," Sarah Carney '12 said, "that loss can be a person you loved, an opportunity, really anything. It's a kind of sadness that has to come from deep inside of you."

With more pressure for the guard to compete at higher levels, the instructors are getting tougher than ever. Mrs. Lauren Harder and former art teacher Ms. Alexandra Smith push the guard harder and farther than ever before.

"They are motivating when they need to be. When they can't play nice anymore, they put their foot down and tell us to push and to not get lazy," Megan Boyle '12 said, "they put it in our heads that we can do more and better."

With their challenges set in their sights, the Mirage colorguard is working their hardest to prove their title once again in Wildwood.



KELSEY WAINWRIGHT '11/The Patriot

The Mirage Indoor Colorguard starts off their season strong at their first competition at Timber Creek High

Correction

In the February issue of *The Patriot*, we failed to include a credit for the illustration for "3-D Movies: Worth the cost?" It was drawn by Stephanie Peel '11

10 Hour Benefit Concert

The Washington Township High School Arts Department is holding a 10 hour benefit concert on April 16 from 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

The proceeds will be going towards Japan relief.

Come out and support!

BroTones get hyped

Christina Cockerill '12

After school, five male voices gather in the chorus room around a piano, practicing self-written medleys and newly composed hit singles. BroTones, Township's all-male Acapella group. BroTones, consisting of seniors Nick Waer, Sean McLaughlin, and Tom Conroy and juniors Max Wolff and Damien Figueras, have been performing their own acapella versions of pop songs, such as Lighthouse's "Animal" and "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers.

Figueras said, "At the beginning of the year, Sean McLaughlin and I talked about putting together an acapella group. We talked to the other guys, and they loved the idea. Thus, the group was born."

McLaughlin added, "Can't is the cancer of happening," a reference to the latest Charlie Sheen scandal.

It didn't take long for them to get started. With Figueras and Conroy hard at work composing, the group has managed to produce their Disney mash-up, a medley of hero songs from classic Disney movies such as *Hercules*, *Alladin*, and *Mulan*.

Figueras said, "I could spend anywhere from a few hours to a few days arranging the music. It's hard work, but it's fun work. It may be time consuming, but in the end, it's so rewarding"

But with BroTones, it's more than just the work. Waer said, "We all knew each other before the group was started, but after working so closely together for a while, we are all much more in tune with one another, no pun intended.

Saturdays usually bring the group out to breakfast, where they eat and end up hanging around for much longer than rehearsing.

McLaughlin said, "We are 50 percent



AMY DENNIS '12/The Patriot

The BroTones (from left to right: McLaughlin, Conroy, Figueras, Waer, and Wolff) perform at the Coffee House.

bussiness 100 percent pleasure because every minute of rehearsal is just a good time. The best part about the group is how tight we all are outside of professional life. I think that bond actually makes us better to work together. We could fill up a book with all the inside jokes we have."

The rehearsals and practices must be something to really look forward too. Each and every one of the members has been super involve with more than one project at a time. McLaughlin and Figueras will be featured in an original

production by Josh Kurtz and Dom Fera, *Ordinary People, Ordinary Problems*.

In addition, all five of the members can be seen in the school production of *Godspell*. "We still find time, though, for acapella," Wolf said.

Recently, the group has performed at SURE's Coffee House, the Vocal Pops concert, and are now looking forward to another show at Mr. Washington Township, where they will premier their new song "Nickelodeon Theme Song Mash-Up".

Godspell ready to take stage

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

Several months after the closing night of the Fall play, the members of the Way- Off Broadway Players eagerly awaited the announcement of this year's Spring musical. In January, Mr. James DiGennaro proudly announced that *Godspell* would be this year's production.

The news generated much buzz amongst the actors and actresses waiting to audition.

Sally Lobel '13 stated, "*Godspell* is a totally different

format than any other musical we've done at this school so far."

Lobel's opinion in describing *Godspell* as an out of the ordinary musical is shared by many.

"It is a show entirely based around storytelling," said Kelly Stonehouse '13, "All of the music is really fun and gives a lot of opportunity for the ensemble to be showcased. The ensemble is basically onstage the entire show, which is not something you see often in musicals."

Godspell is a musical focused around bible stories and fables, in

which some key characters tell stories to the audience while the ensemble joins in and sings.

"The audience will also be able to get involved with the show," said Connor Burke '13, "They are encouraged to sing and dance along with the music."

Not only does the audience participation make this show enjoyable, but the cast agrees that this show is shaping up to be one of the most interesting productions ever featured at WTHS.

"The practices are going really well," stated Kaila Rea '13, "I

definitely believe that the show will come together and look awesome in the end. We're all working super hard at practices and it is paying off."

Godspell is about a community coming together to tell stories and teach a lesson, but it's no surprise that the cast is also becoming a community of its own.

"My favorite part is making new friends and building relationships during practices," Said Rea.

Godspell will be opening on March 31 and running through to April 2.

Coffeehouse transforms cafeteria again

Amy Dennis '12

For many, the March 4 Coffeehouse was a night of firsts with an array of new performers, including the talented local bands *Casey's Shotgun*, *Minor Inconvenience* and *Saturnine* (formerly known as *New Jersey Drive*). But for the class of 2011, it was the last Coffeehouse of their high school life.

"It was definitely one of my favorite Coffeehouses," said Alicia Commoroto '11 "and being the last one of my senior year, it couldn't have been better."

The students and teachers of S.U.R.E. work hard from the end of 8th period until it is time for the show transforming Caf  B into a hip entertainment venue, and their efforts are always rewarded. But of course, there would be no show without good performers. By 6:00 that evening, the performers were ready to take the stage.

"I love setting up for Coffeehouse," said Christina Cockerill '11 "it doesn't even feel like work when we're all having so much fun."

This year's March Coffeehouse had a particularly varied set of acts ranging from interpretive dance to piano soloists to guitar soloists and full band performances. But what draws most teenagers to the show, is the overall atmosphere that is provided.

"I love how chill the Coffeehouse is," said Alley Innes '12 "it makes things way more enjoyable than if you were at a school assembly or talent show."

Christmas lights and incandescent table lamps transform what normally is a noisy, uncomfortable lunchroom into a welcoming caf  for anyone to come and hang out at. The entrance fee of five dollars goes to benefit the S.U.R.E. club and the charities it supports such as *Pennies For Peace*.

"It was the most superbly successful Coffeehouse we've had in



AMY DENNIS '12/The Patriot

Evan Cook '12 and Tom Bohner '11 perform with their band *Saturnine* at Coffeehouse

years because everyone came together," said Mr. Todd Oberholtzer, a ninth grade history teacher and adviser of S.U.R.E. club, "The performers and the audience were awesome and when you have that kind of unity, it just makes for a great show."

As the show wrapped up, it was obvious that the performers had worked their hardest to showcase their talents.

"We had a great variety of acts," said Frank Sokolovic '12 "more people should come out to perform next year."

Orchestra students prepare for Carnegie Hall

Carmen Milano '11

From April 20 to April 23, students from the Washington Township High School orchestra ensembles are going to Carnegie Hall in New York City. It is a great achievement for the students to play because only the best perform at the concert hall.

"I'm thrilled that we were accepted into this prestigious Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall and approved by the school district to attend," said Mrs. Judy Barnett, director of the school's orchestras.

Not only does the WTHS orchestra get to perform, they get to explore New York for themselves. The students will get to tour The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and see a Broadway show. There will also be a tour of Juilliard School, which is a very prestigious college for fine and performing art students, and the orchestra members will enjoy a performance by the Juilliard orchestra.

The students attending are excited and eager to reach New York. For most, this will be the only time they get to perform in such a prestigious hall.

Natalie Zagone is one of the cello players going on the trip. "It will be exciting to go to New York. Plus, the Carnegie Hall performance is on my birthday," she shares. All of the participants are required to go to one rehearsal a week, which might not sound all that enjoyable. However, the pieces of music being practiced are interesting and easy to stay interested in.

There's going to be a lot of work put into this trip. This is a once in a lifetime thing for most, and no one wants to be the one to mess it up.

Lifestyles

Staying healthy

Leanne Abrams '11

The winter season is ending and spring is on the way. This means lots of colds, viruses and the dreaded flu! When you walk around the hall you hear the coughs, sneezing, and all the sniffles. When you are in school for hours a day with thousands of kids, the chances of getting sick are higher.

On the bright side, there are ways to prevent getting sick. One of the most common things anyone can do, and we all learned this as young children, is to wash your hands. Washing your hands after you use the restroom and before you eat are essential. According to a study done by Minnesota Health Department, 50 percent of middle, and high school students say they wash their hands, of these only 33 percent say they use soap. Many germs spread could be stopped by just washing your hands. Many students say they don't have the time to find a bathroom to wash their hands; this is where hand sanitizer is a good fix. Even those it is not as effective as washing your hands, it will help prevent germs. It's only a few dollars and you can carry it with

According to a study ... 50 percent of middle, and high school students say they wash their hands, of these only 33 percent say they use soap

you everywhere. "I always use the bath and body works mini hand sanitizers, its small, smells good and kills the germs, its great!" Says Kelsey Magras '11

Some may have the bad habit of biting their finger nails. Biting your finger nails is just like feeding yourself germs. Everything you touch goes into your mouth when you nibble on your finger nails. Eliminating that bad habit will dramatically lower the chances of you getting sick.

Adequate rest is another contribution to a healthy lifestyle. Young teenagers tend to stay up late on school nights, talking/texting on their cell phones, using Facebook, and playing video games. Lack of sleep can accumulate to sleep deprivation which can lower your immune system which is important to have because your immune system helps to fight the germs that enter your body. Eating healthy and getting a good night's sleep are both extremely important when trying to prevent getting sick.

While a balanced diet is important to maintaining a strong body, those who can't always eat healthy might consider taking vitamin



LeanneAbrams '11/The Patriot

Washing your hands is a simple and quick way to prevent thousands of germs.

supplements. Taking vitamins, something most do not do regularly, either forget or they just don't think it's important, when actually taking your vitamins helps strengthen your immune system. They have One A Day Teen Advantage for boys and girls. One pill each day is one step to prevent getting sick. Make sure to consult with your doctor before beginning any vitamin regimen, to make sure it is right for you. Take care of yourself, and the germs will stay away.

Stress among teens

Leanne Abrams '11

As teenagers, we are faced with many obstacles that cause a lot of stress. We never seem to be able to escape it. Stress follows us throughout our entire lives. According to a 2002 local high school survey : of 815 students that participated, 70 percent said they were "stressed out".

High school is said to be the best four years of your life, what they don't tell you is that those four years are also very stressful. As a student, you not only have the pressure from your teachers, but your parents, friends, and even employers reminding you to do what you have to do and do it right. Teenagers fight the challenges of going to school, playing sports and having a job. For the seniors epically, the pressure of finding a college and applying is very stressful. "I get so stressed out with the waiting process for colleges it affects everything around me" Said Kelsey Magras '11

According to stressfocus.com, stress is very unhealthy and can leave you with many side

effect and health issues, for example it can lower your immune system making you more vulnerable to getting sick more often. Stress can cause high blood pressure and sometimes in bad situation it can even encourage the use of drugs. There are many unhealthy and safe ways to release stress when you feel it coming.

Some ways to help yourself when you're feeling stressed are, exercising/ lifting weights can really help get that frustration or any stress your feeling out.

"I go for long runs daily to handle the stress of school and life as a teen, it's a good way to clear my head Said Samar" '11.

Although exercising is a good escape there are many other tricks to handling or releasing stress, playing your favorite sport could be a good helper, or even reading a good book. "When you're feeling down, reading a good book seems to always make me happy" Said Alexandra Propati '13.

One thing to always remember is to get a good night's sleep, when you feel rested that may help

you to feel rejuvenated and keep you in a good mood to keep that unwanted stress gone.

Writing could always be an outlet to keep away stress," I let all my stress and angers out by writing down all my feelings and thoughts, sometimes it seems hard to vent to people, so it's my way to let out the stress." Said Julie Palmasano '11. A popular way of getting rid of stress is to listen to music. There are plenty of different genres to choose from. You just might find one that helps you to relax when you feel that stress approaching. "Taylor swift has so many songs that relate to me, she is great to listen to when I'm stressed out "Said Melanie Brzezinski" '11

No one should always feel stressed out, teenager are in a difficult point in their lives, and we are all trying to figure out how to cope with all these important events and changes that are occurring around us. Always remember that you have your family and friends, and finding a hobby could be great to help with stress. Don't ever think there is no way out. Keep your head up.

Features

Baby boom

Psych students get to experience parenthood

Ally Gallo '11

WTHS looked more like a daycare center than a high school during the month of February when the Washington Twp High School Psychology students began the extremely well known and anticipated "baby project."

Every student who is enrolled in Psychology is required to make their own baby out of simple supplies. They needed a water bottle for the body, stuffing to make it soft, and a foam sphere for the head. It also needed eyes, a nose, a mouth, clothes and other life-like qualities of a real newborn baby. The parented needed to give the baby a name and create a birth certificate to go along with it.

Students could then pick whether they wanted to do the project with a partner, or by themselves. If they chose to work with a partner, they had to share the baby for an equal amount of time. The baby needed to be supervised at all times. If the student couldn't take care of the baby for a specific class during the day, he or she was responsible for finding a babysitter.

For some working with a partner added stress to the project.

"My partner likes to get a little ruthless on occasion, and his disregard for the baby's well being proved problematic." Andrew Kaiser '11 said.

From February 10-17, all Psych students carried their babies around with them. For the week of the "baby project," the baby was



ALLY GALLO '11/The Patriot

After making the finishing touches on her baby, Tess Welsh '11 displayed Gabriel Matthew. Most students became quite attached to their "children".

considered real, and therefore had to be treated that way.

"It really taught me responsibility because I had to remember the baby everywhere I went, and

they were fragile so I had to learn to be careful" said Keli Sharkey '11.

Any signs of trouble affected the project's grade in the end. Some instances that caused deductions included if the baby was left unattended, or if the baby showed signs of falling apart.

Because the baby was only put together by hot glue, students ran into some problems throughout the week concerning the baby's safety.

"I learned that I needed to really be able to trust who to babysit. I didn't want my baby to fall in the wrong hands" Kaiser said.

WTHS Psych students were learning about Developmental Psychology in class when they took on this project. Developmental Psychology, also known as Human Development, is the scientific study of systematic psychological changes that occur in human beings over the course of their life span.

The point of this project was to teach students about the responsibility that is required to have a child. It was also an interesting way to get high school students to understand the outcomes of having sex at a young age.

Some students referred to the project as a free "birth control." They saw the troubles they ran into during their days of taking care of their babies and realized they are in no way ready for a responsibly that big.

"Having to be responsible for a baby all the time would be too much so I'm glad it was only for a week" said Sharkey.

Prom requests show creativity

Emily Bierman '11

As the junior and senior proms near, students wonder what they are going to wear, how they are going to do their hair, and most importantly, who they are going with.

Asking somebody to prom can be enough pressure. How you do it can potentially be the talk of the hallways for days. Even if you want to do something creative, you shouldn't feel pressured to come up with something brand new.

With senior prom tickets going on sale, more students are asking others to be their dates. It is 2011, and it is no longer a stereotype that girls can't ask guys to prom.

Krysta McCall '11 asked her boyfriend, Nick Kupstas '11, to senior prom while over their friend's

house. They were playing basketball when their friend delivered a pizza. He came into the backyard saying he had a special delivery for Nick Kupstas. 'Prom' was written on the pizza with slices of pepperoni.

"He went over to open the box and was so shocked," said McCall. "I had a lot of ideas, but this one just seemed right. It popped into my head one day, but it took me about a week to come up with it."

Junior prom ticket sales have already closed, so those attending have had their date lined up for quite some time. Alyssa Rea '12 was shocked when she walked upstairs in F-hall the morning of Valentine's Day. Her boyfriend, Joe Sciuilli '12, was waiting for her. He walked her to her locker, where she found it decorated. In the center of the locker

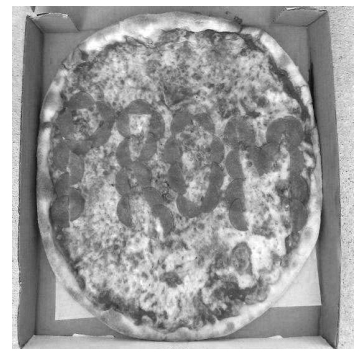
was a big heart with the question 'Prom?' on it.

"I was so surprised! I didn't see it coming at all," said Rea. "I had known he was trying to think of creative ways to ask me, but this definitely by far topped any ideas that I could even imagine! It was such a great surprise that made my Valentine's Day even more special."

Somebody doesn't have to attend WTHS to go to the dance.

If your date attends another school, there are still creative ways to ask him/her to prom, even if it isn't a possibility to decorate their locker or find them in the hallway.

If they can drive and have a car, try sticking a sign to their car with the word 'prom?' on it. Another idea is to take a picture at a special place with a sign that has the word



Krysta McCall '11/The Patriot

'prom?'

Even if you can't come up with something creative, just a simple "will you go to prom with me?" is okay. It isn't always about the way you ask somebody to prom. It's about having a good time with the special person you've asked.

Township offers variety of treats

Phil Jaffe '11

Here in Township, there are thousands of places that we can go to for food. Some specialize in pizza, some in fried chicken, and others that serve some of the best salads you can find in Jersey. High on the list of favorites are those that sell dessert.

Rita's Italian Ice – Based in Trevose, Pennsylvania, Rita's Italian Ice has over 500 locations in 20 states, as well as the District of Columbia. Beloved by all, Rita's is home of the Gelati, the greatest food known to man. This mixture of custard and water ice is the best of both worlds. In addition, Rita's also serves the Misto (essentially a smoothie of water ice and custard), the Blendini (basically a Misto with a choice of toppings like Nilla wafers, Oreo cookies, and M&M's), the Ritaccino (a coffee Misto), and the Slenderita, a fat free gelati for those of us trying to keep our form. Rita's has become a staple in Township, and with all of these delectable treats being under \$5, for good reason.

On the first day of Spring, Rita's has given out a free regular-sized Italian ice for as long as I can remember, and it seems like the line for that free cup stretches for miles and miles. Naturally, I'll be in the front of that line.

My Favorite Muffin – Everyone's favorite muffin shop disappeared from the Deptford Mall, but not to worry. The store has since moved closer to Township, on Berlin-Crosskeys Road in Sicklerville. Serving up the best muffins in the world, as voted by this writer, My Favorite

Muffin has a wide variety of chow on their menu, from muffins and bagels to the 3 S's, soups, sandwiches, and smoothies. Also available are coffees and teas, but the muffins are really the main hit. If you're looking for a great place to go get something sweet or savory, My Favorite Muffin is the perfect choice.

Nifty Fifty's – When one thinks about dessert, ice cream often comes to mind. It's a true classic that will never go out of style. Want to go one step up from ice cream? Enter the milkshake.

One of the greatest things to ever hit this planet, milkshakes are like a way of saying that life is worth living. Yeah, they're that good. And nobody serves them up better than the vintage, 50's –style joint, Nifty Fifty's. It has to be one of the best places in Township, whether you're looking for a meal or dessert. Not only do they have shakes, but Nifty Fifty's also has fantastic burgers, fries, salads, sandwiches, and other assorted treats that'll leave you begging for more.

Adding to that is the miniature golf course

that's been built on, and you've got a great place to go hang with friends, or even with that special someone. It truly is one of the greatest places in the history of Washington Township, and I'll be in there at least five times over the next three months.

So there you have it Township. If you're looking for some good eats, we all know that there are plenty of places around. But if you're looking for great, incredible, fantastic, sweet eats, then these three are the best.



Nick LeDonne '12/The Patriot

Running to Rita's

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

Birds chirping, flowers blooming, and warm weather arriving are certainly all things to look forward to this coming spring. However, there is one other event associated with the arrival of springtime.

Rita's Italian Ice, the popular Italian ice and custard stand has made an annual ritual of giving away a free Italian water ice on the first day of spring.

This year, spring will begin on March 20, and undoubtedly Rita's



Nick LeDonne '12/The Patriot

will be bustling with customers waiting to get their free water ice.

"Usually when I go, there's a pretty long line," Said Taylor Miller '12, "But by the time I get my water ice, it's totally worth it."

seconds until their free Italian ice can be served to their customers.

"I never miss Rita's free water ice day," Molly Molnar '12 said, "It's a really good opportunity to go to Rita's for the first time of the

Last year alone, according to ritasice.com, Rita's gave away over 1.3 million cups of Italian ice within a ten hour period.

In addition, Rita's enthusiasm about this tradition seems undeniable. Featured on their website, there is a timed countdown, showing the amount of days, hours, minutes and

season and see their new flavors. I go with my family every year so it's become a tradition for us."

This practice began eighteen years ago as a way to thank customers, celebrate the coming of spring, and also bring new business to the stand. Sure enough, this marketing strategy has been an enormous success for the stand, located in twenty states along the east coast.

"Whenever Rita's first opens, I know spring is here and that summer is on its way." Said Christine Ciocco '12.

"It tastes like the first day of spring to me," Said Raghav Sahni '12, "And it makes me look forward to the memories I will make during this spring and summer."

Magical Memories

Seniors recall their fun experiences in Disneyworld

Ally Gallo '11

Ninety degree weather, not a cloud in the sky and beautiful breezy nights. It seems almost impossible to think that with the harsh weather conditions in New Jersey, how anywhere could have weather as perfect as this?

However, 505 WTHS seniors and 35 chaperones found out exactly what it was like for five days straight when they flew to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida for the WTHS Class of 2011 Senior Trip on the morning of March 22.

Seniors had to meet at the high school Tuesday morning as early as 3:45 where they were then bussed to the Philadelphia International Airport. After the 5 planes, 12 busses, filled with Washington Twp seniors arrived in Disney, the students were left to do whatever they wanted in Disney's MGM Hollywood Studios. They had the entire day there, and then were to meet at Epcot Tuesday night for the Illuminations Laser Show.

"The first day of Senior Trip was so fun. I can't believe we were trusted to do whatever we wanted" said Zoey Miller '11. "We were actually treated like adults."

On Wednesday, WTHS was chartered by buses to Universal Theme Park where they could either go to Island of Adventure or Universal Studios. For some, this day was highly anticipated because of the new attraction, Harry Potter World.

"Harry Potter was the most amazing ride I have ever been on" said Gina Panchelli '11. "Every expectation was met and passed a thousand times."

Later that night, the seniors got to explore their hotel, Disney's All star Sports, and were treated to a pizza party.

The seniors were delighted with a day of fun in the sun and the sand on the third day of senior trip. Twp spent the morning and afternoon in Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park.

"It was so nice to be on a beach while my family was at home in the snow" Tess Welsh '11 said.

The day was cut short for the seniors when they were bussed back to the hotel to get ready for the traditional DJ dinner dance at Fantasia Gardens later that night. The dance ended with the class of 2011 coming together to sing Billy Joel's "Piano Man."

"It was so fun to see the whole class come



Nick LeDonne '12/The Patriot

together and sing along with each other. That's what senior year is all about, I think" said Tori Saponara '11.

Most agreed that Friday was when all the reality truly sunk in. Day 4 was in Magic Kingdom, and it was the longest day at any of the parks. The seniors spent over 12 hours there where they made their Disney dreams come true. From meeting characters to taking pictures in front of the castle, this was the day the seniors considered to be "what Disney really was."

The night ended with Magic Kingdom's spectacular fireworks show. Whether it brought tears or chills, most agreed it was the moment everything kicked in.

"The fireworks display was absolutely amazing. I was speechless, and right then and there I realized my senior year was almost over" said Bridget Vendetti '11.

The Senior Trip was not only a good time for the students, but it was also very enjoyable for the teachers. Many chaperones considered this to be the one of the best behaved classes that had ever gone on Senior Trip. They also said the students were a pleasure to be with during the week.

"In my 28 years of going, this class ranks as one of the best senior trips. The weather, the students, the staff. It was absolutely phenomenal" said Mrs. Carol Costello.

After five days and four nights of the class of 2011's Senior Trip, most had memories that were indescribable and many felt the trip was well worth the money.

"The trip was expensive, but I will remember it for the rest of my life so I don't regret a thing," said Carly Matticks '11.

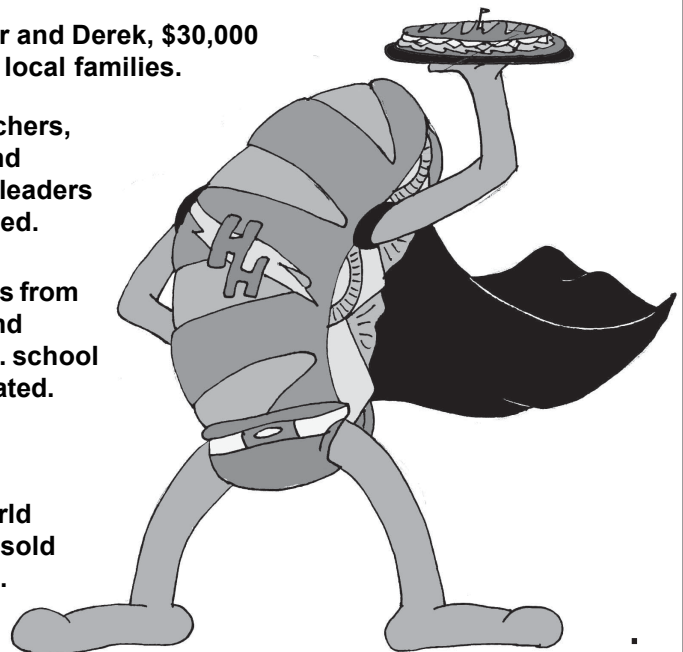
Helping Hands Hoagie Sale succeeds in a big way

**In honor of Taylor and Derek, \$30,000
was raised to aid local families.**

**Over 50 teachers,
residents and
community leaders
were involved.**

**Over 250 students from
the Clearview and
Washington Twp. school
districts participated.**

**Sponsored by the
Changing Our World
Project, the event sold
over 4000 hoagies.**



Nick LeDonne '12/The Patriot

Odds & Ends

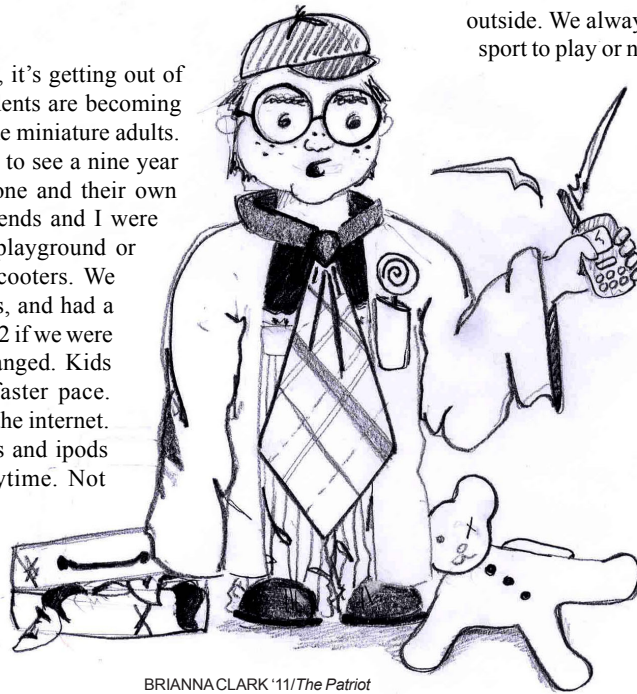
Perspective

“Kids these days”

Carmen Milano '11

Kids these days. I swear, it's getting out of hand. Elementary school students are becoming less like children and more like miniature adults. It isn't uncommon these days to see a nine year old with a high-tech cell phone and their own computer. Back when my friends and I were nine, we were outside on a playground or riding around on our little scooters. We didn't know what texting was, and had a few choices on the playstation 2 if we were lucky. Times have surely changed. Kids are growing up at a much faster pace. Anything can be searched on the internet. Students with “fancy” phones and ipods can look up anything at anytime. Not only are children these days more technologically advanced than my class was, they don't act like we did.

Back during my elementary school days, my friends and I were always



BRIANNA CLARK '11/The Patriot

outside. We always found something to do. It didn't matter if we had a sport to play or not, we were imaginative enough to be able to come up with some type of game. I never see kids around outside anymore. They're trapped inside with their videogame systems or their computers. They don't feel the need to get fresh air, when there's something more “interesting” to do while sitting in front of a television screen. Younger kids aren't as nice as they used to be. Perhaps the lack of fresh air is getting to their brains?

Middle school kids are in this boat as well. It's more common now for students of this age to participate in age inappropriate activities, such as drinking. To be completely honest, I didn't really know what alcohol was when I was in middle school. I never heard any of my peers talking about drinking, especially not excessively. I'm not sure what this world is coming to.

The future ought to be interesting. What, with more and more advanced technology coming out nearly every day. It makes you wonder if schools will one day become obsolete. Though this technological age is interesting, it's having a somewhat detrimental effect to childhood.

Shamrock shakes earn warm welcome

Christina Cockerill '12

Every year, the likes of strawberry, chocolate, and vanilla ice cream are joined by a new flavor on McDonald's list of shakes. Shamrock Shakes, the minty green delight, comes around every February and March in celebration of St. Patty's day.

Shamrock shakes, however, are more than just your normal seasonal delight. For some students, it's a downright tradition for the blustering months before spring.

“My friend and I had them one night before we went out to a party,” Jenn Gordun '12 said. “You wouldn't think that February is the right time for a shake, but there is no wrong time for a Shamrock shake.”

Despite the winter weather, the frosty treasures receive nothing but a warm welcome from all around the town. However, very few people know the real story behind the Shamrock Shake.

Far from a new tradition, the minty treats were first started in 1974. At first, they were planned as just a seasonal gimmick.

However, Fred Hills, a former tight end for the Philadelphia Eagles, was suffering. His daughter was in the hospital day and night for leukemia treatment and as his own family struggled with the emotional pain of having a sick child, they saw other families going through the same thing. Many had to travel day after day to visit their children or to purchase medication, staying in hospitals for days where long term treatment was necessary.

It was not long before a friend of the Hills family called another friend of his—the CEO of McDonald's. He asked about fundraising opportunities and what their next promotion would be and the answer was “Shamrock Shakes”.

It was perfect. For one week, all of the profits from the sales and promotions of the St. Patty's day treat went into a charity and that charity spawned the creation of the first Ronald McDonald house. Familiar to most South Jersey residents, the Ronald McDonald house offers families with sick children a place to stay during their treatment, a home for those whose lives have been shaken by sickness.



Amy Dennis '12 enjoying her first shamrock shake of the season.

Warming up to Spring

Leanne Abrams '11

After a brutal winter season this region endured this year, many cannot wait for that warm spring air.

"Winter was ridiculous this year with all the snow and ice. Although the snow days were a treat, the shoveling and horrible road conditions were a pain!" said Erica Eisenstein '11.

This winter is one for the records, with massive snow storms one after the other, those in south jersey never seemed to catch a break. Kids got their wanted snow days while the parents broke their backs shoveling. There were many car accidents and you can't forget those harsh winter winds.

"I am most looking forward to the warm weather; this winter was terrible with all the snow. I'd rather have the beach and sunshine

"Winter was ridiculous this year with all the snow and ice. Although the snow days were a treat, the shoveling and horrible road conditions were a pain!"

- Erica Eisenstein '11

then the cold snow" Said Jessica Jewuisack '11.

The cold weather tends to keep most people bundled up inside with blankets and spending less time outdoors.

"Watching movies in your pajamas and drinking hot chocolate is the best thing to do when snowed in." Said Melanie Brzezinski '11

With spring sneaking up soon, there will be

enough sunshine for everyone, long walks in the park, gardening, outdoor sports, or exercising. Almost always see people outside during the spring. "I can't wait for spring; it's going to be the best part of senior year" Said Alex Centrone '11. For all the seniors, spring being much excitement to look forward to such as senior trip, senior prom, and of course graduation. "Spring is always my favorite, my birthday, senior prom, and random day trips to the beach" Said Erica Eisenstein '11.

"I don't mind the winter season, in some cases its actually fun, like the snow days, but when the snow storms just don't stop it gets on my nerves" Said Alexandra Piropati '13

For those who are tired of winter, lots of sun and warmth is coming out way, be patient with these last cold days approaching, spring is almost here!

Making Your Own Fun by Keli Sharkey '11

Picnics, a great pastime

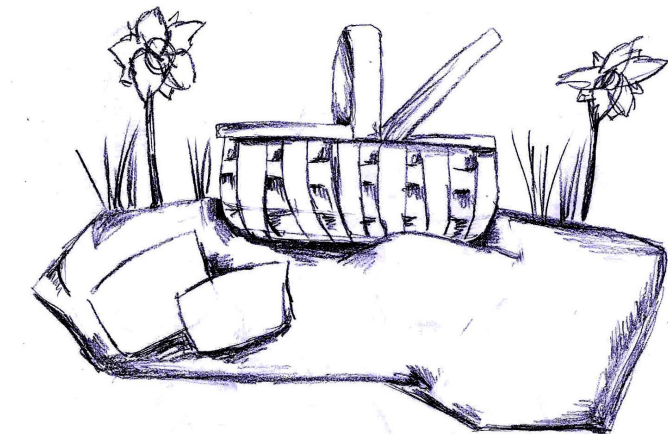
Thinking outside the box is a great way to figure out fun things to do on weekends. There is a world of possibilities out there. Some simple things can end up being the most fun. Picnicking is a great spend a day while soaking up the sun.

There are plenty of different places in Washington Township to have a picnic. Some great places are in parks like Washington Lake or Bethel Mill Park.

In order to make this event the best some supplies are needed. Start with a blanket and food. Make sure the blanket is big enough to hold the food and to sit on. Making or buying the food is an option as long as it is easy to carry and will taste delicious.

Other suggestions to bring are pillows, Frisbees, and of course sun block. Pillows are for relaxing in the sun after the meal. Sun block is for protection and the Frisbee is just for some fun. Having a catch on a nice day makes the event even greater.

Start the day by packing up the food in a basket or backpack, or anything that is portable. Then go to the best destination for the picnic. Drive around the park and



JESSICA SEIGEL '12/The Patriot

look for a cozy spot to hang out. In a field, under a tree or in the woods are also nice places to eat some food and enjoy the day. Once the perfect spot is found, lay down the blanket and start eating. After eating lie down and digest, soak up some sun.

Afterwards have a catch, go for a walk or just relax. Spending the day outside is healthy and entertaining. Taking pictures the whole time makes these events even more fun and makes memories to look back on forever.

My friends and I often go on picnics in the spring. We stop to get hoagies, chips and drinks then make our way to the park. We always go the biggest field to lay down our blanket. Pictures are a must with us so every part gets documented. After our endless amount of food, we lie down and take more pictures. Then we clean up our trash and try to walk off all the food we ate by strolling through the park. There are many paths in the park to walk or jog along. We

love going through the woods and ending up by the lake.

One of the best parts is feeding the fish, ducks and geese our left over crumbs. Every time these huge fish come swarming to the bread and stick their faces out of the water. They battle with the ducks to win the bread over. It is quite a sight to see.

The funniest but scariest parts though are feeding the geese. Once I gave this goose, which only had one eye a piece of bread. Big mistake. The goose thought I was going to give it all my bread and was not very happy when I shared it with the fish. It kept creeping closer and closer to me. I had run out of bread but it was still coming toward me. I started running away and it followed me! It was making hissing noises and its wings were up in the air. It may have been the scariest moment of my life.

Luckily, the goose didn't really chase me for more than a second, but it was enough for me to scream. Overall, the picnic, the walk and feeding the animals ended up being an awesome day. Picnics are always enjoyable and provide a whole day of fun.

Books

A Touch Mortal by Leah Clifford

Alexandra Propati '13

A Touch Mortal is not only the first of a trilogy, but also the first book written by Leah Clifford. Set at a good pace for anyone, the book is quite good for Clifford's first, and will not leave readers disappointed.

Eden is a miserable teenage girl that just wants to end her life. Everyone around her just doesn't seem to care about her and she slowly forgetting about her. Just as she's deciding to do it, she meets Az.



Az, is an in-between angel. He has fallen from grace, but not so far that he can't go back "upstairs" if he so chooses or earns his way back. However, he doesn't want to go back, but he also doesn't want to fall.

Predictably, Eden and Az fall in love, and Eden no longer wishes to kill herself. All's happy, until Az's angel-friend, Gabe, tells Az that Eden has no path, meaning she was predestined to kill herself.

Eden is not a normal suicide, though. She's a Sider, a person that kills themselves, and once dead, comes back to life to be an immortal, very ironic.

That's not the only complication, the Fallen Angels want Az to become one of them, and they will do anything to make that happen, including posing a threat to Eden's life.

That is just what happens in the first few pages of the book. It continues to get interesting and original as it fills in the questions that the reader may have.

For readers that are into the supernatural/fantasy genre, then *A Touch Mortal* would be perfect. It has a very unique and original plot, despite having Angels in it.

One thing that is disappointing is that the main character, Eden, does not seem to have much depth to her. There's just something missing from her character.

However, there's a saying that goes, "Beggars can't be choosers," and those that are looking for a new plot, should definitely pick up this new read. It is a worthy book for Clifford's first one, and she has nowhere to go but up.

Books vs. Nooks

Alexandra Propati '13

Many things have changed over the years, and the way you read your books is not an exception to progressing into future. The Kindle, the Nook, the Sony eReader, and so many more are all digital books that are becoming more popular.

"I love my Nook because it's so much easier to not have to carry around a book," Dina Ali '13 said, and continued on to add, "It automatically opens to the page I left off on, I can listen to music, and lend people books who have Nooks."

Courtney Aleannan '13 is another who enjoys her Kindle. "It's really convenient," she said, and added "You don't have to go to the bookstore, just have a computer and you're good."

Despite the good reviews on them, some people are still hesitant to buy them because it's not the same as a real book. It's a big transition for those avid book readers who feel it's just not the same. They can't get used to pressing a button to go to the next page, rather than turning

the page and hearing the crinkle of the paper.

There's also the problem of not being able to go back to a page as easily as you would be able to do with a regular book, and having to charge your book would be annoying. However it wouldn't be a waste when you're comparing it to saving many trees.

It's not saving money though, when you're not a big reader and you get a Kindle, it just goes to waste.

"I don't think it's worth spending that much money for a Kindle if I don't read that often, even though I enjoy reading." Leanne Abrams '11 said.

There are also some people that buy them, and still end up buying books because they prefer them.

"I'm pretty sure I'm not going to buy a kindle. Nothing against it, I'd just rather have the book!" Devyn Quail '13 said.

However, you can't deny the convenience of eBooks, like Aleannan said, "It's like twenty books in your pocket."

Picture Books For Teens

Alexandra Propati '13

Comic books have been very popular in the U.S. for many years, and have left their impressions on the movies that are still being made today.

Without comic books we would have never known about *Superman*, *Spiderman*, *Batman*, or even the *Justice League*. However comic books are now being challenged by manga.

Even with manga being extremely popular, many people still don't know what it is. Manga is a form of comic books that originated in Japan, and is now created by artists from around the world.

Manga is not only circulated through boys, like comic books are, but many girls read it too, such as Kerwin Slough '13.

"I think the art style is a lot more new and refreshing and different than the American comics," said Slough, about manga.

There are all types of manga in the world, just like books. There is action, adventure, comedy, fantasy, romance, mystery, etc. There's a manga for everyone, not just girls or boys, or teenagers, but adults too. Many girls and boys also like to read the same mangas because the interest is there for everyone.

Slough adds, "I do like books, but I just like to read manga more because the storyline moves

more quickly and the plot is more involved."

When reading manga, it's almost like you're watching a cartoon, or rather an anime. Animes are cartoons based off of mangas. The anime and manga drawings are similar in every way. When the cartoon is made, they get everything from the manga, except for the character's voices.

"I like that it's (the artwork) more complex than American comics, but less complex than realism. It's a balance." Slough said.

Jamie Olson '13 is also a fan of manga. "I love it!" she said, "The drawings are pretty cool, and (the artists are) really talented."

The one thing that takes a while to get used to is how to read it. Reading a traditional manga is different because you have to read it from left to right, starting from the back of the book, in a way. After a while, however, you get used to it.

Manga is not only read in books, it has been scanned online, and you can read many manga online for free, unlike eBooks.

Some popular, top rated mangas are *Naruto*, *Bleach*, *One Piece*, and *Fullmetal Alchemist*, and all of which have been turned into anime. Even Pokemon is a manga.

Some books have also been converted to manga, such as James Patterson's *Maximum Ride*, and Darren Shan's *Cirque du Freak*.

We can expect to hear more about manga in the future.

Entertainment

Film/Music

“Never Say Never”

Bieber hits the big screen

Emily Bierman '11

No matter how impossible your dreams are, *Never Say Never*. Or at least that's what Justin Bieber is shouting to his fans in his new concert film.

The much-anticipated movie follows Justin Bieber on his 2010 tour. The movie opens with Bieber as a twelve year old Youtube sensation who was found by his now-manager, Scooter Braun, and signed by Usher. It introduces the audience to not only his music and his tour, but his old life. Another point the film focuses on, is the team who is with Bieber throughout his tour, including his mom, his manager, and his vocal coach.

The movie has many guest appearances, by stars such as Miley Cyrus (*Hannah Montana*), Usher, Jaden Smith, and Sean Kingston. All six musical guest stars perform a song, or at least part of a song, with Bieber. Even if you don't like Justin Bieber, it is still worth seeing the movie to see the other singers that perform with him.

Fans will not be disappointed when they hear the songs that were featured in the film, including some of his biggest hits, such as, “One Time,” “One Less Lonely Girl,” “Baby,”

“Somebody to Love,” “U Smile,” and “Never Say Never.” Bieber is shown as a kid living his dreams as he danced on stage while he sang to his songs.

The film focuses on two things. There is the tour aspect of the film, where Bieber and his team focus on getting ready for his big show at Madison Square Garden. After performing countless nights in a row, Bieber has to go on vocal rest days before the Madison Square Garden show. There is also the real life part of the film, which focused on Bieber's rise to stardom and the challenges of growing up as a seventeen year old in the spotlight.

The movie won't necessarily make you like Justin Bieber, but it certainly won't make you hate him. If anything, the movie increases the viewer's respect for Bieber and his career. The catchy songs also stay in your head for a while after you see the movie. If you are a former fan of Bieber, and stopped following him, you'll remember why you liked him in the first place.

The movie was made to show what Bieber has gone through at such a young age. Even if you're not a Bieber fan, the movie is still enjoyable. Director Jon Chu (*Step Up 2*), does an excellent job balancing interviews with concert



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Bieber hits the big screens with a message of encouragement for many. footage.

Never Say Never has a good message. Justin Bieber is living proof that if you don't give up, with determination dreams can come true.

Music

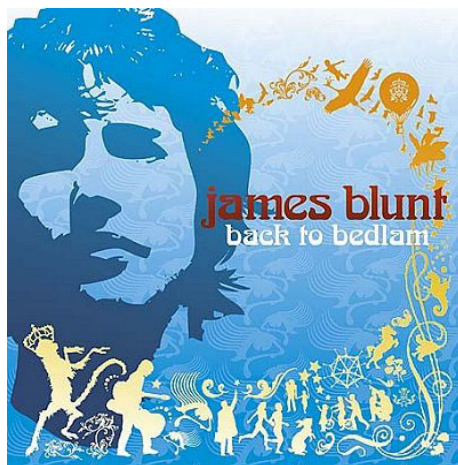
Sweetheart song writer is back with new hits

Rebecca Serad '11

After his underappreciated sophomore album, *All the Lost Souls*, failed to garner sufficient attention from listeners, James Blunt is back on a mission with *Some Kind of Trouble*.

The song lyrics reach new depths. The melodies are even catchier and most importantly, his voice is stronger and consequently more successful in making his lyrics come to life.

The change in the mood of his melodies is a large part of this album. In the past, his songs with more positive lyrics were accompanied by solemn music to create irony. *Some Kind of Souls* features the same amount of somber and pensive lyrics as his previous two albums,



but also includes some lyrics that are a bit brighter and are more first single, “Stay the Night”, offers a glance at an evening with a loved

appropriately accompanied by upbeat melodies. Blunt's music now connects fully, which will appeal to listeners.

The “You're Beautiful” singer-songwriter has included his strength throughout the new album: amorous songs. These songs have more upbeat melodies than those of the past yet retain Blunt's signature sound. The likable

one, while the infectious “I'll Be Your Man” shows a man's willingness to go far and beyond to win a woman's affection.

Other standouts include “Heart of Gold”, where Blunt sings about a girl that is looking for love in the wrong places and wants to be appreciated, and “These are the Words”, which shows Blunt's remorse over a lost love.

Throughout the album, Blunt uses his lyrical charm to engage listeners in a new way. His lyrics are deep and personal and are sung more passionately than his songs of the past. This is a must-listen for any fans of Blunt's previous work or for fans of romantic ballads in general.

Perspective

Former *Two and a Half Men* star is “winning”

Phil Jaffe '11

These days, it seems like every single celebrity goes through a rough time in their life. Whether it's a divorce, a crime committed, financial problems, or what have you, everybody appears to be having a problem in one way or another. One celebrity, however, is taking the word “problem” to a whole new level, and he has tiger blood.

Charlie Sheen has rapidly become the most trending icon in the world, what with his divorce from his now ex-wife Brooke Mueller, his donations to Japan since the earthquake/tsunami, the fight he's put up to keep his children, and, his public drug problem, which has led to some of the greatest sayings in American history.

With quotes like “I am on a drug. It's called Charlie Sheen” and “I have defeated this earthworm with my words. Imagine what I would have done with my fire breathing fists”, Charlie Sheen has revolutionized the world of celebrity downfall. And yet, even as his award-winning sitcom “Two and a Half Men” got cancelled strictly because of his behavior, Sheen is still raking in quite a nice bit of change. It's not the \$2 million he was making



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

for every episode of the popular comedy, but I doubt he'll really complain too much with the \$300,000 he's made from going on his new “My Violent Torpedo of Truth/Defeat is Not An Option Show”, which sold out within minutes of its first two shows being announced, one being in Detroit and the other in Chicago, with upcoming events in both Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, New York City, Wallingford, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts. And that

New York show? It's at the legendary Radio City Music Hall. The self-titled Vatican assassin warlock (where that came from, I'm not really sure) is having a blast with all of this, and honestly, so is just about everybody else in the world. Every single word that the guy says turns to gold, and he has jumped effortlessly into the hearts of people everywhere.

Now sure, there are people out there who hate what he has become. He's been told countless time by,

quite literally, thousands of people that he needs to check into rehab and take a good hard look at himself in the mirror and ask the person he sees in the reflection, “who are you?” To these people, Sheen has a response: “The only thing I'm addicted to is winning. This bootleg cult, arrogantly referred to as Alcoholics Anonymous, reports a 5 percent success rate. My success rate is 100 percent.” So my guess is he won't be in rehab anytime soon.

However you look at this situation, it's definitely something different. Personally, I love it; I think it's some of the funniest entertainment that I have ever seen in my entire life, and to be perfectly honest, I don't want it to end. Eventually though, it's going to. And when all is said and done, there will be two reactions from the general public; one will be the people who say “oh it's about time, I was tired of hearing about him and I'm glad it's over.” Then there will be the people who laughed right alongside the majority of the world, and will be sad that it's come to a close.

But no matter what you think about all of this, one thing's for sure.

Charlie Sheen is absolutely winning.

Lesser Known, Greater Talent by Christina Cockerill

Mind Spiders--Unique sounds for the modern era

If the sound of modern rock does nothing for your ears, Mind Spiders may have you feeling like you stepped in a time machine and woke up in the era of classic rock. With a wild, loose sound, they bring back memories of the 70s with their loud guitar riffs and energetic writing while still remaining refined enough to keep away from sounding like a punk rock album.

Mind Spiders debuted their first, self titled album in 2011 and has met critical acclaim since, being featured as one of the most read and listened to on Pitchfork.com. Mark Ryan, the solo mind behind the Spider, is primarily a member of The Marked Men, a Texas-based band that plays a harder, punk rock sound. Mind Spiders, though far from serene and tranquil, carries a far more serene, and focused sound. Songs like ‘Don't Let Her Go’ rock with a fun, old time, classic feel that evokes memories of Beatles, with a hint of 90s grunge.

Other tracks from the CD include “Ripped” and “World's Destroyed”, which are probably

the best showcasing of Ryan's vocals on the album. The choruses are repetitive and catch, memorable and exciting, without becoming monotonous listening. The mellow guitar packs a relaxing flavor, the chords clearly upstaged by the vocals and beat.

Fans of more vocal music may not appreciate Ryan's quiet voice, often fading into the background against the guitar and drums. However, punk rock fans will enjoy the simplicity and rock packed into their album.

While keeping with an old feel, Ryan's *Mind Spiders* has packed all the original sound of progressive rock and still added his own, punk-rock feel carried over from his primary band. Mind Spiders, though at its low points may become melancholic or repetitive, is a great album for anyone whom appreciates classic rock and punk, or even just someone interesting in hearing a different sound. With songs that leave curiosity for Ryan's next project, this is one indie album worth a major label's attention.



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While the album cover may leave listeners a bit apprehensive, the abstract theme and “cheerful” faces fit the music better than expected.

Film

Pettyfer is *Number Four*

Alexandra Propati '13

With an action-packed plot full of extraterrestrial super powers, and a catchy title, *I Am Number Four*, was a natural choice to be made into a movie.

The book, written by Pittacus Lore, has become a popular movie, directed by D.J. Caruso (Eagle Eye and *Disturbia*).

However, now there's a new star in town, Alex Pettyfer.

Pettyfer has been busy, also starring in the more recent movie *Beastly*. That has not distracted him from playing an awesome role in *I Am Number Four*.

Pettyfer plays John Smith, a teen Alien whose home planet, Lorien, was destroyed. The fourth of nine survivors, John with his guardian Henri (Timothy Olyphant), are now on the run from the ones that destroyed his home, the Mogadorians.

John hides away in Ohio, taking the inconspicuous name, John Smith, which actually becomes noticeable because of its inconspicuous-ness.

John's race, Loriens, can only fall in love once, and then it lasts forever. So when he meets Sarah



John Smith (Pettyfer) fights off the Mogadorians while attempting to save Sarah (Argon), the love of his life.

(Dianna Argon), she literally becomes the love of his life.

The Mogadorians have already killed one, two and three and now chase after John, who is number four.

While they are searching for him, John discovers new powers, such as super strength and speed and the ability to control electronics.

John and Henri end up in fierce confrontations with the Mogadorians.

I am Number Four's special effects and acting are all good, and

the plot is somewhat new.

However, all plots no matter how original always have the same thing: boy and girl meet, they fall in love, boy tells girl he's an alien and that people are chasing him.

He then leaves girl to save the world, but he says he'll be back for her.

While it's not entirely the same as other stories, all stories have similarities, so don't be disappointed if you don't think it's a knock off from some other movie.

Music

T.Mills freestyles like no other

Alexis Donia '11

Travis Mills, more commonly known as T.Mills, is an unfamiliar hip-hop artist whose popularity is seemingly on the rise across the globe.

Although his gauges, piercings, and permanent tattoos give him more of a scene or punk appearance, fans claim that "T.Mills throws down hip-hop beats and freestyles like no other."

The music artist is known for listening to the background track and letting rhymes rattle off from the top of his head.

He doesn't take the time to write his lyrics down or practice; instead he is gifted with a talent for freestyling.

The 21-year old from Orange County, California, has been composing music since he was thirteen.

He performed with diminutive bands who had never successfully signed with a record label.

After two years of playing in his own band *Rome*, he broke himself off as a solo artist and signed with Uprising Records.

Shortly after that he had released his first and only album to date titled, *Ready, Fire, Aim*.

Unfortunately, you won't be able to hear the music of T.Mills flowing through your radio speakers just yet.

His name is getting around; however he hasn't hit the air yet on the most mainstream radio stations.

Currently, he is performing at Warped Tours and night clubs in California.

It isn't doubtful that soon enough T.Mills will be known by almost all teenagers.

Give this hip-hop artist a few minutes of your time and listen to what he can do. You will not be disappointed.

Music

Fresh sound from New Politics

Phil Jaffe '11

Who here likes excellent music? You do? Well then boy, do I have something for you.

Two words: New Politics.

The band fresh out of Copenhagen, Denmark are on their way to the top of the world, and it's not too late to jump on the bandwagon; as a matter of fact, it's just the right time to do so.

What has been described as a blend of punk, pop, and electronically induced dance rock is enough to give your ears an experience they've never had, and one that you'll wish you knew your whole life.

The band consists of three people.

The lead singer, David Boyd, is actually an exceptional break dancer, and shows off his talents in most of their performances that I've seen, in addition to the band's three music videos.

Then there's the guitarist Søren Hansen, who is also in charge of the electronic sounds you hear, as well as doing what are known as "clean" vocals, which pretty much means the chorus and everything that sounds like

normal singing, I guess you could say.

These two had been writing songs together for three years for their own solo albums, respectively, when, as a result of their being entered in a contest and making it to the finals, the two needed a drummer. So they called up their pal Poul Amaliel, and the band known as New Politics was born.

Since then, the group has signed with RCA, did a brief tour of the UK, and went on to do a nation-wide US tour.

Now located in Brooklyn, New Politics have a self-titled album out, featuring their two biggest hits, "Yeah Yeah Yeah" and "Dignity".

They're also starting another tour of the States on March 4 in Sacramento, California, and on March 25, they, along with a band that we at *the Patriot* wrote about last year (the Dirty Heads), will be coming to the TLA in Philly.

But if you'd like to go, you better step on getting the tickets, considering that they've been on sale since January 21, and with the incredible talent of these two bands, the tickets will be gone.

Opinions: National Sports

Phils ready to fight Spring training creates cautious optimism

Rebecca Serad '11

Every February, the excitement begins to rise for the upcoming season. Fans across the nation count down the days until pitchers and catchers report to the spring training complex in either Florida or Arizona.

This year, Phillies fans have more of a reason to be excited. They arguably have one of the greatest starting rotations in history and their star players are in better shape to rebound from subpar offensive seasons.

The headlines have greatly varied from being positive to pessimistic. For instance, Phillies top prospect, and ranked third overall by Baseball America, Domonic Brown fractured the hook of the hamate bone in his right hand. He successfully had surgery to correct the problem, but will be out for four to six weeks. This is a huge blow to the plan of platooning Brown and Ben Francisco in right field in place of Jayson Werth.

Despite the loss of Brown, Francisco has stepped up and has had a fantastic spring. Through March 15, Francisco hit .368 with 3 home runs and 8 RBIs. Of the everyday players, Francisco's average is the highest. If Brown does not return before Opening Day, Francisco should be awarded with the everyday job.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing. After all, Francisco has experience with being a starting player from when he was with the Cleveland Indians. This also gives Brown a chance to work on his defense and consistency at the plate, which have been his downfall during his little time in the Majors.

On the injury front, things are looking worrisome besides Brown's situation. All-Star second baseman Chase Utley is plagued with mild

tendinitis, chondromalacia, and bone inflammation in his right knee. Utley has had a similar problem in the past, but was helped by cortisone injections and rest. Despite the bad situation, Utley has still been able to take batting practice, since the knee only becomes painful when he runs and does defensive drills.

This is most certainly a reason to worry. Utley has been the number 3 hitter in the lineup and one of the best second basemen in Major League Baseball. Without Utley, the starting remains in flux. The only option visible is to have Victorino bat second and move Polanco down a spot to take Utley's place, or move Raul Ibanez from the 5 hole to the 3.

Less severe injuries as of late include closer Brad Lidge and third baseman Placido Polanco. Lidge was diagnosed with bicep tendinitis in his throwing arm and was shut down for a number of days. Although Lidge says that he's doing much better, fans should be wary of the injury-plagued closer. Without full arm strength, his command of his pitches noticeably decreases.

Polanco's injury is a bit more complicated. He hyperextended his left elbow. In most cases, this would not seem serious. However, Polanco had surgery in the offseason to remove a bone spur in the same elbow that was a result of being hit by a pitch early in the 2010 season.

His loss, along with Utley, would not benefit the team in any way. His overall reliability as a player has made him successful and a big part of the team.

As the countdown to Opening Day dwindles, mysteries still remain. One thing is certain: there are high expectations for the 2011 Phillies.

Teams seek improvement with off-season moves

Rebecca Serad '11

As the days decrease before the 2011 Major League Baseball season begins, the predictions begin to swirl about what teams' offseason moves will work out this season. Although those questions will not be answered until next October, there are some unanimous opinions throughout MLB about what teams made the best moves.

One of the teams that definitely upgraded their squad for the best is the Boston Red Sox. Not only did they acquire All-Star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez from the San Diego Padres, but they also signed one of the top free agents on the market in left fielder Carl Crawford. Crawford signed a contract worth \$142 million over seven years. If the starting roster is not plagued by injuries like last season and the starting rotation continues its excellence, the BoSox

will be a force to be reckoned with in the American League East.

Despite losing out on Cliff Lee, the Texas Rangers made a point to strengthen their club. They signed one of the premier free agent infielders in third baseman Adrian Beltre. In addition, they added veteran left-handed specialist Arthur Rhodes, who was an All-Star for the first time in his career in 2010, to help stabilize their bullpen ahead of closer Neftali Feliz. In a low-risk move that they hope will play out positively, the Rangers also signed injury-plagued starting pitcher Brandon Webb. Webb previously won the NL Cy Young award in 2006 while with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Milwaukee Brewers deserve an A for effort. They knew that starting pitching was their downfall last year and planned to do something about it. In a rather

unnoticed, but still crucial, move, they acquired starting pitcher Shaun Marcum from the Toronto Blue Jays. Marcum had an excellent year last year after coming off of Tommy John surgery in 2009. He finished with a 13-8 record and a 3.64 ERA. Also, they acquired sought after ace Zach Greinke from the Kansas City Royals. Greinke had a down year in 2010, but still is considered one of the top pitchers in the game today after winning the American League Cy Young award in 2009. As long as the forces in their lineup continue to put up solid numbers, the Brewers may give the favorite St. Louis Cardinals and rejuvenated Cincinnati Reds a run for their money.

Honorable mentions include the Philadelphia Phillies and the Padres. The Phillies obviously deserve credit for signing the top free agent prize on the market. But they also managed to keep the majority

of their bullpen in tact with the resignings of both J.C. Romero and Jose Contreras. The Padres made strides towards upgrading their famously below-average offense. They traded for shortstop Jason Bartlett, previously with the Rays, and signed second baseman Orlando Hudson. They also signed Brad Hawpe, who was most recently with the Colorado Rockies, to take over at first base.

Notably not on this list are the New York Yankees. After being denied Cliff Lee's services and a formidable 1-2-3 punch at the top of their rotation with Lee, C.C. Sabathia and Phil Hughes, they failed to pick up a solid starting pitcher to solidify their rotation. Their only notable pick-up was relief pitcher Rafael Soriano, who served as closer for the Tampa Bay Rays last season. In 2011, he will serve as the set-up man for Mariano Rivera.

Opinion

Carmelo Anthony saga continues

Anthony Dentino '11

On February 21, 2011 it was announced that the NBA's Carmelo Anthony had finally been traded from the Denver Nuggets to the New York Knicks in a blockbuster deal that included 12 players, several draft picks, cash, and four teams (the New York Knicks, Denver Nuggets, New Jersey Nets, and Minnesota Timberwolves). Talks had been swirling since last summer when Anthony became a free agent, but began to significantly intensify since the beginning of 2011.

One would think that with the official decision to ship the perennial All-Star to New York that the saga would be over for good. Alas, that could not be any further from the truth. In fact, the nightmare is just about to begin for the two teams involved in the deal.

From the Nuggets standpoint, the move was virtually inevitable and probably wise. Despite the fact that Carmelo was their star, he made it quite clear that he wanted out as soon as possible. He also demanded to be traded to a bigger market and wanted to be teamed with another true star, which the Knicks have in Amar'e Stoudemire. Unfortunately for Denver, Anthony was their main

source of offense and another key piece in the deal, point guard Chauncey Billups, also a top player on the team, was sent to New York. In exchange, the Nuggets received draft picks and young talent. However, their fan base will quickly jump all over the front office if the "talent" they saw in their newly acquired players never fully develops.

In the case of the Knicks, the desire to snatch another big-name player to help Stoudemire was answered by trading for Anthony. However, the team dynamic was drastically broken up when many of the players that had been solid contributors for them all season were sent packing to Denver. Admittedly, those who would argue that Carmelo Anthony is not a true star are few and far between. To sweeten the deal, the Knicks received other strong players from the Nuggets, highlighted by Billups, who should contribute nicely.

Nevertheless, someone would be

hard pressed to find an NBA team, or any professional sports team for that matter, more cursed by bad hires, trades, and front office gaffes than New York. It seems as though every move they have made in the past fifteen years, regardless of how great it may have been perceived as, has completely blown up in their faces. From drafting Macje Lampe, (there is a reason you've never heard of him), to hiring Isaiah

Thomas as a coach and general manager, and every decision in between, the Knicks have simply not been able to achieve

success.

Instead they

have been mired

in the depths of the top-heavy and generally weak NBA Eastern Conference. This leads many skeptics to believe that despite how obvious it seems that the Knicks finally made the right move, this acquisition will in fact be the worst of their latest follies.

It is hard to argue with these skeptics, as even now, Thomas, who is no longer with the team in

any official capacity, may have been a vital cog in luring Carmelo to the Knicks.

Additionally the real problem in this situation is not either of the two teams involved in the trade. Instead, it is Carmelo Anthony himself. As the Nuggets experienced firsthand, he has proved himself to be the Brett Favre of the NBA, minus the gray hair and fake retirements. He stated numerous times that he was unhappy in Denver and wanted out. Anthony even went on *The Conan Show* on Feb. 21, 2011 right before he was traded to New York to talk trade rumors. He also made headlines by breaking news that he was meeting with New Jersey Nets and Knicks ownership to discuss possible deals during this year's All-Star Weekend.

To further prove his selfishness, in one game this year as a member of the Nuggets, Carmelo impressively posted 50 points. Even more "impressively," he failed to dish out a single assist.

While one can almost not help but feel sorry for the inept Knicks, if their latest acquisition fails to yield the desired results, they cannot say that there were no telltale signs of disaster.

Opinion

Holy Family coach gains fame for wrong reasons

Anthony Dentino '11

If John O'Connor, first year head basketball coach at Holy Family University, in Pennsylvania, wanted to find a new and innovative way to quickly make himself an infamous figure in the history of college coaching, then mission accomplished.

O'Connor blatantly crossed a clearly drawn line in the treatment of one of his players, sophomore small forward Matt Kravchuk.

In the midst of a simple rebounding drill in a practice held in January of 2011, O'Connor blew a gasket and lost all control, resulting in a physical and verbal beat-down of his unfortunate and innocent athlete. First, he proceeded to throw a forearm to Kravchuk's mouth knocking the player down. To add insult to injury, not only did Kravchuk begin to bleed and land on his wrist awkwardly, but his coach decided to literally kick him when he was down. Then, O'Connor began

to yell at his player and went on to say that he was glad there was blood on Kravchuk's shirt. Finally, he ended the rant with obscenity filled insults while ordering his small forward to leave practice.

Many would argue that O'Connor was just trying to instill the stereotypical macho-man, tough-guy attitude into one of his players. History has treated recent examples of over-the-top college coaches who mistreated their athletes such as Bobby Knight, Jim Leavitt, and Mike Leach quite well. Why not let O'Connor off the hook and give him a second chance as well?

Quite simply, O'Connor should not be given a second chance. This is not just because he's a loser on the court, 6-20 in his inaugural campaign as a head coach at the school, but a loser off the court as well. Sure, the incident occurred in a gym during a practice, but went so far that the issue has become a matter of inhumanity (and insanity) rather than a problem in an arena.

To be fair, there is a chance that O'Connor is a genuinely good man who made one extreme error. However, an error of such a proportion is simply inexcusable.

Sadly, Holy Family administration has been ridiculously lax about the situation, considering that their coach was not even fired, but merely suspended on February 21st, 2011, despite the fact that his lashing out at Kravchuk occurred more than a month before the penalty.

Admittedly, O'Connor has since resigned from his position as head basketball coach at Holy Family, but either way, John O'Connor should never get a second chance to coach another basketball game in his life at any level. It does not matter that Kravchuk is legally an adult, because that type of attitude displayed towards any person is wrong. O'Connor embarrassed himself, his family and friends, Holy Family University, and most importantly Matt Kravchuk.

Township Sports

Bowling teams finishes good season

Kelsey Wainwright '11

With record wins, high scores, and individual success, the girls' and boys' bowling teams proved themselves. The teams were coached by Mr. Mike Hudock, assistant coach Mrs. Tracy Burkhart, and assistant advisor Sam Maccarone.

On the girls' team, losing wasn't an option. They completed a perfect season, having 80 wins in the Olympic Conference and 32 wins in the American division.

The team, made up of Amanda Lucich '11, Nicolette Sarin '12, Jess Piperno '12, Brittany Elansky '12, Jamie Sims '12, Shannon Mackler '13, and Ashley Wittje '13, placed first at all their tournaments, including the 37th Annual Holiday Tournament, the South Jersey Group IV Sectional Tournament, and the Olympic Conference Girls All Star Tournament.

They were also NJSIAA Southern Sectional Champions and Group IV State Champions.

"This has been my best year with these girls and their team record reflects this. It has been a great uplifting season with more wins



Ashley Wittje '13/The Patriot

Both the girls and boys bowling teams had success this year.

than ever," Hudock said, "their commitment to the sport showed both on and off the lanes."

On top of their group success, Sarin and Elansky qualified for the Tournament of Champions.

"I was excited but not nervous," Sarin said, "But once I got there, I got nervous." Sarin, who also qualified last year for individuals, came in 4th, while Elansky followed in the top 18.

"We were proud that they could represent Township," Lucich said about her fellow teammates, "Nicolette had experience so they knew what they were getting into."

The boys had a close follow up behind their counterpart team. Having 61 wins in Olympic

Conference and 24 in the American Division, the team played their hardest. The team, made up of David Serebransky '11, Paul Scharf '12, Rich Del Rossi '13, Jason Pavlinko '13, Tom Parker '13, Anthony Pettino '13, John Schellenger '14, and Nick Antonelli '14, had a hard fight to defend their title.

"Being state champs in the previous year gave everyone a sense of pride," Hudock said, "this year was a new start for many players."

The team came in first in the American Division and placed high in their tournaments. They earned second in the Carol Lapp Invitational Scotch Doubles Tournament and third in the 37th Olympic Conference Holiday Tournament and S.J. Group

IV Sectional Tournament. Pavlinko also qualified for individual Tournament of Champions and came in 18th in the state.

"I didn't even know I made it until the end," Pavlinko said.

Not only did the team work well together, they played well together too.

"We're like a family," Lucich said, "We spend a lot of time together. We have our ups and downs, but we tell each other everything."

They spent most of their days after school at the local Brunswick bowling alley, usually practicing about two hours, or enough time for three games.

The team also leaned on their coaches for support.

"They wanted it as much as we did. They made sure we stayed positive," Piperno said, "they're there for us all the time, at every practice to make sure we could achieve all that we could."

Basketball takes Group IV title

BASKETBALL from page 1
Coach Jenn Natale.

According to Natale, Twp can thank their seniors and captains of the team for their continued success. Brown, Mercurio, and DiPietro have held the team together throughout their entire journey, which made for a well-worth-it ending.

"I couldn't think of a better way to finish my senior Minutemaids career" said DiPietro.

After ending their high school basketball days with a championship, Mercurio said "it feels great to know all our hard work paid off."

Leading scorers and players to watch out for the next three years are freshman twins Kylie and Kelly Giedemann '14. In the title game, Kelly was the player of game, and Kylie scored the winning basket on free-throws. The

two underclassmen proved to be valuable to their team this season, as they started out their high school careers as key members of the Varsity team.

"I think we definitely earned a lot of respect and it felt great to win Group IV because we've been working so hard" said Kelly Giedemann.

The team calls their journey a true "Cinderella story" because not many people believed in them. Going in to each playoff game not expecting much is what made their achievements so remarkable.

"I never in a million years would have thought we would make it as far as we've come. It's an awesome experience, and its ten times better that I get to share it with these amazing girls" said DiPietro after defeating Cherry Hill East.



BRIANNA CARABALLO '11/The Patriot

Star freshmen guards, Kylie and Kelly Giedeman provided both offensive and defensive punch for the Minutemaids.

Sarin sets goal record

Emily Bierman '11

Through his four years playing varsity ice hockey for WTHS, Eddie Sarin '11 was no stranger to awards. In his sophomore year, he won the Breakout Player of the year, and in his junior year, he was named the Player of the Year and received the MVP award in the All-Star game. This year, Sarin has won the Leadership Award and the Complete Player Award.

He also reached over 100 goals in his high school career. He was the first student to do this at WTHS.

"It felt great to win the awards, but our team's record is accomplishment enough for me," said Sarin.

Under Sarin's leadership, the team made it to the championship game, where they lost to Cherokee with 15.1 seconds left in overtime.

"Even though we did lose the championship game, we still had an amazing season, and I am very sad that my Township career has come to an end," said Sarin. "I really wanted that championship, but that's life. You don't always get what you want. I'm very happy about what I did in my career."

Since this is his last year at WTHS, Sarin has been busy planning for his future. He wants to get a degree in business and go into sports management. He is not ready to hang up his skates just yet. Sarin hopes to get stronger and work in the off season to improve and hopefully play college hockey.

"I'm looking forward to Mr. WT. I get to host it with Bill Chernik '11 and Saum Prasad '11," said Sarin.

When Sarin isn't playing hockey, he likes to play golf and baseball. He also likes to hang out with his best friend and varsity teammate Jonathan Smith '12.

"My favorite part about playing ice hockey with Eddie is that he's like my brother, and he's a good leader and a great player," said Smith. "We always have fun no matter what. He is an all-around great friend to anyone."

Sarin enjoyed playing for his school. It always meant a lot when people came out to games to cheer them on.

"What I will miss the most about Township hockey are all my teammates. Most likely we will all never be in the same place ever again, and that's really sad," said Sarin. "They were a great group of kids and I'll miss every one of them."

Hockey wraps strong season

Jenn Gordun '12

After a tough loss to Cherokee in the championship, Washington Twp.'s ice hockey club advanced to the quarter finals of the Flyers' Cup Tournament.

The Flyers Cup Tournament is an exclusive tournament for the top ranked teams in South Jersey and East Philadelphia. The single elimination tournament begins with 20 teams culminating in a championship game—which is held at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

Jonathan Smith '12, believes that Washington Township's fight for a championship could have been a bit stronger,

"I don't think we played up to our usual game, we didn't play to the best of our abilities," Smith said. "But it still was a good run and we had a lot of fun in the tournament,"

Despite the Flyers' Cup giving the players and fans something to look forward to, the impact of the loss to Cherokee in the championship is still weighing heavily on players' minds.

"I can say 15.1 isn't our lucky number," Smith said after recalling the two goals Cherokee scored with 15.1 seconds left – in the third period, and again in overtime.

Township coaches used a new system to create more scoring opportunities for the offense.

"Cherokee would always match their top line on me, ...we knew we had to switch things around," Captain Eddie Sarin '11, said. "We used me as a decoy so it could free guys up like [Smith] and [Ben Basalma '11],"

This new system against Cherokee seemed to work. Four of the five goals netted for Township were scored by Smith—who admitted it "brought him down more because they still lost".

Despite the high scoring game, Cherokee created much opposition for Township's top scorers.

"The best thing about [Cherokee] was their defense—especially their captain," Smith said. "He

was awarded best defenseman of the league. It was tough to get around him,"

Ryan McCusker '13, goaltender for Washington Township also believed Cherokee to be worthy opponents.

"It was a tough game, and Cherokee is a great team," McCusker said. "I feel bad for all the seniors for losing like that since it the last chance for them,"

The 6-5 loss to Cherokee is nothing for the boys in red hang their heads. Both teams played hard and the game consisted of relentless scoring with the scoreboard switching leaders endlessly.

Overall as a season, Washington Township' ice hockey club made it a gripping, fun and successful season.

"I thought I had a successful senior year," Sarin said. "I got my 100 regular season goals and that's never been done before by anyone from township,"

Washington Township defenseman Steven Sailor '12 believes that the team was "the best Township team in recent history, and best prepared for a championship". Moreover, it was a team that exceeded expectations.

"In the beginning of the season, we weren't even ranked in the top five; we've accomplished a lot," Sailor said.

There were milestones achieved by individuals and the team as a whole. The team recognizes that nothing could have ever been accomplished without the remarkable coaching staff and the teamwork and cooperation between the players.

"We should keep our heads held high," McCusker said. "I would like to thank the coaching staff and the players for a great year and a great run,"

Sarin believes that taken as a whole, the team ended with a victorious season and that time was their strongest opponent in the end.

"If there were 15.1 seconds less in that game, we wouldn't be talking about any of this and we would be talking about a championship. So overall it was a successful year," he said.

Smith puts best skate forward

Jenn Gordun '12

For fans and players of Washington Township's ice hockey club, 15.1 is a number that will haunt them. On February 28, Washington Township was defeated by Cherokee 6-5 in a riveting and nail-biting overtime, with Cherokee scoring with 15.1 seconds in both the third period and overtime.

The number that game should to be remembered for is four.

Forward Jonathan Smith '12, scored 4 of Washington Township's 5 goals.

"Jon played amazing," said WT's goaltender Ryan McCusker '13. "He scored four times and really helped the team out."

Captain Eddie Sarin '11 attributes Smith's four goals to the new system their ice hockey club put in effect while playing Cherokee. During the system, Sarin acted as a decoy to lure Cherokee's top line to play against him, freeing up the other top scorers for Washington Township.

"[The system] did work as Jon had four goals," Sarin said. "It's a shame we didn't win, though,"

The ice hockey club may have not won a championship, but they have had much success during the season. The championship game against Cherokee may be remembered as a loss, but also will be remembered as a showcase of Smith's incredible talent.

"[Smith] had an unbelievable game and did everything he could to put the team on his back," said WT defenseman Steve Sailor '12. "He has a bright hockey career in front of him."