

Township Sports

Boys tennis team seeking success

Anthony Dentino '11

As the harsh winter weather is starting to give way to the warmth and sunshine, excitement is brewing about many of Washington Township High School's spring sports teams. And while many people associate spring with the ping of balls flying off of aluminum bats, a certain group of athletes is focused on the pop of balls smashing off of a racket.

The Washington Township High School Boys Tennis team enters the 2011 campaign under new leadership, with Ms. Cindy Surplus taking over the helm for longtime coach Mr. Rich Flemming.

Nevertheless, Surplus, a former tennis player at Haddon Township High School, East Carolina University, and The College of New Jersey, has plenty of tennis experience.

"Coach Surplus has been a volunteer assistant for the girls' tennis team the last 3 years. She has been an invaluable asset to the girls' team, and my biggest wish is that she returns to continue and help the team in the fall. Having played as a singles player at Haddon Township and The College of New Jersey, Ms. Surplus brings an enormous amount of playing and coaching experience to WTHS boys' team. [She is] a confident leader and amazing instructor, and the boys will benefit from the wealth of knowledge she brings to the team. I look forward to watching the boys succeed under Ms. Surplus's tutelage," said Flemming of Surplus's knowledge of tennis and coaching ability.

Of course, experience and even coaching ability can be for naught in any sport if the players do not buy into the system. However, it is evident that this is not the case for Washington Township. While it has certainly been an adjustment period, the players all agree that Surplus runs the program similarly to Flemming, and whatever differences there may be, are all positive.

Prasun Sharma '11 said, "[As a team] we love messing around, but with Coach Surplus we get serious and try to learn as much from her as possible because she knows a lot about tennis. But a lot of times she goof's off with us too. We have also have lot more technique drills with Coach Surplus and game play strategy."

Not surprisingly, Coach Surplus also feels that the team has responded well and is glad that the transition has been swift, stating "The team is responding very well; having Coach Rearick with me has helped them transition. I made it clear that I want us to be successful in many different areas, and the boys are all on board with this. I am really enjoying getting to know my players and am thankful for all the positive comments and responses I receive from both parents and players."

In addition, the team returns a slew of veteran players such as seniors Prasun Sharma, Jason Melfi, and Nick DeVito, who are complimented by underclassmen Derek Alfinito '12, Raghav Sahni '12, and Steve Hauser '13 as well as first year senior player Mike Osborne.

This core group of players understands their

role as varsity members of the team and takes their leadership responsibilities seriously.

Sharma stated, "As a senior I definitely try to encourage the underclassmen as much I can. Tennis can become a very frustrating sport because your technique has to be dead on, you need to have a good head on your shoulders and a lot of teams [we play throughout the season] are really tough. Whenever we do exercises I try to push the team to finish it out. If someone hits a nice shot I'll give them encouragement or if someone hits a bad shot I try to point out what they did wrong. And most importantly if someone needs help with their technique then I'll definitely help them."

Another crucial element needed to ensure the Washington Township Boys Tennis team's success is goal setting. This year, the athletes have lofty goals and hope to build upon last season's strengths and chip away at their weaknesses.

The team hopes to qualify for the South Jersey Open and play deep into the Gloucester County Tournament while also proving themselves worthy adversaries to other Olympic Conference foes. In addition, qualifying for the state tournament looms as a distant yet attainable mark, and the ultimate goal of the squad is to compete and work diligently to reach their goals while having fun.

With a different yet far from inexperienced coach, veteran leadership, and a high morale, the 2011 campaign stands to be a successful one for the Minutemen.

Minutemen baseball making a move to the playoffs

Anthony Dentino '11

It is often said that the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary. Another truth about sports is that a team will get out of their season what they put into it. Based off of the recent successes of the Washington Township Minutemen Baseball team, it is apparent that they are no strangers to dedication.

Fresh off of a South Jersey Group IV Sectional crown in the 2010 campaign, and only four years removed from their thrilling 2007 state championship, the Minutemen traditionally set high standards for themselves, and this year is no different.

Tyler Bright '11 said, "Our goal for this season is the same as every year: to win states."

While few programs are able to continually set this goal with realistic hopes of actually achieving it, Washington Township is one of those teams. Of course, the journey to a state title is long and arduous one, and along the way the team hopes to accomplish other goals.

Senior pitcher and outfielder Jonny Morad said [in addition to winning states] "My goals for this season are to win the Grand Slam Classic, win our conference, and the Diamond Classic tournament. As long as we take it one game at a time, I believe we can accomplish this."

So far, so good for Township, as part one, taking home the coveted Grand Slam Classic trophy, has been accomplished. Winning the Olympic Conference and Diamond Classic will not be easy, but the experienced and senior-laden Minutemen feel their attitude will help them be up to the task.

"The biggest strength of the team is our ability to not take ourselves out of the game through errors or attitude. We don't get down on ourselves when we are behind and we don't get complacent when ahead," said Bright.

In addition to Bright and Morad, other key seniors include Trevor Connors, Dan Simnor, Nick Valori, and Mark Jankowski.

With this core group of seniors and a strong nucleus of underclassmen, the Minutemen feel that they are poised to make a deep run into the postseason while continuing to make history as a part of an already storied program.

Next Issue:

The Patriot sits down with starting pitcher Tyler Bright '11

The Patriot

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

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Sibert's success

Ally Gallo '11

When walking through the doors of Washington Township High School on the first day of his freshman year, little did Shane Sibert realize he would be crowned the 2011 Mr. WT his senior year.

"First I remember holding hands with everyone waiting for the runner's up to be called, then getting bum rushed by everyone and not being able to breathe," said Sibert. "I'll never forget Meghna's voice and the exact way she said my name."

Sibert is known for many things here at Washington Township High School. He was voted by his classmates for "Best Smile" back in November, and he is an active member of DECA. You can also catch him on the morning announcements, and some of the most well favored and remembered commercials from this year were made by him.

His peers believe he couldn't have deserved the honor of Mr. WT more.

"Shane is probably the most genuine guy I know," said Mandy Verno '11. "He is talented, but modest, and is such a reliable friend to anyone who chooses to become his."

Sibert was crowned Mr. WT during the night of the Mr. Washington Township show on Thursday, April 28. The theme of this year's show was *Nickelodeon*. Throughout the night, the 12 most well rounded boys that the senior class of 2011 voted for showed off their personalities and dancing skills competing to be



Photo courtesy of LINDA HANFORD '11

Shane Sibert was crowned the 2011 Mr. Washington Township on April 28. The other Mr. WT boys raise him on their shoulders to celebrate.

the next Nickelodeon star, in this case the 2011 Mr. Washington Township.

"I feel that performing in Mr. WT was a great experience," said Ryan Francisco '11. "My favorite part was just being able to share that night with 11 great guys."

The entire show is put on by Student Council Advisors Ms. Elizabeth Longo and Mrs. Francesca Muscelli started planning around the December before the show. This year, the choreographers that were chosen were seniors Alexandra Richards, Nicoleta Sinagris and Ally Gallo. They worked with the boys for 2-3 nights a week since February, teaching them dance

routines to perform the night of the show.

"The most ironic part about it all is that I actually don't know what I'm going to do now that it's over," said Richards. "I never thought I'd say this then, but I would do it all over again in a second. All in all, love-hate relationship or not, it was definitely one of the greatest things I've experienced in high school."

After an opening video to introduce the boys, the 12 candidates came on stage performing a large group dance. Following the dance, the boys were introduced one by one each representing a different month of the year, where they then were

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Interact buddies up

Amy Dennis '12

This is a community event and despite the rain outside that day, it was filled with many sunny faces. On Saturday, April 16, the Rotary Interact club held its annual Festival of Friends. Throughout the day, mentally challenged people from assisted living homes and special schools came to the WTHS 9/10 gym to spend the day playing games, snacking and winning prizes.

"My favorite part was definitely playing games with the people and their buddies," said Nicole Ryan '13 "They always look so happy."

All students who volunteered for festival of friends were able to do something productive. Some students worked in the 9/10 cafeteria helping out with the food and others worked at the fun stations in the gym. But one of the most involved and important jobs a student can have is being a buddy.

"I learned a lot from being a buddy," said Matt Andreas, "It takes patience at first, but once I got to know Dorothy I saw that she was a really cool person and we had a lot of fun together."

One popular activity of the day was the



ELISA OBEDOZA '12

WTHS students spent their day as "buddies" to members of local assisted living homes and special schools.

"Hoops" game. Buddies and their partners could come and toss a beach ball into one of three hula hoops and every time, somebody won a prize. Most prizes included key chains, stickers, bead jewelry and even balloons.

"Personally, I think Festival of Friends is an opportunity for the students of Washington Township to help out in the community and to

learn that everybody is different, not just at wths but in the real world. Hopefully it gives everyone the chance to become friends with somebody they wouldn't normally meet without this event," said Mrs. Renzetti, the adviser for Interact club.

Festival of friends benefits all by giving students a rewarding day of community service and creating better character as they build values like acceptance and understanding of others.

"I think it's important that students and staff work with the community to make new friends and build relationships, it's a genuine service that is donated," said Michael Rettano '11.

As the festival came to an end in the late afternoon, the Interact club and student volunteers work together to clean up the gym and prepare for their next big event. Everyone who attended received a complimentary Festival of Friends T-shirt to be worn on the Monday afterward.

"I feel it was a great accomplishment this year," said Kaitlin Hampshire '11. "A lot of people showed up to help out and it ran really smoothly."

Donors dominate WTHS

Every student who donated got one pint of blood taken.

Joe Brown '11



photos AMY DENNIS '12/The Patriot



Kyle Linderman '12

Due to a Blood Drive Training Session, there was a shortage of Red Cross Volunteers. Although WTHS donated 177 pints of blood, over 300 students had signed up.

WTHS Interact collected 177 pints of blood at the Spring Blood Drive held in the 11th grade Gym Friday, April 29.



Krissy Robertson '11

John Whalen '11

Inside the Park by Rebecca Serad '11

Stellar rotation has Phils in first

Rebecca Serad '11

For those who were worried about the offense of the Philadelphia Phillies not being able to support the acclaimed starting rotation, a sigh of relief is necessary. Not only has the offense produced, regardless of the lack of consistency, but the rotation has been stellar.

The reigning National League Cy Young award winner, Roy Halladay, has continued his trend of putting down the opposing offense with his renowned arsenal. As projected, the rest of rotation has been consistently impressive, with Halladay, Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels tied for the best record, each at 3-1. Although Lee is not off to the best of starts, posting a 2-2 record with a mediocre 4.18 ERA, fans shouldn't worry just yet. Once Lee gets into a rhythm and notches a few more wins, he should seem more like the ace who led the Phillies to their second consecutive World Series in 2009.

The Phillies bullpen, headlined by set-up man Ryan Madson and eye-opening strike-out machine Antonio Bastardo, has exceeded the expectations of baseball critics across the nation. Despite the long term loss of closer Brad Lidge to a right shoulder injury and the more recent loss of interim closer Jose Contreras to a strained right flexor pronator tendon, the pen has been successful as a group. Young pitchers Mike Zagurski and Michael Stutes have been promoted from Triple-A Lehigh Valley to help out. They may, in fact, be crucial pieces of the puzzle as time passes. Manager Charlie Manuel has had to pick and choose what pitchers come into the game based simply on the match-up and his gut feeling. If these two can prove themselves, they could work themselves into more prominent roles in either the seventh or eighth innings.

It is fortunate that the pitching staff has been so dominant as the offense has not been producing to the same level that led them to a World Series title in 2008. The loss of All-Star second baseman Chase Utley has

created a huge hole in the lineup, in terms of playing small ball and manufacturing runs. In contrast to the past, Ryan Howard has put more focus on getting base hits instead of home runs. Some critics say that this will put a damper on the power numbers that awarded him with the honor of National League Most Valuable Player in 2008, but most fans would agree with the idea that a higher batting average and hit total would be more beneficial to the team than increased strike-outs that often accompany a high home run total.

Overall, the team has not scored more than four runs in a game since the opening series of the year versus Atlanta. For a team that prides itself on the force of their offense, this is a valid reason for concern. Throughout the first month of the season, the only true consistent hitter has been third baseman Placido Polanco. Through April 27 Polanco is hitting for a .389 average with two home-runs and sixteen RBIs. More impressive is his .448 on base percentage.

As most fans already know, this team was put together as a collective offensive force. Without the proper support behind Howard in the fifth hole, pitchers will continue to have no problem walking the slugger to face either left fielder Raul Ibanez or new right fielder Ben Francisco. Of the two, Ibanez has produced far more dismal numbers, hitting a mere .171 with twenty-three strikeouts in only twenty-two games. Because this is the last year of his three year contract, this season is key for the struggling outfielder. It will prove whether or not his age is catching up with him and limiting his productivity as an everyday player.

As April comes to a close, it could be said that it was a successful month for the Phillies. However, the lack of power in what was once one of the most feared offenses in baseball has hurt the team in the few games that they have lost. Time will tell whether or not the everyday roster steps up their game and helps support the pitching staff.

April brings excitement for MLB

Rebecca Serad '11

Thus far, the baseball world has been turned upside down by the surprising rise of teams that were expected to be at the bottom of their respective divisions this season. Even though April is known as a month that cannot foreshadow the division races in September, it has proven to be eye-opening in regards to possible contenders.

Highlighting the surprise factor is the Cleveland Indians. Leading the American League Central division with a record of 19-8 through May 1, the Tribe has been dominant in both their offense and pitching. The offense has been led by the return of Gold Glove winning center-fielder Grady Sizemore. Back to his former self after two injury plagued seasons, he is hitting .340 with ten runs scored. The pitching staff has been excellent, including standout starting pitchers Justin Masterson (5-0 with a 2.25 ERA) and Josh Tomlin (4-0 with a 2.45 ERA).

In terms of a rotation, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim have proved to be absolutely spectacular. Ace Jered Weaver has posted a 6-0 record with a 0.99 ERA in six starts and has been supported by right hander Dan Haren (4-1 with 1.23 ERA). While the team's overall

average hasn't been anything special, they have been working collectively as an offense to get the job done. If a few starting players step up their game, including new acquisition Vernon Wells, look for this team to give reigning American League champs the Texas Rangers a run for their money late in the season.

In the National League, the Colorado Rockies have proven to be a force to be reckoned with. They have one of the best records in (17-9). Their offense continues to be among the best in baseball and has been dominant due to the efforts of five-tool player Troy Tulowitzki, who is hitting .296 with 17 RBIs and slugger first baseman Todd Helton (.307 with 11 RBIs). If ace Ubaldo Jimenez returns with another dominant season like the one he had in 2010, the Rockies could be serious contenders in the league.

Among the usual surprises that come with a new season are the underachievers. No team in baseball exemplifies this better through the first month of the season than the Boston Red Sox. Fresh off acquiring highly sought after outfielder Carl Crawford and acquiring first baseman Adrian Gonzalez from the San Diego Padres, the BoSox had baseball critics everywhere practically penciling them in for another World Series trip this October.

However, Crawford has not been the consistent lead-off man that the team expected to play a big part of the offense this season. He is only hitting .168 with four stolen bases. In addition, the Red Sox are not having the same surplus amount of offense that has been expected of them. Only two players (Gonzalez and shortstop Jed Lowrie) are hitting above .300, and cannot be forced to carry the entire offense this season.

This team needs production from the All-Star caliber players that have helped establish them as a gritty team, such as second baseman Dustin Pedroia and third baseman Kevin Youkilis. Despite this lack of production from the offense, the pitching staff has been solid. In order to live up to the hefty expectations, they have to continue to pitch solid outings and hope that the offense will pick them up in close ballgames.

April has been an eye-opening month in terms of teams living up to the potential that they have. Some teams may only be contenders for the moment, but they have proven that they will be a tough team to beat in order to reach the goal of playing in October baseball. The months to come will help distinguish the truly remarkable teams from the pretenders in MLB.

Opinions: National Sports

NBA Playoffs off to rip-roaring start

Anthony Dentino '11

In case you've been living under a rock, or you've just been doing one of the millions of things more interesting and exciting than following the National Basketball Association, the NBA's playoffs are rapidly approaching.

You may be asking why you should even bother watching. After all, the typical "defense" employed in the NBA is about as pretty as a Shaquille O'Neal free-throw, and much less effective, which is truly saying something considering O'Neal's abysmal 52.7% career free-throw shooting percentage. In addition, the NCAA tournament that just concluded was one of the best played in recent years, if not ever, which probably satisfied the basketball appetite of most fans.

Yet, the intensity does pick up for most professional players and teams during the home-stretch of the regular season and into the NBA postseason. There are also many intriguing storylines to watch for, and so far, the playoffs have been excellent. It may not be easy, but try and tune in to some surprisingly well-played and fun basketball. Here are five of the biggest NBA headlines at this point in the championship run.

1. Philadelphia 76ers: Sure, the hometown favorite Sixers were eliminated by the Miami Heat in the first round, but most fans would

agree that even stealing one game away from the Heat in the series was a huge success, especially after the team was not even expected to make the playoffs. Philadelphia started the season off on quite a bitter note, as they went an abysmal 3-13 through their first 16 games. Nevertheless, Doug Collins righted the ship quickly, and was splendid in his first year as head coach, meshing talented youngsters such as Jrue Holiday, Lou Williams, Thaddeus Young, and Evan Turner with veterans Andre Iguodala and Elton Brand.

2. Which Knicks Team Will Show Up?: Before catching fire and winning seven games in a row to close out the regular season, the New York Knicks had dropped nine of their previous 10 games. They quickly regained this losing form in the playoffs as they were swept by the Boston Celtics in the opening round. While Boston is one of the Eastern Conference's top teams and one of the NBA's best teams for that matter, the Knicks and their talented roster, highlighted by Carmelo Anthony, Amar'e Stoudemire and Chauncey Billups, should have at least made the series interesting. Of course, they also should have played defense; even the most casual viewer would agree that very little defense was employed by New York. However, on the bright side, the Knicks did succeed in something; making Billups, who claimed that

his team would be a tough out in the postseason, look like an utter fool.

3. Three-Peat?: The Dallas Mavericks answered this question emphatically, and the answer they gave was a resounding no. No, as in "No, the Los Angeles Lakers will not even sniff their third consecutive NBA title this year." The Mavs swept the two time defending champs in embarrassing fashion, and quite frankly, the Lakers didn't handle it all that well. In the clinching game, both Andrew Bynum and Lamar Odom were ejected for letting their frustration get the best of them, and as good as Kobe Bryant is, no player can singlehandedly win a championship.

4. Age vs. Youth: While the Boston Celtics are hanging tough, it seems as though youth is winning out over age as the old and banged up San Antonio Spurs were eliminated quickly from the playoffs by the upstart Memphis Grizzlies. On the flip side, the youthful Chicago Bulls and Oklahoma City Thunder are still competing in the postseason and are threats to go all the way.

5. The Big 3: The Miami Heat have managed to make themselves the New York Yankees of basketball, and it probably has something to do with signing that LeBron James guy

everyone talks about, along with Chris Bosh, to complement Dwayne Wade. Miami does boast a strong record heading into the postseason, but with three of the best players in the NBA on your starting roster, it's pretty hard not to. There is also some concern about the other two players who fill out the starting lineup, namely because they are changed constantly, leading to a lack of team chemistry, and because whoever does earn the other two starting roles, is simply not James, Wade, or Bosh. Of course when your front office is coughing up dough to those three, it's almost impossible to find any other money to bring in two other highly skilled players. Certainly, Miami is a threat to win it all because of their three-headed monster, but they have not gelled as



well as many experts previously thought and the Heat players along with their front office will undoubtedly be under heavy scrutiny if their team makes an exit before the NBA Finals.

Phil Jaffe '11

Golfer criticized for hat

When one thinks of golf, the image of 50-something year old men wearing khaki pants, lightly colored Polo shirts, and golf spikes comes to mind. Maybe even a hat thrown in. But 22 year-old Rickie Fowler has made headlines for doing something so obviously over the line and horrifying that it has grabbed national attention and caused stereotypes of a generation to come to the forefront of the golfing world.

He wore his hat backwards.

In a sport where class is apparently just as important as talent, Fowler sat down for a press conference at the Augusta National tournament and, as he frequently does, turned his hat backwards. Augusta National member Ron Townsend then asked Fowler to turn his hat around, a request the rebellious teen declined, saying that he wanted people to see his face. When Townsend once again asked him to turn his hat around, Fowler

complied.

Oh, what a terribly horrible act committed by Rickie Fowler. And to think that there are people in the world who look up to such an awful and atrocious human being!

Seriously golf, lighten up. He wore a hat backwards, what's the big deal? This story actually made it to the homepage of Yahoo!, and was talked about quite a bit in the golfing world as the Masters went on... because the kid wore his hat backwards. Let's calm down golf,

it's really not that outlandish that somebody wanted to wear their hat backwards. Maybe he'll even bring in some new fans due to the fact that he looks like a grown-up Justin Bieber, and surely will have the attention of young women all over the world. If he wants to wear his hat backwards so the ladies can see his face, thereby bringing a new group of fans to golf, then why not let him?

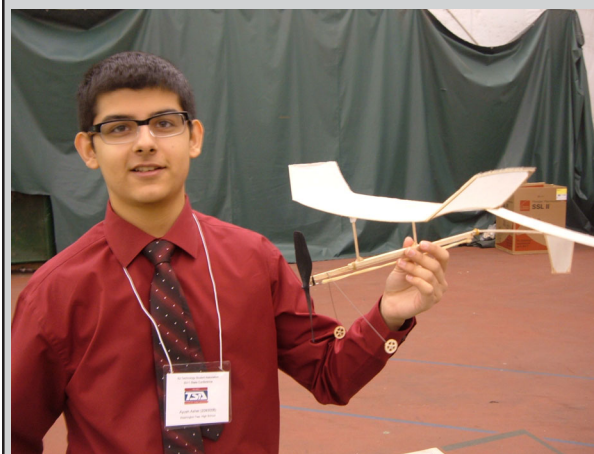
Tech boys triumph

The Technology Student Association (TSA) participated in a conference at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) on April 6. Over 40 high schools competed in 30 events ranging from architectural models to CO2 powered dragsters and flight endurance. There were on site competitions such as technology problem solving and pre-conference judged events like engineering design.



photos courtesy of TSA

Ricky Hernandez '14 (above right) was one of the top 16 CO2 powered dragsters out of approximately 80 cars from throughout the state. Trevor Thayer '12 (left) also competed in the CO2 competition.



Ayush Asher '12 (left) competed in the flight endurance and had to build and fly a rubber band powered aircraft with the goal being to stay aloft as long as possible.

The TSA welcomes new members and generally meets every first and third Wednesdays in room H-111 of the 9-10 wing. Contact adviser Mr. Rich Ambacher for more information.

Mr. WT Crowning

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to answer their own randomly selected question. The boys then got into smaller groups to dance so the audience could really get to see the boys' personalities. This was going to be the last time they saw the candidates before they decided who to vote for.

During intermission, the entire audience got to vote for their favorite dancer by putting their ticket stub in the box of the boy of their choice. Many agree the show was a success.

"I thought it was better than any year before because the choreographers were awesome and our boys really went all out," said Taylor Peck '11.

The votes were counted during the entire second half, while the boys performed another large group dance, a dance with their mom, and a dance with a girl escort of their choice. After counting over 1300 votes, Student Council President, Ryan Francisco, came in 3rd, John Nero came in 2nd, and Sibert was named the 2011 Mr. Washington Twp.

"I just want to throw a huge thank you to everyone who supported me, without you all I wouldn't have had this opportunity," Sibert said. "It was the best time of my life, I owe it all to you."

The Mr. WT boys agree that three months of preparing for Mr. WT was a lot of time and dedication for the boys, but they all agree it was worth it in the end simply because of how much fun it was.

"I will remember Mr. WT forever because after spending so much time with the other guys and the choreographers, I will consider us a family," said Reg Torrevillas '11.

The Washington Township Public Schools' Board of Education, Administration and Staff says

Thank you

to the entire community for its support of the 2011-12 school budget.

We are grateful for your validation of our educational efforts and extraordinary programming that daily benefits thousands of students.

Congratulations to our incumbent Board Members Kurt Snyder and Chet Nawoyski who were re-elected to the Board and to newcomers Josh Aronovitch and Ginny Murphy for their successful campaigns.

Features

Decisions, decisions: Seniors make final college choices

Rebecca Serad '11

It's that time of year again. It's time for the seniors to make a decision that will impact the course of the rest of their lives: where to go to college. The May 1st deadline is fast approaching and the decision is only getting tougher.

It isn't just the choice of a school that they have to deal with. After spending months gathering their academic records and recommendations from former teachers, the senior class has had to face adversity with the decision making process. After playing the waiting game for months, they have to deal with possible rejection or not having enough money to pay for the education they desire.

Kelsey Wainwright '11 has had firsthand experience with being rejected from her dream school.

"I was rejected from my number one school [University of Delaware]. It took me awhile to get past that. At that point, I just wanted to get in to any of the other colleges I applied to."

Wainwright has made her choice

to attend Rowan University and has sent in her deposit.

"Right now, my major is undeclared but I hope to make a decision in a year or so."

Kelly Lamb '11 had a tough decision to make. She had to decide if she would wait to see if she was taken off the wait list for her number one school [Clemson University], or choose another place to start the next period of her life. She decided to do the latter, and is happy with her choice.

I decided to attend University of South Carolina instead of waiting on Clemson because they have a five year program that would allow me to get my masters in both secondary education and mathematics," Lamb said.

Another factor that proved to be the make-or-break point was the financial cost of the college. Some schools, such as Drexel University or Arcadia University, can cost over \$30,000 per year, which can be draining to those who have to pay for their education alone without the help of their parents.

Kelsey Sentak '11 based her



ALLY GALLO '11/The Patriot

Dance concert performers pose to show their college pride.

decision for the immediate future solely on her financial situation.

"I'm going to attend Gloucester County College in the fall for Web/Multimedia Development. I wanted to go to Rowan, but I couldn't afford it. I thought that it would be best to take the safe route and save up the money to attend Rowan after my time at GCC."

Kate Hampshire '11 is trying to bypass possible monetary issues as best as she can.

"I can't really afford to go to Rider," she said, "since it costs over \$30,000 a year, but I'm trying to make it work. I've taken out loans

and have applied for a lot of scholarships. Hopefully, that will help me out."

However, not everyone was forced to deal with the glaring financial costs. Chris Viola '11 was able to make his decision without needing to keep the pecuniary aspect in the front of his mind.

"I've gotten a couple of scholarships that should help me out," Viola said. "Because I could just focus on the colleges and not the money, it was a lot less stressful."

Most students who have
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Preparation key to AP success

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

To many, taking an AP course in high school is a challenging and exciting way to explore education.

AP courses are offered in order to enhance student's high school experience and open up doors for their future. In addition to the courses, AP testing is another big part of the whole AP package.

Each year in May, students who have selected one of the advanced placement courses are allowed to take the AP test in that certain area. Although it is not mandatory for students to take the test, most opt to take it considering the test can exempt them from that specific course in college.

In order to take the test, students must pay a fee of eighty seven dollars, making it one of high stakes. A passing score on the AP test is anywhere from a three to a five, so if a student receives anything lower than this, credit for the

class will not be taken by colleges.

However, most students do believe that the stress and work of the AP regime will make them more successful.

"I want the college credit [from the test] and I want to prove to colleges that I have the intellect to attend their schools" said Zach Dzierzowski '12.

In order to receive that passing grade, most students are working extremely hard in order to fill their brains up with the information they have studied all year.

"I've been going to Mr. Barnshaw's [history] reviews, reading my notes and studying the AP textbook that was given to us" said Brienne Waters '12.

Some teachers, like Mr. Robert Barnshaw hold reviews for his AP students to assure that they have a refreshed idea of the subjects they have learned in the past.

However, there are some students who

prefer to go into the testing cold turkey.

Nino Nastasi '12, an AP student taking five tests this year said, "I'm not doing a whole lot to prepare beforehand because I feel as though my teachers have prepared me enough."

No matter what methods of studying these students chose, it was a fairly universal belief that forking over the eighty seven dollars could give them an edge in their college years.

"It's all worthwhile because I am expanding my general knowledge of both history and psychology, as well as preparing myself for the work and dedication I will have to exhibit in college. It lessens the shock value for what is to come" said Dzierzowski.

All in all, the students taking AP exams this May are headed for a challenge, but most are ready for what is to come.

"In the long run, it's one less class to pay for and take in college," said Waters, "It's better to spend the time and money now than later."

In Rio de Janeiro lies a new sort of children's tale

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

With colorful 3-D graphics, fun music and a cute plotline, *Rio* is certainly a film that can satisfy everyone's inner child. Made by the same production studio that brought us the popular *Ice Age* films, director Carlos Saldanha is at it again in this entertaining, animated family adventure.

The movie begins with a young woman, Linda (voiced by Leslie Mann) and her domesticated Macaw, Blu enjoying life in small town Minnesota. Linda and Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) have been inseparable ever since Linda discovered the exotic bird on the streets when she was younger.

However, the story takes an interesting turn when Tulio (voiced by Rodrigo Santoro), a bird specialist visits Linda and Blu, and tells Linda that Blu is the last male bird of his kind. In order for Blu's species to survive, Linda must take him to Rio de Janeiro where Blu will be able to mate with a female of the same species.

Linda and Blu are immediately hesitant, considering both of them have never traveled beyond their small town. Not to mention, Blu is most likely the only Macaw in existence that is afraid to fly.

Although they are both apprehensive, Blu and Linda make a trip to Rio where Blu is introduced to his female counterpart Jewel (voiced by Anne Hathaway). Jewel is fiercely



Google Images

Rio impresses movie goers of all ages.

independent and wants nothing to do with Blu. She is more concerned with trying to escape from Tulio's bird lab and return to life in the jungles of Rio.

When Jewel's escape plan goes awry

however, both Blu and Jewel end up in the hands of an exotic bird smuggler (voiced by Carlos Ponce) and his vengeful pet bird named Nigel (voiced by Jermaine Clement).

From here on out Jewel and Blu must find a way to escape from the clutches of their captors in order to reunite with Linda and eventually be released into the wild. In addition, Blu must overcome his fear of flying if he ever wishes to get away from the smugglers.

Not only does *Rio* have an original, captivating plotline, but the 3-D effects of the movie are extremely impressive. Although it may be more expensive for audiences to opt for the 3-D showing of the movie, the creators of the film definitely make it worth the extra cost. The colors in the film are very bright and detailed and will certainly amuse children, as well as adults.

No matter what age, *Rio* is a fun film for anyone, and is a nice family friendly choice for a night out at the movies. *Rio* contains jokes and music that both children and adults will find humorous, which eliminates the boredom some children's films generate.

All in all, *Rio* is a good choice when visiting the local movie theater. It may not be *The King's Speech*, but it gives a unique spin to the typical children's movie.

Surfer flick gets spiritual

Emily Bierman '11

One moment can change the life of an unsuspecting, teenaged surfer, but it can take all the time in the world for her to face her newest challenges and fears. *Soul Surfer* tells the inspiring, true story of Bethany Hamilton and her struggle to embrace the changes in her life after a freak-shark attack that resulted in the loss of her arm.

Anna Sophia Robb, known for her emotional performances in *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Because of Winn-Dixie*, doesn't disappoint as Bethany Hamilton, a young surfer involved in a shark attack. Bethany Hamilton had the potential of becoming a professional surfer,

when one day she was surfing with her best friend's family, and a shark attacked her. Bethany lost her arm, but did not lose her life. *Soul Surfer* is about how she finds the courage to get back in the water after her accident.

Robb isn't the only one with great acting skills in the film. Dennis Quaid (*The Parent Trap*) and Helen Hunt (*What Women Want*) star as Bethany's parents who help her make the right decisions concerning her future.

Although they don't have a big role in the film, Ross Thomas and Chris Brochu shine as Noah and Timmy Hamilton, Bethany's brothers, who are by her side as she goes through difficult times.

Lorraine Nicholson also is a breakout star who plays Bethany's best friend, Alana Blanchard, who was with her when her accident happened.

It was interesting to see country superstar, Carrie Underwood, star in her first big role as Sarah Hill, Bethany's youth pastor. While Underwood may be better at singing than acting, her performance didn't take away from the movie itself.

The movie may be difficult for young children to see because of the shark attack, but it is definitely considered a family movie that emphasizes many positive values. While after many movies are over, the audience leaves before the credits

finishing running, it is a suggestion for those seeing the movie to stay for the credits. The credits show video clips of the real Bethany Hamilton and her friends and family.

The movie is very emotional, to the point where it will make many people cry, but it is also very inspirational. It is a great movie that portrays a young girl exploring her faith, pursuing her dreams, and beating the odds. Bethany Hamilton has become an inspiration to many people, and it is great that her story is being told in the form of *Soul Surfer*.

Fiasco and friends wow with new album

Mariatu Santiago '11

If you were a fan of Lupe Fiasco's previous album *The Cool, Lasers* won't disappoint.

Fiasco's minimal use of auto tune (almost lack there of) have worked in his favor, and display the featured artists vocal abilities as well as lyrical talent. A great song that probably best sums up what the radio is all about would have to be "State Run Radio" featuring Matt Mahaffey. This is absolutely one of the better songs on the album mentioning the constant redundancy of the radio playing songs over and over again. He mentions "if you're dumb maybe you could be number one" taking a jab at the lack of talent that becomes number one saying "independent spirits you can barely hear what they say." One word to describe this would be eclectic with its use of electric guitars and definitely unique subject matter.

This album is filled with the essence of Fiasco, a singer whose first single spawned by this album, "The Show Goes On" was an instant hit with well produced beats and rhythms as well as a captivating anthem to never give up and stay strong. This album isn't bogged down

"Fiasco is definitely under appreciated for his choice to focus on talent and quality in his music instead of constantly changing his views and sound."

with ballads or too many dance tunes, but it does have a little bit of everything with songs featuring artists such as John Legend and Trey Songz. Other than a few "main stream" artists Fiasco features some musicians that may not be that well known such as Sarah Green and Sway. This eclectic pick in musicians gives the album a more unique tone.

Fiasco's approach to this album is refreshing with songs such as "Break the Chain" which

features Eric Turner and Sway. This has to be one of the better songs on the album with a unique combination of a "dance" "techno" beat and a hip hop flare. A well said quote in this album would be "playa thinking its cool to be a pimp still". By stating this Fiasco is trying to help change the way youth see life.

In "Words I never Said," the lyrics are brilliantly written with an overall theme. It seems that in most of the songs Fiasco tries to break the mold by trying to downgrade the popularity of pimps and street crime.

Fans of his last album *The Cool* will absolutely love *Lasers*. This album completely measures up to *The Cool*.

Fiasco should definitely be considered one of the most talented rappers out there today with his brilliant lyrical abilities similar to that of the late great Tupac Shakur. Fiasco is definitely under appreciated for his choice to focus on talent and quality in his music instead of constantly changing his views and sound. Fiasco has an sound that really can't be compared to any other. Even if you never got a chance to hear *The Cool* check it out and see for yourself.

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart: it 'belongs' in your library

Noel Abastillas '11

With their dreamy pop riffs and cloudy synth aura, The Pains of Being Pure at Heart make a strong return with their critically acclaimed album *Belong*. If you're into any indie rock bands like Phoenix or MGMT, The Pains of Being Pure at Heart will definitely be a band to put on your iPod.

Their self-titled debut in 2009 has earned them a strong following and their sound has been compared to as the American version of the Smiths and a rock version of the Joy Division

Their euphoric indie hooks and soft mellow vocals are for anyone that wants to relax and drift away from the world. But besides being a soothing massage for your mind, the songs are more profound than that.

The album consists of lyrics that cause listeners to experience the intense emotional highs and lows of being in a relationship. Though they may fall flat in terms of poetry and word choice, Kip Bergman's lines are straight from the heart and in the moment.

The opening song, *Belong* starts off with an energizing kick with a grunge tinge as it tells the story of teen love gone wrong. Kip Bergman's wavy whisper tells of finding someone else with almost a cruel coldness.

The album continues with songs of love and loss, most memorably with "Heart in Your Heartbreak", an almost 80s pop song with the catchy chorus, "*She was your heart in your heartbreak, she was the miss in your mistake.*"

Many of the songs in the album

seem to center on characters that feel like an outcast or different. "Heaven's Gonna Happen Now" is a song about living in the moment and how though all aspects of life may seem vacant and barren. They can be made better with the help of a friend.

"Even in My Dreams" is a pleasant switch from the heartache ensued in the earlier songs. The power ballad sings of idyllic indie romanticism, finding someone and loving them for their own uniqueness, "*Even in my dreams I could not betray you...there's nobody like you, Is that why they don't like you, like I do?*"

The theme of adolescent love continues on with the song "My Terrible Friend" a pleading love song begging to stay together and celebrate their difference and their

indifference to everyone else around them. "*Everyone is pretty and fun, everyone is lovely and young, everyone is gentle and gone, but everyone's just everyone*"

There's a consistency of teen desires of love and indie romance to the album. The lyric content gives a sense of melancholy alienation and provides an introverted perspective of the world but for those not in the mood to delve so deeply in lyrics and themes, their cloudy dream-daze sound makes your worries wash away.

Fashion frenzy

Apparel classes prepare for show

Emily Bierman '11

For those who have dreamed about attending New York Fashion Week, on May 31 the sewing classes at WTHS will be hosting Township Fashion Week 2011.

The show is an annual event for the sewing students to showcase their work that resulted from hard work and dedication. Alumni who are in the fashion business are also able to participate. This year, the fashion show is also opened to students who previously took sewing, or students who sew at home.

Cecilia Chu '11, Shannon Gutoski '11, Erica Ciancaglione '11, Hannah Donlon '11, Maureen Fleming '13, and Carley Dinovi '12 make up the six committee members for the fashion show. Most of the girls are in different years of the offered sewing classes at WTHS. Ciancaglione and Gutoski are in their fourth year, Dinovi, Donlon and Chu are in their third year, and Fleming is in her second year. The committee members plan and organize everything that goes into the fashion show.

"Our job is to put the ideas of the class to reality," said Donlon. "We also run and organize the show."

The fashion show isn't just students designing

and sewing their own clothes. The participants must stay after school to work on every last detail that goes into the show. Some of their tasks include picking a theme, organizing the designs, finding models, making programs, and creating the set.

All of the students with garments in the show find their own models. The models are usually the people most similar to the designer's size.

Although the fashion show takes a lot of preparation, it all comes together in the end.

"My favorite part of the show is the show itself. Planning and preparing is very stressful, but I know that it is going to be a great show and I'm excited for the show to happen," said Donlon.

"My favorite part is seeing all of our hard work pay off and being able to see the clothing that people made," said Fleming. "My least favorite part is not being able to watch it because we are behind the scenes."

Any students who contribute to the show are able to put in anything they have ever made, as long as it wasn't in a previous show.

"Mrs. Drozd would never want us to put anything in the show that we are not proud of," said Donlon.

The student fashion show is the perfect chance for students to show off their garments they have worked on.

Remembering the Spectrum

Chris Bosnjak '12

This past winter, the city said good bye to the first modern indoor sports arena in Philadelphia history. The Wachovia Spectrum was under demolition from November of 2010 to April of 2011 to be replaced by *Philly Live!*, an entertainment sports complex that is projected to open by spring 2012. As the region says goodbye, many look forward to the change.

Philly Live! is going to feature bars, restaurants, and entertainment for after Philadelphia sporting events. Though this new sports complex will be replacing a classic piece of Philadelphia sports history, some believe *Philly Live!* will turn out great.

Connor Hornibrook '12 stated, "I think that the Spectrum was an awesome venue for sports and later on concerts, but it was getting run down and wasn't in great shape. I think it's good that

something new is being built there because the Spectrum wasn't really being used that much."

The Spectrum, known for being the longtime home of the 76ers and Flyers, also hosted concerts, Arena Football, Indoor Soccer, and professional Lacrosse. The City of Brotherly Love was a witness to many notable events taken place in the spectrum. It held Duke Basketball legend Christian Laettner's last second shot to beat Kentucky in the 1992 NCAA East Regional's of the March Madness Tournament at the spectrum. The Spectrum also hosted six Flyers Stanley Cup series and five 76er Finals.

These notable events bring a lot of great memories too many students at WTHS that they will never forget.

Tyler Stumm '12 says, "I have been to quite a few Kixx (Indoor Soccer) games, and it was tough to see them go."



AP IMAGES

The former spectrum is being demolished for *Philly Live!*

Stumm goes on to say, "Now it's even harder to see their home venue leave as well. At least we have the Union to follow now."

The Union is the new professional soccer team for Philadelphia that plays their home games in Chester, PA.

Economics teacher Mr. Tom Morris has a lot of memories of the Spectrum.

"Last time I was at the Spectrum was in 1988 and I saw Neil Young and Crazy Horse. It was a Rockin' good time!" Morris said.

College choices finalized

See COLLEGE page 4

committed to a school are very happy about the choice they have made.

Hampshire, who wants to be a pediatrician, said, "The one thing that really stuck out to me about Rider was how they personalize your academic program. When I choose a medical school to attend after my four years there, they will help me make the best decision for me."

Viola was sold on Rowan from the start.

"I really liked the proximity to where I live," he said. "Since my brother went there, I know what a good education system they have. Plus, they have programs for both of the majors I am considering: business management and music."

Although not every student has yet decided on a college and major, the ones that have anticipate the next stage of their lives.

"I'm definitely excited for the years to come. College is going to be a big part of that," said Lamb.

Commentary

Voting seniors need to step up

Christina Cockerill '12

It seems like the apathy from seniors in our school is one of the biggest thorns in our budget's side. Every year, the lack of participation from of age seniors is startling; when the budget passes or fails by a small margin of votes, every single one truly matters. And what exactly is it that stops students from voting?

Perhaps it's the fact that whatever the outcome is, they leave for college

next year, completely unaffected by whatever changes are made to the school. But what many

Every year, the lack of participation from of age seniors is startling; when the budget passes or fails by a small margin of votes, every single one truly matters

seniors fail to appreciate is that, regardless, the past four years wouldn't have been possible without the funding that we had.

Already in the past few years, we've lost the Winter Formal due to budget cuts and class sizes have noticeably increased due to the downsize in staffing. What previous -

WTHS alumni will have enjoyed and

remembered fondly as part of their high school years, the cu-rrrent and upcoming students will

never have the chance to experience at all. Most of the current students don't even remember that we had the winter twilight dance.

The sad part is that for the lack of interest the upperclassmen show, they never experience the detrimental effects of their disinterest. It's almost selfish; the few moments it would take to register and cast your ballot are something many of the younger students would gladly volunteer to do if they had the chance.

This April, all upperclassmen at WTHS had to opportunity to get out there and vote for the budget to pass. While the budget did pass, many seinors did not bother to get out and voice their opinion.

Voting is a democratic responsibility: while citizens of the USA would fight bitterly over the loss of our system "by the people, for the people", those who don't exercise their right to vote don't deserve it.

Apparel Construction provides relaxed, fun atmosphere

Hannah Donlon '11

The feeling of pride that one receives when wearing a garment that you constructed with your own hands is a feeling like no other. Apparel Construction is the class that will give you that pride. In this class you will learn the art of this somewhat ancient craft, and everyone will be coming to you when a button falls off.

The apparel construction courses at Washington Township offer new opportunities.

To start, people will be coming to you to fix their clothes. So not only will you be helping people, but you may be able to bring in some money as well.

Also, if you are interested in getting a career in the fashion industry, it is important to have experience in sewing. Sewing classes help to build your portfolio. Why spend hundreds of dollars taking apparel courses at local art universities when you can take a course at school for free?

This year is my third year of

sewing. I have to say that it has been a great experience, and now I cannot imagine my High School experience without it.

Though sewing can be very frustrating, our teacher Mrs. Drozd is very helpful. Even when I do mess up (which is often) I know that in the end, I will make a garment that I am very happy with when she is there to help. It is a fun class with a relaxing atmosphere. Going to sewing is like going to an oasis in the middle of my school day.

Lastly, those who take the apparel courses are able to participate in the school's fashion show and showcase their work. The students who are in Apparel 2, 3 and 4 run the fashion show, however all levels participate. This year's theme is "Township Fashion Week" and is on May 31 in the 11/12 auditorium. Flyers will be posted in the halls with more details at a later date. If you would like any more information about the course please talk to your guidance counselor or talk to Mrs. Drozd in A-2.

The Patriot

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Don't Panic! The boys are back.

Vices and Virtues does not disappoint.

Christina Cockerill '12

Panic! At the Disco is back with a new album and debuting their new line up with *Vices and Virtues*, an alternarock set sure to please fans of both old and new Panic.

With catchy, alternative pop songs like "Nearly Witches (Ever Since We Met)" and their hit single, "Ballad of the Mona Lisa", they're stuck in the heads of many. For the first time since "I Write Sins, Not Tragedies", the band is receiving serious air time on the radio stations like Q102.

However, the boys always know when to slow it down. Pretty tunes like "Always" and "The Calendar" set a calm, acoustic tune to their new album. While their sound is far from what fans of *Pretty. Odd.* would be led to expect, these two tracks bring back the easy listening that Panic!'s second album with a Beatles-esque touch of acoustic jams. The few easy listening songs in the album give it a calmer, sweeter feel.

Panic's first album, *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out* and their first, *Pretty. Odd.* were completely opposing forces, with the former carrying a showy, glamorous Vegas-rock and the latter going for a light, fun feel. However, *Vices and Virtues* is the best of both worlds; "Let's Kill Tonight",

one of their opening tracks, gets listeners pumped for the rest of the CD with a quick beat and light lyrics.

While the album leaves listeners satisfied, there's one part where it fell short. The writing, far from the abstract and originality of old P!aTD has become cliché and overly romantic. In the years before, in their premier album, songs like "Build God, Then We'll Talk" discussed morals and ethics in society, questioning the authenticity of modern romance.

Now, Brendan Urie and Spencer Smith have taken a turn into a romantic point of view with lyrics about girls and relationships, singing songs like "Sarah Smiles" in place of their edgier previous pieces. While some may find this a sweet turn of events, the lyrics come off as cliché and repetitive rather than the original spice that the group originally felt.

Overall, though, the album is spectacular, especially with the recent line-up change. In 2010, members Ryan Ross and Jon Walker left the band for form The Young Veins. With half their members, Panic! has still managed to produce



The two remaining members of P!aTD have tried anew, vintage style for their third album

and enjoyable, thought stranger listen, a sure balance to fans of both old and new. There's no need to Panic!: the boys are back and they're just as good as before.

Yellowcard returns with a bang

Rebecca Serad '11

After a long hiatus due to the lack of success of their album *Paper Walls* and lead singer Ryan Key having surgery to remove a cyst on his vocal chords, Yellowcard is back with a bang. Their new album, *When You're Through Thinking, Say Yes*, proves that the band is ready to push the envelope and return to the unique pop-rock that brought them fame.

Not only are Key's vocals stronger and more passionate than ever, but the melodies throughout the album are interesting, and yet still radio-friendly. In addition, the band's signature electric violin, played by Sean Mackin, is present throughout the entirety of the album and keeps the listener intrigued.

Among the many standout tracks on the album, "With You Around" strikes the loudest chord.

Key sings about wanting long-lasting love with a reluctant paramour. While looking back on their relationship, he sings, "I know you've always been afraid of ending up alone. Somebody hurt you, now you're waiting on a dial tone. But I'm right here, so don't get blue. It's not just you, I need this too." His emotional tone throughout the song displays his true sincerity.

The "Ocean Avenue" band also takes on sensitive topics. One example of this is "See Me Smiling," where the lyrics tell the story of trying to move on after the death of someone close.

The quintet also provides insight on the drawbacks of following their dreams at all costs on "Life of Leaving Home". Key openly displays how his passion for making music surpasses all else when he sings, "There is something calling me, more than a moment in time.



AP Images

Yellowcard is back and ready to rock your socks off.

It's a dream I'm following on my own."

Overall, Yellowcard impresses fans both old and new with solid guitar riffs and melodic infusions of violin. The lyrics are heartfelt and give a true insight into the lives of

the band members during their hiatus. Fans of alternative rock with a twist should pick up a copy of *When You're Through Thinking, Say Yes*. There's no need for second thoughts.

Entertainment

Vampire Diaries: Love at first bite

Emily Bierman '11

Every episode starts off the same: "Previously on *The Vampire Diaries*..." Every episode ends the same way, leaving you wanting more.

With various novels, movies, and television shows about vampires, everything seems to revolve around the supernatural these days. *The Vampire Diaries* is not just another show about vampires, werewolves and witches. It is a series based on the novels by L. J. Smith.

The show focuses on two brothers, Stefan and Damon Salvatore, played by Paul Wesley (*Fallen*) and Ian Somerhalder (*Lost*) respectively, who arrive in the town of Mystic Falls where they were first turned into vampires centuries ago. The Salvatore brothers don't get along, but they eventually agree on one thing: their main goal is to protect Elena Gilbert, who looks exactly like somebody from their past, Katherine Pierce. Nina Dobrev (*Degrassi*) plays Elena, a high school student who lives with her aunt Jenna

(Sara Canning) and her brother because her parents died the previous year. She falls for Stefan Salvatore, and gradually finds out about his difficult past. Dobrev also plays Katherine, the vampire who turned Stefan and Damon centuries ago.



CWT.V.COM

Nina Dobrev, Paul Wesley, and Ian Somerhalder star in the hit series, *The Vampire Diaries*, on the CW.

The show is in its second season, and fans continue to count down the days until every Thursday, when a new episode airs. Many fans have admitted that the good looks of Wesley and Somerhalder attracted them to *The Vampire*

Diaries, but most will agree that the show itself was why they continued to watch.

With the growing love triangle between Elena, Damon, and Stefan, fans have even more reason to divide themselves between team "Delena" and team "Stelena."

Julie Plec and Kevin Williamson, the developers and producers, deliver every week with more back-story and twists to add to the growing plot. It is not just another show about vampires. Every episode will make the viewer sit on the

edge of their seat.

The show has a great supporting cast, as well as some amazing guest stars. Elena's best friend Bonnie (Katerina Graham) is a witch, and Caroline (Candice Accola) is turned into a vampire. The show doesn't just focus on Elena, Damon and Stefan. Many of the supporting characters have grown even though the show has only two seasons so far. Elena's younger brother, Jeremy (Steven R. McQueen), has grown from a struggling, depressed teenager to a strong, helpful young man. Caroline has gone from being an annoying, selfish blonde to one of the most favorite characters.

While the show focuses a lot on the different relationships, it also focuses on the story of the vampires, werewolves and witches. Every time you think you understand what's going on, another fact or twist is thrown in to throw you off.

Another great aspect to the show is the great music. While most songs may not be well-known, every song played on *The Vampire Diaries* fits perfectly with the scene it is played in.

Whether you're entertained by Damon's witty one-liners, annoyed with Katherine's bad timing, or impressed by Elena's capability to handle herself, there is still a reason why you will want to watch *The Vampire Diaries*.

Once one episode is watched, it is easy to catch up because the show is so addicting.

Watch Damon, Elena and Stefan Thursday's at 8 on the CW.

Taylor Momsen's other talent

Rebecca Serad '11

We've seen it all before: actresses trying to build upon their success by attempting to venture into the music industry. Most of the time, they fail miserably and are criticized for even making the effort to try something different.

However, Taylor Momsen, most notably of the television show *Gossip Girl*, does not fit the norm. As the front woman for The Pretty Reckless, she breaks boundaries with her raw talent.

The first album for the band, titled *Light My Fire*, highlights Momsen's potential for musical

greatness. Her soulful alto voice powers the accompanying guitar riffs.

Her voice is not the only positive attribute she brings to the band. She also has a gift for writing relevant lyrics.

The pre-released first single, "Make Me Wanna Die", is a solid example of her lyrical potential. The song tells the story of a girl who doesn't feel good enough, regardless of how hard she tries to impress those around her.

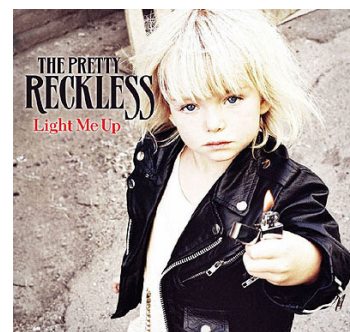
Another highlight is "Nothing Left to Lose", where Momsen tells the story of a past love.

Also featured is the acoustic

ballad, "You", where Momsen sings "I can't have you, no, like you have me." The simplicity of the song and the tender way that she caresses each word make it an innocent song, which contrasts with the rest of the album, which deals with more mature topics.

Rock music fans will love this album. The melodies are extremely catchy and will get stuck in your head all day. Momsen's vocals perfectly compliment the music and will surprise those who quickly wrote her off as another actress that thinks she can sing.

It won't be surprising to find this *Gossip Girl* being talked about



THEPRETTYRECKLESS.COM

by the music industry.

Only time will tell whether or not the music fans will embrace Momsen and her band or will allow them to fall into obscurity.

Stay gold

Students believe new gold card rules are unfair

Jenn Gordun '12

Hard work, participation in extracurricular activities, and close to perfect attendance –acquiring a gold card at WTHS is no easy task.

In order to acquire a gold card, students must have a GPA of 93 or higher and must participate in at least one extracurricular activity on top of other requirements.

Holders of gold cards have open IMC privileges, hall pass privileges, discounts on school activities and at certain stores in Washington Township which participates in the renaissance program. Though these are all wonderful privileges, most students are unhappy with the decision to revoke the policy of exemption on finals.

It is safe to say that almost every student in high school gets extremely stressed when finals come around – especially for high achieving students, and the ability to be exempted from one or two would be a tremendous stress

Before this new rule was put in place, students with a gold card who had an A in each marking period of a class were exempt from taking the final exam at the end of the year. This privilege has been taken away from students, and many are angered and upset. Though it is noted that this privilege was revoked because of the increased weight finals have on the GPA's, this privilege should still be available to certain students.

Achieving a 93 or higher in every marking period of a class is no fluke. These students have close to perfect attendance and have had no subject failures or detention referrals during the school year. It is apparent that the student knows the material thoroughly and completely and should not be subjected to taking the final exam. It is safe to say

that almost every student in high school gets extremely stressed when finals come around –especially for high achieving students, and the ability to be exempted from one or two would be a tremendous stress reliever.

By bringing this privilege back, the district would give students extra incentive and a stronger drive to try harder for an A and a gold card. Many good students who may not usually participate in after school activities would be motivated to do so in order to acquire a gold card and become eligible to skip a final exam. With hard work throughout the entire year and the outstanding grades to prove it, gold card holders should be rewarded for all their hard work and determination.

War not worth fighting

Sean McLaughlin '11

With the death of Osama Bin Laden the time is ripe for a look at how the U.S. is handling foreign policy in The Middle East. The Middle East, as with most things able to be debated, seems to have brought our government to an indecisive impasse. Ever since the end of the Vietnam War there has been a trend growing in America of generally mistrusting the government.

Of course, it is not as though this feeling by the American people is unwarranted. With the Watergate scandal, the Pentagon Papers, and the misdeeds of President Clinton government's nose is far from clean. American's became despondent, bored with the government, that is of course until the attacks on September 11th 2001 when a surge of patriotism brought America back into the government's arms and our men and women in Congress truly

rose to the occasion to show us that they had moved past being untrustworthy to being just plain idiotic.

Iraq, the country that couldn't have been more *not* involved with the events of that fateful day was marked as our enemy. Quite simply, this is a stupid war to be fought with a military. I am in no way disrespecting the heroes who have died for this country in the Iraq War, because that is exactly what they are, heroes. What I am disrespecting is the idea that these heroes' lives should be squandered on wars that the public cannot understand.

When I was young and the war began I asked every adult I could find why we had gone to war with Iraq. The answers I got were varied. Saddam Hussein was an evil man who had to be stopped, we were avenging the victims of 9/11, Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (never found), and (my favorite)

they have oil and we want it. So you can see there is no unified cause to get behind in the Iraq War yes? Well not on our side at least. But for Iraqis the war is very simple. They fight us because we are there. They fight us because we are in the holy land. This war means more to them than it could ever mean to us. They do not care if they die for their cause. We cannot agree on why we are fighting. Who do you think is going to last in the long haul?

The War on Terrorism, as we have named it is not a war to be fought with a military. Osama Bin Laden is dead. Killed by a small military task force under the direction of President Obama and working off of intelligence from the CIA. It was one of the smoothest military operations of the decade. And it is a beautiful example of how the War on Terror should have been fought from the beginning. Why does Muammar Gaddafi live when America could have him killed with

a phone call and yet we are willing to waste time bombing his country for the sake of being the hero in their own inner-state conflict. It's time for America to wake up. Putting the lives of our people, even our warriors, at risk without a clear-cut reason that the American people can grasp is reckless, wrong, and must not be allowed to continue.

Have an opinion you'd like to share?

Send it to us.

wthspatriot@gmail.com

Motivation, MIA? Senioritis strikes with a vengeance

Ally Gallo '11

Senior trip, prom, Phillies games, wing nights, all of these events are what forces seniors at Washington High School to have Senioritis, the crippling disease that causes students who are nearing the end of high school to slack off. But is it really our fault?

How can we help but think about the dozens of other exciting things going on in our lives? We flew to the happiest place on earth with 500 friends just a month ago, and then are forced to come back to the reality of everything after a week. It seems impossible to me to focus on schoolwork after a week in Walt Disney World.

We still have an entire marking period left, and I think most of the senior class is more worried about what they're doing prom weekend than they are about AP Testing.

Whether it's Twp Night at the Phillies or the Honors Banquet, there always seems to be something else to look forward to that distracts me from my schoolwork, and I know others are feeling like they're in the same position.

I know it's been like this forever, but I think it could be a cool idea to possibly change things around. Some high schools have a week of finals the second to last week of school, followed by



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

prom at the end of that week, waking up the next morning to go on Senior Trip.

Upon returning from Disney, seniors would then have nothing left to do but graduation practice and then graduation. I think this could be a nice way to end the year. Seniors could go to prom and then to Disney without a care in the world. They would be completely done with high school.

This may prevent Senioritis from getting so bad like the way it is at our school. No matter

what, everyone gets excited for the end of the year to come, and all of the events that lead up to the last week of school really have an effect on the outcome of students' performance in class. Some people get lazy with their work; others just stop doing it all together. It's not fair to teachers that we as students aren't giving our best. If we can try to prevent ways of Senioritis from spreading, I think it could have a very positive outcome for everyone

Parking space upcharge justified

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

Recently a press release was issued on wtps.org; the district's website. It stated that in order to park in the senior lot, students would have to pay twenty five dollars as opposed to the normal ten dollar fee.

As expected, much protest began to arise among the class of 2012. Why now, was the question most juniors asked, considering that for the last fifteen years, ten dollars was the instituted fee. But upon consideration, this fee is not an outrageous increase.

In defense of the Washington Township Board of Education, the price of maintaining the parking lot certainly adds up. With all of the cars constantly circulating in and out of the lot, damage starts to become a prominent issue, as well

as the snow clearance in the winter. Perhaps ten dollars was not a sufficient price in order to keep the parking lot clean and adequate for student use.

In addition, twenty five dollars really should not be considered an outrageous price for a parking spot that can be used for an entire year. It may be an issue if it was twenty five dollars a month to park in the senior lot; however, the school only charges those wishing to use it once in the beginning of the school year.

If the school does not collect enough money to repair the parking

If the school does not collect enough money to repair the parking lots, pot holes, cracks and other pavement problems can cause damage to student's vehicles, creating even more problems the school and the driver will have to deal with.

lots, pot holes, cracks and other pavement problems can cause damage to student's vehicles, creating even more problems the school and the driver will have to deal with.

Also, with the enormous amount of snow and precipitation we've been receiving in the past few years, the cost of plowing the lot must have sky rocketed. If we have yet another harsh winter in 2012, the school is going to need more money in order to clear the snow.

The Board of Education was justified in raising this price, contrary to popular belief. If students expect the school to provide sufficient, clean, and safe parking, a decent amount of money must flow into the cause. A fifteen dollar raise in the parking fee is certainly worth the money if students are going to be using the provided spots all year long. Students often take advantage of the resources given to them, and should be more grateful that students even have a parking lot to use.

Tech Talk

Facebook Factions

Steve Hauser '13

Our generation has gone completely electronic. Most teens these days rely on technology for everything. As soon as I get home I immediately check my Facebook, which I think a lot of other people do as well. In fact, a lot of teens check it during school on their cell phones because now we need to be in touch with friends during every part of the day.

When young teens talk about technology, a lot of adults have no idea what they're talking about because they never had anything like we have now in their generation. Now with Facebook you can connect with anybody, any of your friends, no matter how far away they are as long as they have a computer and a Facebook account. While there are a lot of good things about Facebook, there are also some bad.

Like any social networking site, cyber bullying can take place. Obviously, you want to put a stop to cyber bullying no matter what



Mark Zuckerberg has sparked online fanatics with his creation of Facebook.

AP Images

happens. Hopefully, nobody has to go through cyber bullying. It is a terrible occurrence that can lead to tragedies such as suicide.

Facebook is a very addicting social networking site as well. People spend hours on the Facebook at a time. It is an excellent distraction if you are trying to avoid doing homework or anything. I find

myself getting sidetracked on Facebook all the time, just like a lot of other people who use it. Anybody can tell themselves, "I'm only going to be on for five minutes." A lot of the time, it could end up being hours. There are so many different ways Facebook can lead to distraction.

Facebook can also lead to a lot

of problems. A lot of times, things called "Facebook fights" occur, which basically are fights between people on Facebook, pretty simple. However, people think they can say whatever they want over a screen, and get that "I'm invincible feeling." But, that can lead to comments that might trigger someone to bring this cyber fight to real life.

I have seen this very thing in our school, every single day, it's like clockwork. Say the right thing to the wrong person, and you could be facing a serious problem in real life, but people, mostly students, don't know how to be mature on Facebook, and that is why this is a reoccurring problem. Honestly, I think life would be a lot easier, and there would be fewer conflicts if there was no Facebook, but honestly, I could not go a day without mine. No matter how much you attempt to deactivate, trust me, you'll be logging in within the next few days or hours (or minutes), depending on your addiction.

Rock Band 3 wins over fans new and old

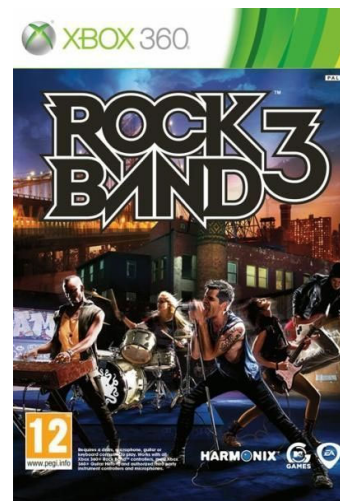
Rebecca Serad '11

If you went wild for the previous two installments from Harmonix, prepare to be amazed by Rock Band 3. The best elements of musical video games are flawlessly combined into the strongest product released yet.

One exciting new feature is the addition of a new instrument. The keyboard is not only fun to play, but it offers a new challenge to the advanced player. The piece itself is versatile and can be used as either a "key-tar" or just as a regular keyboard.

The graphics have overall vastly improved from the last game. The colors are more crisp and detailed. In addition, there are many new options in "Create a Character" mode.

Almost every aspect of a person's face from



AP Images

Harmonix's newest Rock Band game leaves fans wanting more.

their nose to their jaw is now customizable. This allows you to create an alter ego for yourself that looks frighteningly similar to your actual appearance.

As always, the game's soundtrack does not fail. It not only allows you to play popular current songs, such as Paramore's "Misery Business" and Amy Winehouse's "Rehab", but it also helps you discover new music that you hadn't heard of before or that was released "before your time". The genres included are much more varied than the last two games released, which may please some or may upset

fans of the metal-infused Rock Band 2.

Despite the many positive aspects of Rock Band 3, there is one major downfall. The game comes with a brand new way to play called "Pro-Mode". However, being able to use Pro-Mode requires you to purchase more equipment. There are add-on pieces for the drums, while you have to buy a whole new guitar. Personally, I would rather not buy another plastic guitar that is over \$100.00 in price.

Overall, Rock Band 3 lives up to all expectations. The soundtrack is fantastic and the improved graphics allow for the creation of more unique characters. It's definitely a must-buy for fans of the combination of music and video games.

If you've played any interesting games, submit your reviews to wthspatriot@gmail.com

Stage Sage by Sean McLaughlin '11

Entering the theatre

To those who are thinking about entering the theatre, whether that be trying out for a local play, taking an acting, voice, or dance class, or getting involved in a student-directed production, I'd like to first say welcome. The theatre community is ever growing and you will quickly find friends on stage. There is always a part out there for you to play, so you should never be worried about not fitting in when going into the theatre. Anyone and everyone can join at anytime and they will find themselves feeling right at home in a shockingly short amount of time.

Many students join the theatre during their junior and senior year for the performing arts requirement, and they end up falling in love with it. You can make dozens of new friends and can see firsthand about what a wonderful experience it has been. Needless to say, you should never feel uncomfortable about getting involved with the theatre.

My first advice to any WTHS student thinking about starting theatre is to take Mrs. Silverman's Exploring the Theatre class.

For those looking to get involved in the technical side of the arts, like lighting, set-building, etc., then Theatre Production is the

class for you. Mr. Heinze and Mr. Huff are always looking to recruit for stage crew and getting involved with an alternative view of theatre is quite easy and thoroughly rewarding.

I advise any underclassmen interested in theatre to try out for the Fall Play and All School Musical next year, regardless of your prior experience with singing, dancing, or acting. It is never too late to get involved.

Community theatre is also a great way to go in seeing if the theatre is for you. Mainstage Center for the Arts located in Blackwood at Camden County College is a wonderful theatre organization for all ages. This summer they will be putting on *Hairspray* and incredibly fun show. For more information log on to www.mainstage.org. They generally accept everyone who auditions, so there is no real pressure. This is more about seeing if the theatre is for you and feeling the acceptance of the community around you. People say a great cast is like a great family. You'll find a hundred different personalities and for some reason they come together in the end to make something spectacular.



KELSEY WAINWRIGHT '11/The Patriot
Kristin Lamb '11 and Gianni DiGabriele '11 rehearse scenes for their upcoming show, *Soap Opera*.

Stage Sage by Sean McLaughlin '11

Versatility for actors

One of my favorite actors to watch on screen is Will Smith. Whether he is portraying a goofball on *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, a smooth talking pick up artist in *Hitch*, or a man struggling to get by in *The Pursuit of Happiness*, he brings a naturalness to a character that appears seamless. This talent for versatility is just as useful on the stage.

It is a general rule that the more roles you are capable of playing the more likely you are to get casted. Flexibility in the type of genres or characters you are comfortable with is a trait that some actors are born with and others work their whole lives for. Regardless it is a trait worth having if you want to go far and get the most out of your experience in the theatre.

On the other side of the coin there are people who are perfectly comfortable with being what they call "type cast." This means that you are so accustomed and well fit to play a certain type of character, that you most likely will be casted for those types of roles. Some actors live by it.

A good example is Ben Stiller who, *Dodgeball* not included, has played basically the same character in every single movie he has been in. He portrays the normal guy who is put into ridiculous situations where everything that can go wrong will go wrong. While he makes millions of dollars off of portraying this single character, you'll never see him starring in a dramatic piece.

So, in general, versatility beats type casting any day. The

road to gaining versatility varies. Some people will find it incredibly easy to adapt to any role they are given. To those who struggle my advice to you is this: the first step is learning how to understand a character. To do that you must put a part of yourself in every character you portray. This will be simpler when the situation is easy to relate to than when you are trying to portray emotions you have never felt before.

For example, a 15 year old will have a harder time portraying the emotions of her wedding day then a 32 year old who has been married for 7 years. What this means for the actor, who is trying to become versatile but unsure how to begin, is that the best thing to do is start with what you know. Search out characters that remind

you of yourself. Search for situations that you know how to portray. Then explore your emotions and put them into the scene. Soon you will find the situation becomes more real when the emotions behind it are your own. The reason that the most dramatic and challenging roles go to well known actors is because they have proven themselves capable of going through the extremes to get the emotion across that an audience needs to see.

Perfecting the art of versatility is quite difficult, but learning it is one of the most rewarding parts of an actor's life.

Odds & Ends

Wristbands: irritating or irresistible?

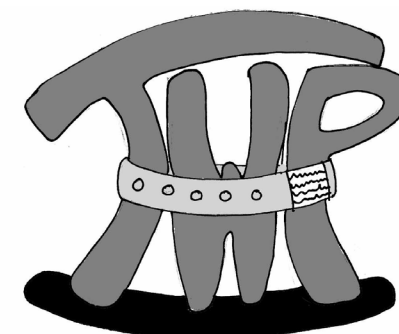
Alex Lawlor '11

If there's one thing Township loves, its wristbands and inch-high stacks of tangled friendship bracelets. What decorates your wrists has become a symbol among students here for how inclined you are to school-related social outings, what charity you donated to during lunch, and how much your best friend loves you.

The ever-popular wristband is additionally a means of identification for chaperones to efficiently glance at a student and see that they're from Township. The most recent addition to many Township kids' collections were the lime green Senior Trip bracelets.

At first there was a buzz of anticipation churning through the crowd as everyone, lining up with their luggage, waited for the band to be snapped on their wrist. After all, these neon colored bands meant the official start of what many called "the best five days of their lives".

But over the next few days, people took a different attitude towards their bracelets. Students started examining their bands more



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

closely and noticed that inexplicably, water had gotten inside even before visiting the waterpark, Typhoon Lagoon. Then the words that classified us as part of our high school senior class trip rubbed off. Even a few kids started whining because their "individuality" couldn't shine through because the unthinkable had happened: we were all marked the same.

Some say holding onto memories can be painful, but in my case at least, trying to preserve them via Senior Trip wristbands is even worse. Every time I changed my shirt, the bracelet's rigid plastic edge grazed my opposite elbow. After two weeks of this nonsense, the sheer rawness of the skin on my elbow became an incessant irritation, and finally the Band of Doom drew blood. I bled all the way from my house to work, all for the sake of determination to keep my memories of Senior Trip alive.

Then, over a month after returning home from Disney, I noticed tiny raised bumps along my wrist where the Senior Trip band clung to: a rash. I can deal with the liquid inside, I can deal with writing rubbing off, I can even put up with band aids on my elbow. But when it gave me a rash, it crossed the line. The silver gleam of nearby scissors caught my eye, and without hesitation, I snatched them. I cut off my bracelet, and promised myself I'd find other ways to hold on to my Senior Trip memories.

At least I still have my Mickey Mouse slippers.

Hipster goes mainstream

Amy Dennis '12

"Hipster". The name sparks notions of vintage clothing, thick-rimmed glasses and fedora hats. But the hipster is more than just a fashion style; it's a point of view, a way of life and even a whole new subculture.

While the term has recently been kicked into overdrive in the past decade, the "hipster" has actually been around for more than 50 years. The name itself was coined in the 1940's after America's jazz age when everybody was feeling a little bit on the rebellious side. From the start, hipsters were known for giving off a general attitude of indifference toward the established conventions.

But as the Vietnam conflicts and Cold War began to grow in America the hipster ways seemed to retreat and morph into a new style of individualism... the hippie. While the hippie is also derived from the same "hip" concept, there are plenty of differences. For example, hippies seemed to by and large possess an increased social awareness of said established conventions by promoting their ideals of peace and love everywhere they could. Hippies also appeared to act much less sophisticated and much more extroverted in their ways of life compared to the hipster. The hippie fashion is more laid-back, but at the same time more obnoxious and flashy than the carefully arranged, subtle and conservative style of the hipsters.

While they don't bear much physical resemblance at first, it's plain to see that the hippies and hipsters have experienced the same type of social feedback and stereotypical response over the years. Many institutions took to displaying signs saying, "Hippies, keep out" or "No

hipsters allowed" as the groups began to litter the modern social world. But by keeping to their carefree mindset, it seems many hipsters and hippies take pride in this attracted public loathing.

Recently, as media and fashion have advanced, the hipster has ironically regained popularity in our urban culture. With TV Shows like *My Life as Liz* gaining popularity it's hard to avoid hearing about hipsters as the main character often categorizes herself as one. Even the pop singer Ke\$ha has brought up the term in her hit song "We R Who We R".

The media is often responsible for inspiring the many trends of pop culture so it's no surprise that the hipster has evolved into a new and mutually exclusive style revolution.

"It's more than just a fashion style; it's a point of view, a way of life and even a whole new subculture."

Books

Book Club president helps out

Mariatu Santiago '11

Sarah Kamal '11 is the president of the Washington Township High school book club. Kamal's interests go beyond books and reach as far as science and volunteer work.

More than anything Kamal loves to help people anonymously, "To me it does not matter if I am recognized," she said, "all that matters is how they would use it and pass it on."

Becoming a pharmacist and helping people is well worth toiling through years of difficult chemistry for Kamal. Kamal has always shown a particular interest in science, even though it wasn't easy at times; Kamal still finds it to be a fascinating topic.

Regardless of the challenge science poses Kamal hopes to become a Pharmacist because of the medication and healing they provide without necessarily getting all of the credit or accolades, "How can I expect to get if I do not give?!"

In high school many students use their free time to spend with friends and hang out, but Kamal's favorite part is the volunteer work. Kamal gets a thrill from helping others in anonymous ways, leaving a significant impact on a person's life. To Kamal the impact of leaving a wonderful memory is better than leaving behind a great fortune. Kamal's beliefs are best summed up by Jackie Robinson who said, "The measure of a person is in the affect they've had on the people around them."



Courtesy of SARAH KAMAL '11/The Patriot

Sarah Kamal enjoys reading and participating in service projects that help the community.

Activities are a main part of Kamal's free time. She participates in eight activities after school including COW project, Book club, Rotary Interact, Student Council, French Club, and library volunteer work.

"I love staying busy with different projects because I know that if I stop I will start worrying," Kamal said.

Volunteer projects that Kamal has taken a part in include the WTHS blood drive, Festival of friends, and raising money for impoverished

children through programs, such as the O Ambassadors.

What Kamal loves about events such as Festival of Friends is the opportunity to help someone else who may not have the same advantages as others. She views helping others as, "My purpose in life."

When it came to the blood drive Kamal's favorite aspect was comforting people after they just donated.

Along with the joy of helping others Kamal says that she has a true passion for reading and on being called a bookworm she jokingly said, "One of my friends has me saved in her contacts as bookworm, so yeah, I kinda am."

Kamal's favorite book is *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. What Kamal loves about this book is its description of the main character's life from childhood into adulthood and the idea that even the most despicable people have the ability to be forgiven. She finds the themes mentioned in the book to be serious and suggests that it's a book that everyone

should read one day particularly for the main character's journey of struggle.

A unique interest of Kamal's is belly dancing. Being Egyptian, belly dancing is part of her culture. She learned belly dancing by herself primarily by watching television. It's a dance done by all of the girls during parties, and Kamal considers herself to be better at it than normal dancing.

Kamal is not shy when it comes to this saying, "Whenever there's a party I just get up and dance."

IMC book sale expands its market

Alexandra Propati '13

The IMC Book Sale comes around once a year; students can get used books for just a dollar each. This year there will be an even wider selection of books to choose from, because the book sale is now open to the public.

The librarians, who are organizing the book sale, Mrs. Karen Johnson, Mrs. Denise Skow, and Ms. Ann Hill, have put an ad in the local newspapers to encourage support from the public. Now not only can students and teachers donate their books, the public can too.

"I'm not a big reader, but this book sale is a bargain. I don't have

to just get books for myself, they could be a gift to my friends or family," Said Leanne Abrams'11.

The IMC will be open on May 18 from 6-8pm, for the public. On May 19-20, the IMC will be open all day, so the students can go and check out the books during lunch, study hall, or after school. There are a lot of books, close to a thousand, but they will surely go fast, so don't be afraid and come on down.

Last year the Book Sale made about five-hundred dollars, and donated the money to Pennies for Peace and CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). CHOP, a reach out and read program that gives a brand new book to the children

who are being treated for a sickness. The book sale organizers hope to reach last year's figure, and if possible, exceed it.

"Our goal is to promote literacy," said Johnson.

Whether it's for the students at WTHS or the children of CHOP, the Librarians want to be there to help everyone learn what a joy reading is, along with the

Book Club members and student volunteers in the IMC, who are helping out.



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

Concert Tips

Samantha Smith '12

I went to my first concert a year ago and ever since then, I've been hooked. There is nothing better than singing along to your favorite songs with a room full of people who are all there for the same thing. At each show I have learned something new and have accumulated a list of "rules" my friends and I always live by. Want to have fun at a show? Here are a few ways how:

Tip Number One: Dress comfortably

That means no dresses and no high heels. You will be judged so harshly by the people around you if you show up in this outfit. It's understandable that you want to look cute for your favorite band but comfort always trumps style when it comes to shows. Jeans and a t-shirt never fail and depending on how you wear it, you can still look good. I also recommend wearing closed shoes like sneakers and boots. If you wear flip flops, you won't be able to feel your toes by the end of the night. You'll probably lose a shoe too.

Tip Number Two: Know moshing etiquette

There's no way to avoid a shove or a punch if you're in a pit but despite the misconception, moshing isn't about hurting people. In fact there are certain unspoken rules that go along with moshing. For one, if someone falls, you pick them up. It doesn't matter if you've never spoken to this person before. Be a friend. Second, if you see someone get stuck in a pit, help them out. Security guards are usually on hand to help but if they aren't, you have to do your part. Someone could get hurt if you don't. Also respect those who are not moshing. Don't drag someone in a pit if they don't want to be there. Just focus on having a good time.

Tip Number Three: Don't be afraid to meet the band.

Most band members hang outside the venue after the show. If you want to meet someone, that is the time to do it. Bands are known to stand either out front or out back for at least an hour taking pictures and signing autographs. However some venues have strict rules against this so it ultimately depends on where you are. If you do get the chance to meet them, take it. It's easy to get nervous but you'll regret missing out on a picture. Remember though to only ask when they're not busy. Not only is it just polite but you don't want to be remembered as the fan who interrupted at the worst possible time.

Tip Number Four: Bring water

So far, I've come across one venue that does not allow this and that was the Electric Factory

in Philadelphia. Most venues though will not make you throw out your bottles as long as they haven't been opened. This is great because you will get thirsty. Whether you're sweaty and hot after dancing with the crowd up front or exhausted from moshing, water will become your best friend. Unfortunately venues like to charge a lot for it and no bottle of water is worth \$5.00. Bring about one or two and put them in a small bag. It'll save you.

Tip Number Five: Get the tour shirt

Even though it is usually around twenty to twenty-five dollars, when in doubt, get it. Pictures are great but a shirt also serves as a good reminder of that night. It is always a safe bet when you're standing at the merchandise booth and have no idea what to get. While you're there remember to also respect the merch guys. They may not be in the band but they are a big part of it. These guys work hard to make sure you get that t-shirt. Don't be rude, just be friendly. Most merch guys are easy to talk to and tips, of course, are always appreciated. For most bands, the money made from selling merch is how they pay for gas, food, and other necessities they need to continue touring. If you can afford to give a little more, you'll be helping them out a lot.

Tip Number Six: Know the crowd layout

Generally speaking, the room can usually be split into three sections: front, middle, and back. You get an entirely different experience in each of these sections so choose wisely. The front is from the barricade to the middle of the room. I

know you want to be close to your favorite band but this area is not for the weak. Proceed with caution. It is hot, sweaty, i n s a n e l y crowded and tough to handle the first time around. Don't let that turn you off though because being up there is extremely exhilarating and a lot of fun. I recommend seeing a show from up there at least once in your life just to see for yourself. The middle of the floor is where you'll find pits. If you don't plan on moshing, try to avoid this area. Stay along the outside of the middle, towards the walls. As for the back, you usually can still see pretty well from there. This is the best place if you just want to enjoy the music. There's more space, it's cool, and you

won't have to worry about being pressed up against strangers. Even though you're away from the action in a way, I have had some of the best concert experiences just standing in the back. Ultimately no matter where in the crowd you choose, you will have a good time. I guarantee it.

Tip Number Seven: Pack light.

Purses and backpacks are awkward to hold onto during a show. Try to keep the things you bring to an absolute minimum so you can fit everything in your pockets. If you absolutely need a bag, a drawstring backpack is the best choice. It's light and for the most part lies flat so it won't bother the people standing behind you.

Tip Number Eight: Learn how to say no.

At every show there are about five relatively unknown bands outside, looking for people to buy their music. They're armed with an iPod, headphones, and a copy of their CD that they will want you to buy. They'll be nice and even though you think their music is just okay, you'll be compelled to buy a CD anyway. I know it's hard but if you don't like the music, don't buy the CD. You will be out twenty dollars before you even step in the venue. Only buy it if you genuinely like the music and want to hear more. It's important to support these artists but you don't want to look back and regret buying them. Trust me, I have six un-listened CDs that I got at last year's Warped Tour that I still regret. Don't be afraid to say no.

Tip Number Nine: Don't see a show at the North Star Bar unless you really love the band
Trust me, it's like being in a closet with 250 other people. If you don't care, don't go.

Tip Number Ten: Earn that barricade spot.

The earliest I've ever shown up at a venue was at noon for a show that wouldn't even start until seven. Even then, I didn't get that well sought after barricade spot. It depends on how popular the bands that are playing

are but if you really want to get up there, you're going to have to show up early. Sure you could always try to push your way there but most of the time, that doesn't work out. Also remember to follow the golden rule: no cutting in front of lines. That is the quickest way to anger a line full of people. Plus it's much more satisfying to get that barricade spot because you earned it, not because you took that chance from someone who deserved it.

Don't see a show at the North Star Bar unless you really love the band.

...It's like being in a closet with 250 other people.

The Arts

Dance Concert wows crowd

Ally Gallo '11

The WTHS Dance Department held the 8th Annual Dance Concert in the TDBAC, called Tell Me a Story. Each dance represented and told a classic story, such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Lion King*, and *Where the Wild Things Are* on Thursday, April 14.

As an added bonus, the Mr. WT boys and their choreographers performed a special sneak peak during intermission of the show. According to Richardson, she thought this would be good publicity for both shows, attracting a new audience range to both her show and the Mr. WT show.

"I think it was a good preview for us, to get on stage and kind of get a feel of what it's going to be like the actual night of our show," Jason Melfi '11 said. "I thought it was good for all of us and a really fun experience."

Many believe the show was once again a great success, with 1,311 people in attendance and the dancers doing a fantastic job.

"I feel like I missed out on my first three years of high school by not going. Every dance was absolutely amazing and I loved every minute of it," said Reg Torrevillas '11.

The following school day, on April 15, the WTHS dancers did a special performance of excerpts from the show at an assembly for Washington Twp 5th graders.

"It was really fun. The little kids asked us

so many questions, and they were really excited to see us dance. We put so much work into the concert, so it was fun to just do it a second time," said Nicoleta Sinagridis '11.

The concert is put on by the Dance Department every April, and a lot of work goes into it before the big night.

There are four dance courses offered here at Washington Twp High School, dance 1, dance 2, dance production, and dancer's studio. It is performing arts elective and one of the requirements to pass each class is to participate in the mandatory annual dance concert held each April. Preparation for this concert begins as early as the day after the concert the previous year. This is when the director of the Dance Department, Ms. Christina Richardson, starts to plan the theme of the show and the songs for each dance.

"Planning for it and just waiting for it all to begin is very stressful for me. I feel better once I'm working on it and checking off that list I always have," said Richardson.

Ms. Richardson's ideas become reality usually around the November before the concert. This is when the dance classes begin to work on their routines for the performance, and when auditions for after school ensembles begin for those who wish to participate in dance club. Choreography for every dance in the concert was by Director Christina Richardson, teacher Eisa Jackson, and Dance Alumni Devon Rafter and

Regina Vassallo.

After ensembles are picked, both rehearsals in school for class dances, and after school for dance club are held almost every single day up until the day of the dance concert.

"It gets really hard and stressful once rehearsal begins because I have to remember and practice so many different dances along with staying on top of my school work and other commitments," said Sarah Marzolf '11.

This year, after months and months of rehearsal, show week finally arrived. On Wednesday April 13, every dancer stayed after school for a mandatory dress rehearsal. It started at 2:30 and lasted until around 8 that night. Although the day was long for most, it is the most exciting part about preparing for the concert every year.

"I like getting to see all the dances finally come together, you finally get to see the full affect of everything and it makes you really excited for the next night," said Natalie Orsimsari '11.

After a long night of rehearsal, the dancers woke up early the next morning ready for show day. The performers went around school the entire day promoting the concert, getting hyped for their big night.

The long, intense, rehearsals, the stress put on both the choreographers and the dancers, and the hours spent on making the show its very best is all worth it in the end.

39 Steps breaks boundaries

Kirk Butler '12

If Alfred Hitchcock ever imagined his 1935 thriller "The 39 Steps" as a play, he probably wouldn't have envisioned the suspense-turned-comedy that director William Roudebush has brought to the stage at the Walnut Street Theatre. Running through May 1 in a joint production with the Fulton Theatre of Lancaster, PA, *The 39 Steps* stars David Hess (recently of *Curtains*), Joan Hess, Paul Riopelle, and Dan Hodge.

Hess portrays Richard Hannay, a delightful nobody wanted for the sudden murder of self-identified spy Anabella Schmidt. Just before dying, she leaves Hannay a clue that sets the plot in motion. As Hannay races

to clear his name and find out just what the 39 Steps are, actors Hess, Riopelle, and Hodge assume the roles of everyone he meets. In one memorable scene, Riopelle and Hodge play a porter, two conductors, a policeman, a paperboy, and two train passengers—all within five minutes. To accomplish this feat, much swapping of coats, hats, and over-the-top Scottish and Cockney accents (courtesy of dialect coach Jane Ridley) takes place. Scenes like this are interspersed with hilarious action sequences accomplished with toy trains, furniture, and a shadow puppet show. Surprisingly, it all works—and it'll be sure to have your sides splitting by the time the curtain falls.

The production design of *The 39 Steps* is remarkable. True to its film noir roots, the show relies heavily on the manipulation of light and shadow, with the additional purpose of masking the sudden changes in costume and set necessary to put on a two-act play with 33 distinct scenes. Often the sets are minimalist; in one scene, Hannay walks through a mansion where the only prop onstage is a single door frame; in another, he leaves a house by pulling a window frame over himself (literally breaking the fourth wall).

With some lovely meta-humor and simple physical



Google Images

comedy, *The 39 Steps* borders on the Pythonesque—never a bad thing for a farce. This production is the best of the Walnut Street Theatre season so far, bringing together some really talented people on an A-class script. It's definitely worth seeing.

Novel offers new perspective of afterlife

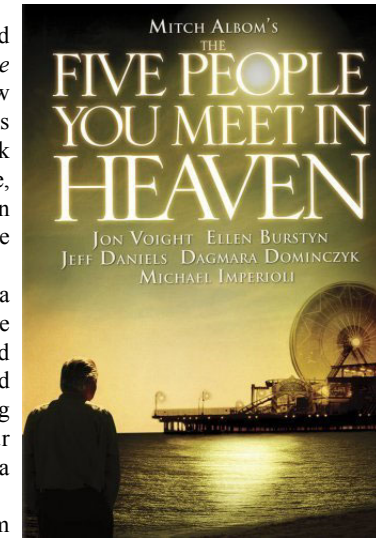
Amy Dennis '12

Mitch Albom's unique and innovative tale of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* offers a new perspective on the mysterious concept of an afterlife. The book focuses on a main character, Eddie, who dies an old and bitter man in a shocking amusement park ride accident.

Rather than floating off into a Garden of Eden minutes after he dies, Eddie is instead introduced to a whole new journey marked chronologically with life altering memories and five particular people who somehow made a difference in his life.

At first, the book may seem controversial because of its association with heaven, but really the themes delve much deeper than any concept of religion and in the end, actually pertain more to life than death. Along with the five people Eddie meets, he is also given five different lessons on why his life ended up the way it did.

In Albom's rendition of heaven, he doesn't create a forget-all paradise but rather a place to have your life explained to you. For instance, one significant characteristic of Eddie is his handicapped leg, brutally



injured in World War Two. All his life, Eddie never knew how he was wounded or why his life had to be plagued by this constriction. But when he arrives in heaven, Eddie meets his old war captain who explains to him that Eddie was shot in the leg, so that his life would be spared. This lesson of selflessness and sacrifice is just one of the many lessons Eddie comes to understand about himself after death.

Mitch Albom, also the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *For One More Day* often focuses on the importance of truly living and appreciating the people who have made a difference in your life. This is very obvious in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. He teaches readers to look for deeper meaning within their life situations and learn from your mistakes because we are always given a second chance, even after death. To quote the author; "All endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time".

Being an easy read, the *Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a very enjoyable and interesting book that will hold your attention. Almost anybody can find a trait of Eddie's life or of Eddie himself that they can somehow relate to, and this also makes the novel an extraordinary read.

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Emily Bierman '11

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher is a novel about how one thing can change somebody's life forever. When Clay Jensen arrives home from school one day, he finds a shoebox sitting on his front porch waiting for him. Little does he know that his opinion of his community will change the minute he opens the box.

Inside the box he finds seven cassette tapes. Each tape has a number on both sides, except the last one which only has one number. These thirteen numbers hold the *Thirteen Reasons Why* Jensen's former classmate and crush committed suicide weeks before.

Once Jensen starts listening to the first tape, he is shocked to hear Hannah Baker's voice.

Each tape is directed to a person who had a hand in why Baker

committed suicide. She demands that after the listener listens to the tapes, he or she should send them to the next person. If they don't, she mentions that she sent an additional copy to another student who will release them for everybody to see. None of the original thirteen want the duplicate tapes to be released, especially after listening to how they played a role in Hannah's death.

Everything is a chain reaction. Baker describes how she was hurt and how everything led to her depression and her eventual suicide. Justin Foley, the person the first tape is directed to, starts everything with a simple rumor and everything snowballs from there. Each person is connected to another, and each story reveals more about the pain Hannah Baker had to go through.

Asher switches between Jensen's narration to Baker's throughout the novel. The novel

follows Jensen as he listens to each tape, waiting for his own tape. While at times the different narrators can be confusing, it adds depth to the novel. The reader is able to understand Baker's thoughts and actions, while hearing Jensen's reactions to the truth.

The novel has quickly become a bestselling book, and has won various awards. The novel also has a positive message, even with the heavy subject of suicide.

This novel provides an interesting insight into the unconscious roles people can play in somebody's suicide. *Thirteen Reasons Why* ties in with Rachel's Challenge and teaches people to pay attention to how they perceive and treat others. No one knows how much of an impact they have on the lives of other people.

Keep It Short

by Hannah Donlon '11

Lesser-known

Poe story proves suspenseful

In each edition of "Keep It Short" Hannah Donlon will receive short stories from both classic and contemporary authors.

I often hear people say that they would read but they just do not have the time. For all of those who feel this way, consider reading short stories. Short stories are great alternative to novels because you are able to read them in one sitting. By completing them you are not left the lingering feeling that you have to finish your book. Also, and most importantly, by completing them you acquire the satisfaction of reading a good story.

Edgar Allan Poe's "William Wilson", sends one on a trip to Europe in the 19th century. This eighteen page story is filled with solid descriptions; Poe gives very vivid images in this story. Though "William Wilson" can seem too wordy and hard to follow for modern readers, the details are essential in making the story as great as it is.

The narrator begins the story by labeling himself as an evil person, but he wants to tell his story as to why he became that way. Poe's preface does a superb job drawing the reader in. Next, the narrator ventures to his past, beginning his tale in grade school. The plot holds true to a reoccurring theme in Poe's work; the sanity of the main character and their actions because of that mentality.

The work of Edgar Allan Poe can be very intimidating, but do not let that stop you from reading "William Wilson". While reading, if there is an aspect that you do not understand, you can always reference to an analysis on the internet. There are many other stories of Edgar Allan Poe that should be given a try. So remember, keep reading, and keep'em short.

Lifestyles

Teen tanning trend continues

Leanne Abrams '11

Body image is a problem not only for teens but for adults as well. "Being accepted" by others and fitting in seems to be on the top of most people's list.

Being thin and tan seems to be the new thing to be attracted to. Some people are spending on average about 30-35 dollars a month on tanning.

We are all taught that tanning is dangerous and in some cases can lead to skin cancer. Yet people still do it to "fit in" and try to be more attractive.

"Knowing the side effects does bother me somewhat but I try not to think about them," said Alex Centrone '11.

Some people take the risk of getting skin cancer seriously and would never go tanning.

"I'm afraid of getting burnt, I don't think looking 'good' for a little while is worth getting skin cancer later in life," said Alexandra Propati

'13.

Although tanning seems to be the current popular obsession, it has not always been this way. In the days during the Victorian era, women did what they could to stay pale. They used extra white makeup. When they traveled outdoors, they used umbrellas to block the sunlight. Women who were fair skinned were put in the high social class while the women who had color or who were "tan", were put in the lower class status. It was assumed they couldn't afford to hire people to do outside work and they had to do it themselves. This would show they weren't as wealthy had those who were pale and hired workers do their yard work.

In our modern days, body image and social statuses have changed. Going tanning and being tan for most is found to be more attractive. How you dress and what you drive seems to establish your social class not being pale or tan.



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

The desire to tan can become an expensive obsession.

This has happened the same way many unhealthy things occur: from the media's perspective of what a so called "perfect body image" should be. Some young adults look up to celebrities and if they are tan and thin they want to be the same.

"I go tanning because I have more confidence when I am tan, it also puts me in a better mood. It is worth the money to me," said Centrone.

Times have changed, and it makes us wonder, is being tan really worth it?

Opening the Door by Giavanna Aquilino '14

Appreciation should be more than once a year

In "Opening the Door", I will relate some of my personal stories & struggles. I hope to help readers understand that they are not alone in having challenges in life and that everyone goes through hardships in dealing with family, friends and relationships.

Mother's day is the day where everyone goes out and buys the cards and the flowers and chocolates. It's the day where, for the day, everything is about mom.

But, do we ever really think about the true meaning of Mother's day? Are we just going out and buying chocolates and flowers and cards because we "have to" or, do we do it because we want to show our mom's how appreciated they are?

My mom and I argue about almost everything. Admit it, we all do. Most of the time it's about stupid things like, cleaning your room or, leaving your clothes in the washer or not cleaning up after yourself when you're done eating. But of course, every little argument turns into yelling and screaming and I usually end up

getting grounded.

This happens probably with about 90% of teens. We're teenagers, we have short temper and we blow up when something doesn't go our way. That's just how we are.

But, do we ever really stop for a second and think how lucky we are to have a mom? I would be lying to you if I told you I did that a lot.

But, I really am blessed to have a mom like mine. She does everything for my family. She drives us everywhere, gives us money when we need it, cooks, cleans, let's us go out with are friends and so much more. But, the one thing that I'm most grateful for is that she does all these things despite all the pain that she is in everyday.

When I was in the 4th grade, my mom got diagnosed with M.S. This is a spinal cord disease which puts her in a lot of pain every day. She cannot go a day without taking her medicine or she won't be able to move. Normally, people can lift their arms over their head without any

pain but, if she lifts her arms just a little over 90 degrees, it puts her in a lot of pain.

Looking at my mom, you wouldn't be able to tell that she has M.S. She appears normal but, really every other step she takes, hurts her whole body. Despite all the pain that she's in, she still does everything for my family.

It's hard for my mom to do normal things with my family like, going to the mall or going to the boardwalk or anything that requires a lot of walking. We are fortunate because it could be a lot worse. Some affected with M.S are confined to a wheel chair or, have no control of her body what so ever.

As teens we probably all take our mothers for granted sometimes and forget how really blessed we are. Everyone argues with their mom and that's probably not going to change. But, all I'm asking is sometimes just take a moment and realize how lucky you are to have someone who will always be there for you no matter what. And don't ever forget, to remind your mom how much you love her.

Spring into a healthy diet

Sarah Kamal '11

With warmer weather approaching, hibernating comes to an end and the one thing that many of us are ready to do is: lose weight. Here are 10 simple steps to help lose weight.

1. Drink lots of water. Drinking water before every meal will fill up your stomach very easily and help control your hunger. Sometimes we think that we are hungry and our body automatically tells us we need food but if we just drank a glass of water we will feel completely fine for a good hour. Also studies show that drinking lots of water can increase your metabolism.

2. Substitute chips and snacks with fruits and vegetables. Having a bag of carrots or grapes to snack on is sweet as well as full of antioxidants. (Antioxidants are found in a lot of *Fiber One* products.)

3. Portion your food. Cut your portions in half. (see after a meal if you're going to feel light.) Another tip is to not rush when eating. Give your stomach time to speak for itself and tell you if it's still hungry or not. Don't eat straight out of a snack box because you will not be aware of how much you're really eating. Limit yourself to a small bowl of snack food.

4. For maximum results when dieting you must also exercise. Go on demand and look for free workout videos or buy a ten dollar workout DVD at Target. It is sometimes hard to find time for this but half an hour out of 24 hours is just enough time to shed your fat.

5. Substitute coffee with tea. A cup of coffee is low in calories however; added cream and sugar increases the calorie and fat content of the beverage. If we put in creamer and sugar its fat and carbohydrates go up. Giving up coffee will also save you money at the coffee shop!

6. Read the nutrition label. If you know how to read the label you understand the "translations" which are essential to finding a healthy meal. Look closely at things such as: carbohydrates, sodium, and fat when reading a label. Food labels can be deceiving so pay particular attention to the "amount per serving" section.

7. Eat Less: Bagels, pasta, cheese, cookies, ice cream, soda, potatoes.

Eat More: peas, oatmeal, blueberries, salads (with olive oil dressing), yogurt.

8. Do not skip meals. If your body does not get food at lunch time it will panic at dinner time and you will have the desire to eat more than you usually do. Your body fears starvation and if you skip too many meals it will feel

threatened and attempt to eat more and store more fat calories when a meal finally arrives. Breakfast should be something light because breakfast is what determines how much you will be eating throughout the day.

9. Stop Eating Before Bed Time. Research shows that to digest food a person needs to stop eating two hours prior to sleeping. In addition, the longer you will stay up, the more you will snack.

10. You must be patient when following these steps. It will take at most a month for you to start seeing results. It is just like studying; a student cannot study for a final for an hour and expect to get an A.

Last but not least, love your body. Just because you are watching your weight does not mean you hate your figure, it simply means that you wish to improve your appearance.

The hardest part of any weight loss plan is getting started. Once you begin, if you find yourself losing motivation, remind yourself about what you have accomplished and think about your exercise and diet goals.

Loving your body has a huge psychological impact on weight loss.

Here come the allergies

Leanne Abrams '11

When spring is mentioned some people look forward to the warm sunny air and beautiful flowers, on the other hand some dread the season.

Spring not only brings the sunshine, but all the trees start to bloom and the pollen gets airborne. Allergy sufferers begin their annual ritual of sniffing and sneezing, a miserable time for many people.

"I love the warm weather, but my allergies make it hard to get through the days sometimes," Melanie Brzezinski '11

Some of the most common allergies people suffer from are trees, ash, oak, cottonwood, pollen, willow, and many more.

Most people are born with allergies and start suffering from them at an early age. In some cases people develop them later in life.

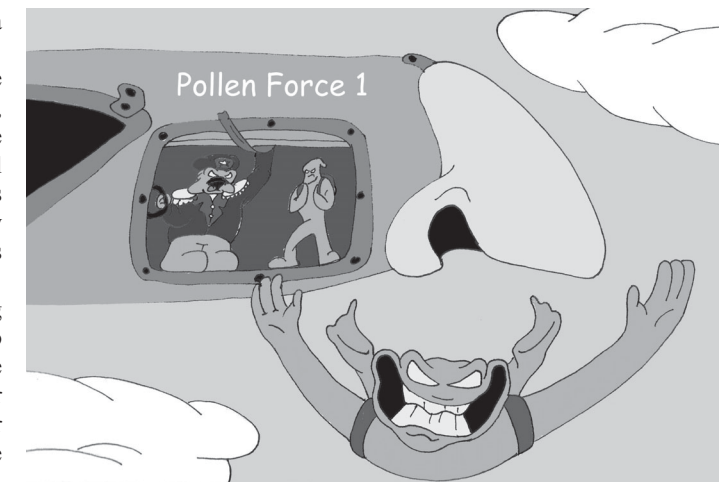
"I never had allergies until recently, my nose gets really stuffy

and I sneeze all the time," said Erica Eisenstein '11.

Allergy symptoms may be runny nose, water eyes, sneezing, coughing, and itchy eyes. Some people tend to stay indoors until nature is done blooming. Windy days tend to be the worst for allergy sufferers as the wind blows pollens around.

For those with asthma, spring can be a very difficult time to breathe normally. According to the Allergy Health Center, the number of people in the U.S who have either allergies or asthma symptoms is one in five.

Because allergies are so common among people, there are many over the counter medicines one can take to help lessen their symptoms. Make sure to visit your doctor before spending your money, to make sure it is a good idea for you to start these medications. For some, these medications only provide limited relief.



NICK LEDONNE '12/The Patriot

Spring is in session, allergies are on attack, and many people are suffering.

"When spring comes, my eyes water, and my nose is constantly stuffy. I take Dayquil and Nyquil to get some relief, it works well for me," said Brad Graham.

If you are suffering from spring allergies, you are not alone.

Talk to your doctor to see if you are able to get some relief and just count the days until the summer season!