

The Patriot

Vol. XVI, Issue 2

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

November, 2010

WTHS students save lives

Ally Gallo '11

The Interact Club gave students a chance to save lives when it hosted the bi-annual Blood Drive in cooperation with the American Red Cross on Friday, October 8.

Any student who wanted to get involved had to first meet the height and weight requirements for their age. They then had to fill out their permission slips and return them to one of the 26 Interact Executive Board members or the two advisors, Ms. April Renzetti and Mrs. Tracy Naval.

"I love donating blood, it's so much fun! Everyone should do it." Rich Weiss '11 said.

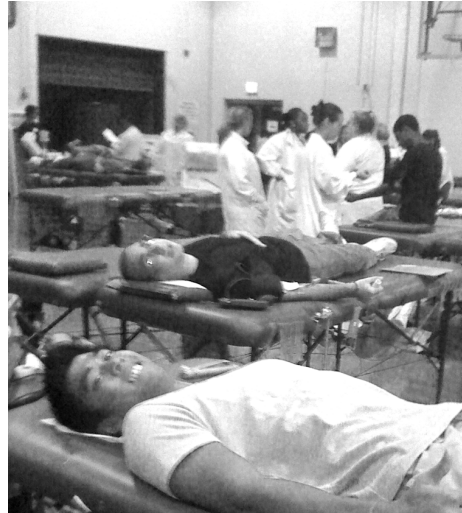
Everyone who donated had their own specific reasons why they decided to get involved.

"It was the right thing to do. I feel good about myself."

- Sarah Marzolf '11

"I wanted to help someone because by donating, I could save up to three lives" said Amy Shah '11.

The Blood Drive lasted the entire school day in the 11th grade gym. Everyone participating had an assigned period and first went through a consultation. During the consultation, a volunteer pricked the donor's



ALLY GALLO '11/The Patriot

Reg Torrevillas '11 saved up to three lives by donating blood at the Interact drive. The Red Cross collected 191 pints.

finger to check for iron level and blood type. If approved, the volunteer would draw one pint of blood from the donor.

Snacks, juice and water were distributed to all donors after blood was drawn. Everyone was allowed to remain in the gym until they felt well enough to go back to class. Some donors needed the time.

"It was the right thing to do. I feel good about myself even though I don't feel so good right now." Sarah Marzolf '11 said.

Others experienced few side effects.

"I didn't even feel sick at all. It wasn't that bad" said Mike Ziccardi '11.

All 26 Interact Executive Board members helped out the entire day at the blood drive. Other Interact members signed up to volunteer as well. They stood around the beds keeping the donor calm and under control.

"I've always been a part of the blood drive by donating, but this year I wanted to get more involved and Interact and volunteering by working the first half of the day" said Kira Parkin '11.

By the end of the day the Red Cross was able to accumulate 191 pints of blood.

The Fall Blood Drive wasn't as successful as it has been in the past years because of different reasons. Because the event was held on a Friday, none of the school athletes could participate if they had a game that day.

"None of our football players could donate and they are usually a huge part of our blood drive." Ronak Patel '11 said.

According to Patel, after students see the blood drive at the school in the fall, it becomes an advertisement for the Spring Blood Drive and there is always a bigger turnout the second time around.

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JESS NOUCAS '12/The Patriot

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Francisco "gets fresh" with student body

Alexis Donia '11

Student Council president Ryan Francisco '11 has created a new tradition within WTHS. This trend is known as Fresh Friday and as Francisco explained, "It is a day dedicated to looking fresh."

On the first Friday of every month, students are encouraged to dress up and wear something fancier than their everyday casual outfits. Francisco believes that "it benefits our school because it brings us in unison by getting dressed up. It also makes our school look sophisticated and brings out the uniqueness in everyone. It shows how fresh you are as an individual."

However, the idea of Fresh Friday is certainly not new to Francisco. This new tradition came about last year when he wore a dress shirt and tie to school on a Friday. A student had made a comment to him, "looking fresh on Friday" and Ryan liked the way it sounded.

His chemistry teacher, Mr. Tsoukalis had asked him why he was so dressed up and made a bet with him that he wouldn't continue to dress up every Friday for the rest of the year. With that challenge, he has been looking fresh every Friday since February of his junior year.

The tradition was introduced to the rest of the school last year when Francisco and Vice President

Carly Bove were running for election. They used the idea of fresh Friday as part of their campaign. Now, it has become popular in the hallways and supported by many within the school.

Junior, Gabriella Krowitz said "I participate in Fresh Friday. Ryan Francisco is one of the first school presidents that the underclassmen know of. He does things to benefit our school not only for the seniors, but for us too."

Fresh Friday certainly has helped WTHS students unite while still expressing their own personality and style.

"So be fresh, look fresh, get fresh," said Francisco.

State cuts increase class sizes

Taylor Perkins '11

WTHS students walked down the same hallways and entered the same classrooms at the start of school this year, but there was something that was noticeably different.

While students were happy to see the people that were in their classes, many students were also surprised to see how many students were in a class.

According to WTHS Principal, Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, for the 2009-2010 school year the typical College Prep A and Honors classes rarely exceeded 25 students per class. This year most of these same classes exceed 25 and in some cases have as many as 30 students. Though CP and Honors have experienced significant impact, larger class sizes were seen across all course levels, even AP classes. This shocked many AP students.

"I think the increase in class sizes is really detrimental to everyone especially in AP classes," said Carol Nachbaur '11.

"My sophomore year in AP History, when we had a question we could just call out... because there was such a small amount of people. But now everyone is so used to that and the class sizes got so much larger that it is so noisy and it is hard to concentrate with everyone being used to chatter," said Nachbaur and an AP student.

Students are not the only ones who feel strongly about the situation.

Bollendorf said, "The administrators and I made some decisions about where we thought educationally we could afford to increase class sizes and have the least amount of impact on kids. For the most part our higher level and CP-A classes, these are the kids we have identified could manage best in a larger classroom setting and for the kids who are struggling or are a little more needy we try to keep those classes smaller but even they are being impacted."

"The [administration] made some decisions about where we ... could afford to increase class sizes and have the least amount of impact on kids."

-WTHS Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf

There are many reasons as to why the classroom sizes increased. Even though the District budget was passed, cuts in state funding caused the need for cuts. Some courses were eliminated and 17 teachers had to be let go from the high school.

"Teachers on average teach five classes, so that is 85 [class sections] that are not being offered because of the loss of teachers" said Bollendorf.

Not only has the increase challenged students, but it has also put a lot of pressure on teachers. Alex Lawlor '11 whose mother is a teacher in the school district said, "[My mother's], class sizes have increased, she has come home really stressed a lot more often than she used to

because there's just so much to do with a classroom with 20-30 kids now. And on a second grade level that's a lot to handle as one teacher."

One change that students do not like is the inability to talk with teachers 'one on one'.

Sasha Carvalho '11 said, "I am the type of student who liked one on one attention from the teacher and with a small amount of people I was not afraid to go up to the teacher and ask a question.... But now that there are more people, it is hard to get the teacher's attention."

Some feel the larger sizes could also affect teachers not getting to know their students as well as they would like too.

Nachbaur '11 stated, "There's not enough time for teachers to give you specific attention or be able to help you the way it used to be and it ultimately decreases your learning ability in a classroom."

"There's not enough time for teachers to give you specific attention..."

- Carol Nachbaur '11

Most students believe that getting specific attention really helps them understand the material that is being taught. Now that the classrooms are larger, many students will have to stay

after school more often.

Lawlor's said, "I feel it is really hazardous to our ability to learn and the teachers' ability to teach. The teachers can't pay as much attention to us, we need the attention and we need our questions answered. By increasing the class sizes the Board of Education has basically hindered our ability to be educated."

SAVE widens recycling efforts

Amy Dennis '12

Students Against the Violation of the Earth, (SAVE) has recently sparked an increase of eco-friendly activity throughout our school.

Club members have joined up in TerraCycle's Cash for Trash Contest, a modern, proactive and profitable recycling project.

From Oct. 1 through Dec. 15 of this year, Washington Township students and citizens are encouraged to drop off any left over chip bags, juice pouches or yogurt cups into the green boxes located in the Core and room J209 instead of throwing them in the trash. SAVE members will then sort the items and send them out to TerraCycle.

"Washington Township students are already dedicated recyclers," said Ms. Donna Pancari, SAVE club advisor, "TerraCycle's

Cash for Trash Contest allows us to recycle even more items that would otherwise go in the trash. It's great that our school's strong environmental commitment might be rewarded."

TerraCycle, a New Jersey based company, focuses on the innovative ways that trash can be made into practical and resourceful items. They call this process "upcycling" and the products have turned out to be surprisingly trendy.

Beth Burns-Lynch '11, a SAVE member who

Some upcyclable items

Drink Pouches

Yogurt cups

Beauty Products

Candy Wrappers

Gum Wrappers

Ziploc bags

Chip Bags

For a complete list, check out the S.A.V.E. e-board

owns a Capri Sun pencil case and a folder made from recycled chip bags said,

"I bought them because I like recycling and they work just as well as regular stuff but better, because they're helping the environment."

Products can be purchased at stores like Wal-Mart, Staples and Home-Depot.

The contest is going on statewide and involves any public schools interested in saving the earth. It also offers a very generous award fund to the school that can collect the most recyclable

products. On January 15, the winning NJ public school will be announced and awarded \$50,000.

"Terracycle truly shows us how one man's trash is another's treasure," said Parth Parihar '11, a dedicated SAVE member and environmentalist, "I'm glad to see the enthusiasm our student body has shown in donating their trash towards our winning \$50,000."

This is just one of the many things the SAVE club does to make our school a greener place.

In addition to the TerraCycle project, SAVE has also distributed yellow bins all throughout the school so students can conveniently recycle any cans, bottles, or paper they might have.

These are not to be confused with the green TerraCycle boxes, which are used only for the specified "upcyclable" items.

Creativity in the Coffeehouse

Amy Dennis '12

The school talent show, homecoming, powder puff... you've probably attended at least one of these school events throughout your high school career. But another event that often gets a lot less attention than it deserves is the biannual S.U.R.E. Coffeehouse.

Taking place on Nov. 12 in cafeteria B, this small scale acoustic concert has a wide range of creative performances scheduled.

"The last Coffeehouse was the most eclectic show we've ever had," Mr. Oberholtzer said, "We had everything from alternative rock, to folk music, to classic rock and it just doesn't get any better than that."

More recognizable to students as Mr. O, this 9th grade world history teacher is the head

adviser for the S.U.R.E. (Students United for Respect and Equality) club. He is very enthusiastic and easygoing and has a strong appreciation for creativity in our school.

Any interested student is welcome to join the club and contribute any ideas that he or she might have.

"Mr. O made it a relaxing place to come and chill with your friends," said Sarah Tores '13, "It was a lot of fun last year, I really enjoyed it."

S.U.R.E. teaches students to put aside their differences and help make our school and our world a

better place. During meetings, the students work hard preparing for and organizing the upcoming

"The last Coffeehouse was the most eclectic show we've ever had,"

**- Mr. Todd Oberholtzer
S.U.R.E. Adviser**

Coffeehouse show. The club is largely involved with charities and fundraisers at our high school like the *Pennies For Peace* organization and this year's Haunted Trail

at Washington Lake Park, but the main event that S.U.R.E. focuses on is Coffeehouse.

At the show, students can relax and enjoy music played by their fellow students. Coffee is sold along with other refreshments and there is usually additional sales of additional

fund raising. Students are always surprised at how much fun they have when attending this small-scale concert.

"A lot of people wander in throughout the night just to check it out," stated Chris Andreas '12, a dedicated S.U.R.E. member, "but soon they're really into it and having a good time. Personally, I thought the show was dyn-o-mite! But it would be really awesome if more people could attend."

There are a lot of new styles of music being explored at the upcoming Coffeehouse. S.U.R.E. encourages everyone to come out on Friday, November 12, 6:00 P.M. in Cafeteria B.

Show organizers are confident that the Coffeehouse will provide everyone with great music, food and most importantly, a fun time.

"Guten Tag" Oktoberfest

Emily Bierman '11

For German students, Oktoberfest is a time to have fun and be surrounded by other German students. Students from different schools, including WTHS, attended the Collingswood Oktoberfest on Oct. 21.

The students who take German at the high school and middle school have been offered the chance to attend Collingswood's Oktoberfest for years. Around fifty to one hundred students from the middle schools and high school attend each year.

"The students who truly love German really seem to like to come," said Mr. Raymond Anderson, the German Intermediate II, Advanced, and AP teacher.

Anderson has attended the Oktoberfest seven years with his students. When he was a student at WTHS, he also attended Oktoberfest. He has gone a total of thirteen times.

"My favorite part of the Oktoberfest is seeing my students having a great time and learning more about the German language and culture. The delicious red cabbage, German potato salad, and authentic German music doesn't hurt, either!" said Anderson.

At the Oktoberfest, guests are offered a

variety of German foods. Students can sit with their friends and talk while eating their food. There is also plenty of candy offered.

"My favorite parts of Oktoberfest are dancing the chicken dance, hanging out with my friends who take German, and the candy they give us on the tables. We always have fun splitting it up," said Lindsay Davis '11 who has attended Oktoberfest five times out of the last six years. "I'm going to miss coming after I graduate."

Another highlight of Oktoberfest is the great music. A live band plays German songs all night, and there is a huge space for dancing. Students, who may not have heard German music before, are able to experience great, live music.

One of the best parts about Collingswood's Oktoberfest is that it's offered to many different schools. There are students from Pitman, Washington Township, and many other schools. Students are able to mingle and meet new people who have at least one common interest with them: German.

"What's awesome about Oktoberfest is it's a good way to not only celebrate German heritage but you're able to get the chance to meet and speak German with other students outside of the classroom in a way you wouldn't normally be

"...You're able to get the chance to meet and speak German with other students outside of the classroom in a way you wouldn't normally be able to. It's always so much fun,"

- Taylor Heil '11.

Anne of Green Gables

presented by the
Way-Off Broadway Players

- Thursday, November 18
- Friday, November 19
- Saturday, November 20

All shows are at
7:30 p.m. in the
11/12 Auditorium.

Commentary

Discrimination sparks disastrous consequences

Kelsey Wainwright '11

On Sept. 22, Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers New Brunswick posted a chilling status on his Facebook account. After being humiliated on the internet by his roommate for having private encounters with another man, Clementi chose what he saw as his only way out: suicide.

Leaving his cell phone and wallet behind, he jumped off the George Washington Bridge. A week later, an unknown body was found in the Hudson River downstream. It was later identified as Clementi's.

The intolerance of homosexuals and people who don't fit the norm throughout not just our school but the entire country has gotten global recognition. With more

"cyber-bullying" and discrimination, the recent strand of gay suicides has increased. And frankly, it's time someone stops it.

Though it may not be to the same degree as causing someone to commit suicide, just walking around the hallways of our own school, it is possible to overhear the occasional slip of some students discriminating against others because of their sexual orientation.

Nobody is born with the same genetics. We don't all have the same finger prints or blood type. Everyone doesn't have the same eye color or hair color or body type. We're all different. Does that mean we should all discriminate against every other person because they're not exactly like us? It's immature and childish to treat someone horribly

just because they aren't our carbon copy.

The discrimination needs to end. Tyler Clementi has become well-known because of his suicide and the torture he went through before he died, but in the same three week span surrounding his death there were five others who killed themselves because of similar treatment.

Seth Walsh, a 13-year old in California hanged himself because of ridicule. 19 year old Raymond Chase of Rhode Island hanged himself as well because of the torture he had endured. .

These deaths have struck a hard chord around the entire nation. Memorials have been held in honor of all the people who have taken their life because of this. For Oct. 20, a Facebook group decided to wear purple in remembrance of those who took their lives.

People are reaching out to stop this madness and to put an end to discrimination, and little by little the entire nation can stop the horrid treatment of people because they're different.

It's immature and childish to treat someone horribly just because they aren't our carbon copy.

Letter

Lunch changes, pricing explained

Ginny Bowden, DTR, SNS
Director, Food and Nutrition
Service

I thank you for this opportunity to respond to the article on school lunches [*Hard to Swallow*, October, 2010]. I am happy to see that the students are concerned with nutrition and the choices we offer.

Let's first address the increase in prices. District-wide we had not increased prices in 2 years, and I think few restaurants or other businesses can make that claim. Our food and supply costs continue to increase just like everywhere else, but we held the line as long as we could.

This year we had to increase those prices, and these are what the state of New Jersey has said we may charge. At the high school, for \$4.00 a student gets the entrée, sides, dessert, fruit, and milk. Can you say the same at other popular eateries? Please notice that if we are able to, we lower prices, such as with our ice cream and chips.

Our other snack prices have not increased as we have worked

hard with our vendors to work out the best deals possible. All of our snack and drink choices meet the nutritional requirements of the State of New Jersey.

Like many businesses, we have had to make staff cuts to become more efficient, and we think we have done this without sacrificing quality. We offer many choices, both hot and cold daily, and our salad bar is certainly a great way to make your own choices. We offer fresh vegetables and fruits daily, along with a variety of proteins. The salad bar is very labor-intensive, but we believe it is valuable for our students and staff to have the opportunity to create their own choices.

Our cold sandwiches are freshly made, and if you do not see the type you want, you can ask. We do not run out of food, even in the last lunch. We keep detailed production records and we know what is left each day. We may no longer have enough people to custom make each student's sandwich in the lunch line, but if asked, we try to accommodate. Please note that there are vegan choices available daily.

Please ask if you do not see what you need.

I hope our customers realize that our food service staff is part of the school community and take their jobs seriously. They know the students and care about them. Most

of our staff are mothers or grandmothers themselves who have put children through the school system. We are also trained professionals that strive every day to serve the safest and healthiest foods available.

The Patriot

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Editors

Leanne Abrams '11, Emily Bierman '11, Anthony Dentino '11,
Alexis Donia '11, Alexandra Gallo '11, Philip Jaffe '11, Taylor Perkins '11,
Rebecca Serad '11, Kelsey Wainwright '11, Christina Cockerill '12,
Amy Dennis '12, Kaitlyn Gallagher '12, Jennifer Gordun '12,
Steven Hauser '13, Alexandra Propati '13

Advisor

Mr. Jim Evangelisti

Assistant Advisor

Mrs. Heather Finn

Printing- Mr. Dale Beibel, Greg Furman '10, Chris Pelley '11

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Please send all correspondence to: wthspatriot@gmail.com

The Arts

Band triumphs again

Kelsey Wainwright '11

After coming off a high from a very successful season last year, the band is proving themselves once again worthy of the titles they own.

So far, the band has taken first at the Yamaha Cup in the new Meadowlands Stadium. They also competed in the DeMoulin Challenge at Rutgers New Brunswick, which allowed the band to go through a prelims and finals in the same day. The band overall placed 15 out of 21 against top bands along the East coast.

They've also competed and placed fourth against 10 other bands at the New Jersey State Championships at WTHS. Although the competition always seems to be tough, the Minutemen Band tends to prove their worth and come out on top.

"We've been doing well, but we still have time to improve and push ourselves harder" drum major John Mancini '11 said.

Rehearsing twice a week and performing weekly at home and away football games, the band prepares intensely for the competitions they take on.

"I feel like we're building off the successes from last season. Having such a strong freshman class builds upon the talents of the upperclassmen," Mr. Casey Corigliano, director of the band said.

A big contribution to the overall effect and helping the band take many of their titles is the WTHS Mirage Colorguard. Living up to their high standards from last year's championship band season as well as their own success in their indoor season, captains Alex McMichael '11 and



Courtesy of MRS. HEATHER FINN

The WTHS Minutemen Marching Band shows off their pride after competing at the DeMoulin Challenge at Rutgers New Brunswick.

Erin Signor '12 help to keep the guard focused and hard working. The 14 members of the guard retain their title as the best by winning the Best Guard caption award (caption awards mean the band placed first over all the other bands in that specific area of their show) week after week.

In the 2010-2011 show, the 72 member band performs many classical pieces. Included in their repertoire is "Ride" composed by Samuel Hazo, "October" by Eric Whitaker, and "Chorale and Shaker Dance" by John Zdechlik, which includes the very well-known "Simple Gifts" theme.

Inspired by the fall season, the show name Seasons of Autumn stuck. "After our championship season, the idea was to challenge the band musically and visually," said Mr. Corigliano. "The music was selections done by the Wind Ensemble that previous spring and I

enjoyed it. I thought those pieces would go well in a marching band show."

The Minutemen Band is still striving week after week to better their show. Pushing towards the end, everyone has high hopes for what the band will achieve.

"I hope that we end strong. I think the band has a lot of potential," assistant drum major and soloist Brianna Villasin '12 said.

With the end of their season on the horizon, the directors and students push harder than they ever have to make the show better. Still looking forward to the Northern State Championships in Allentown, the band is fighting to hold the titles they won so successfully last year.

"I hope we end the season taking Northern States again, and with us pushing we can achieve that goal," Mancini said.

Theater

Curtains shocks audiences

Kirk Butler '12

Curtains, which opened at the Walnut Street Theatre in mid-September starring David Hess (*Sweeney Todd*, *Ragtime*), is the perfect show for those new to theater. No matter what your taste, you will definitely find something to like here. *Curtains* was the last work of master musical theater writer Peter Stone and renowned lyricist Fred Ebb (*Chicago*, *Cabaret*), with music by John Kandler and additional writing and lyrics by Rupert Holmes.

While primarily a comedy,

Curtains has plenty of romance and mystery as well. The action centers on a struggling Boston theater company, whose show, *Robbin' Hood of the Old West* (a western in the style of *Oklahoma!*), has been universally panned by critics. After a lackluster opening, its equally lackluster star is murdered, and the theater-loving detective Frank Cioffi (Hess) is assigned to the case. As the body count rises and the life of the theater is threatened, Cioffi's abilities as a detective (and amateur stage director) are put to the test.

Hess plays the role well as a man who gives his whole life to his

work. His performance is memorable, but he leaves plenty of room for the other actors. Laurent Giroux, who plays the theater's veteran director, gives a laugh-a-minute performance with over-the-top dialogue and oneliners that completely change the mood of several scenes. Mindy Dougherty, who plays the self-named Bambi Bernstein, can be described as nothing short of adorable, and interactions with her mother, Carmen Bernstein (Denise Whelan), are riotously funny.

As for the musical numbers, their sheer diversity is impressive.

The songs within *Robbin' Hood of the Old West* are delightfully ridiculous, most memorably "Thataway," which recalls *Chicago*'s "Cell Block Tango." The songs in the "real" *Curtains* are equally enjoyable, ranging from Broadway-style numbers like "Show People" to the wonderfully cynical "What Kind of Man?" This variety provides a different mood in each scene, but never detracts from the show as a consistent whole.

The production of *Curtains* is terrific, and I left the show with a smile as big as the talent of the cast and crew.

Features

Potter fans primed for upcoming premier

Christina Cockerill '12

Children and adults alike have been waiting nearly ten years for the finale of the epic movie series, *Harry Potter*. On Nov. 19, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One* will be released.

The midnight sales are expected to be enormously successful. Fans of the series are excited for the release and all who plan on seeing the movie can't wait for this to be released.

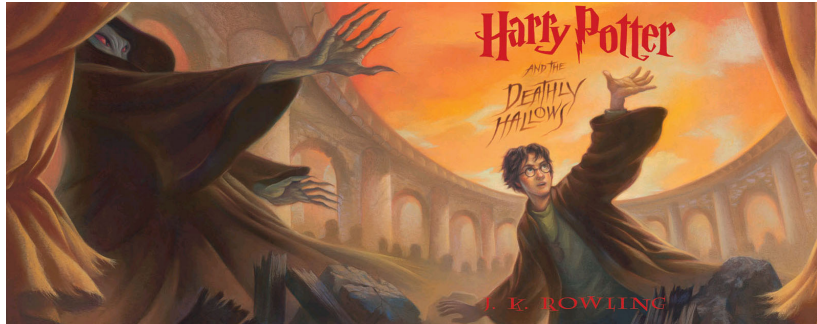
"I'm having a Harry Potter party beforehand," Megan Messina '12 said, "... a huge bash. Then some friends and I are going to head over to the theatre. We're prepurchasing tickets."

She isn't alone—many fans aren't letting the release go without notice.

Many fans are making plans for parties, gathering for midnight releases, and even rereading the books before the movie is released. Some are even doubling their Halloween costumes as an outfit for the seventh movie's premier night.

"I've been a fan since I was seven years old," Gus Totolos '12 said.

But as excited as fans are to see the movie, there's a little sadness directed at the end of the series.



The last book of the beloved Harry Potter series, depicting what many fans expect to be "the final battle".

Many of the fans have been with the series since they were extremely young, starting in elementary school and even before.

"It's kind of sad... We grew up with Harry Potter. I never really expected it to end," Messina lamented. "But I'm still going to see the movie the second it comes out."

Though there is a bright spot for hardcore fans of Harry. Though this movie

is based on the final book, the series will not officially end until July 15, 2011. The last book was split into two movies in order to preserve the plot and integrity of the series.

"Then when part one is over, it's just going to leave us all waiting for the next in the summer. It gives us something to look forward to," Amy Dennis '12 said.

The films, which have grossed billions of dollars with the previous six movies, are scheduled to end in 2011, with the eighth's release. The movies, based on the seven book series by J.K. Rowling, have already released six movies, the most recent in July of 2009.

Chinese club gets start at TWP

Alexandra Propati '13

This year for the first time Washington Township High School has a Chinese Club. The Chinese Club is on a trial run basis, and if things turn out well, it will be officially known as a club.

"We just want everyone to be happy and have a club they can enjoy," said Gabby Taornina '13, the Vice President to the Chinese Club.

The Chinese Club plans for members to have lots of fun things to do. Learning how to play Chinese Chess, making Origami, learning calligraphy, having a ramen party, watching Chinese Soap Operas, and even going to China Town are all fun activities that the Club would like to do!

With lots more of fun things to do, the members feel students won't even realize that they're learning things about a whole new culture.

All prospective members have to do is show up at a meeting. They don't have to be in Chinese class, or even have a Chinese background; all they need is an interest in the club and six dollars for dues. However, to qualify for a special activity, such as go to China town then members will need a minimum of 70% attendance.

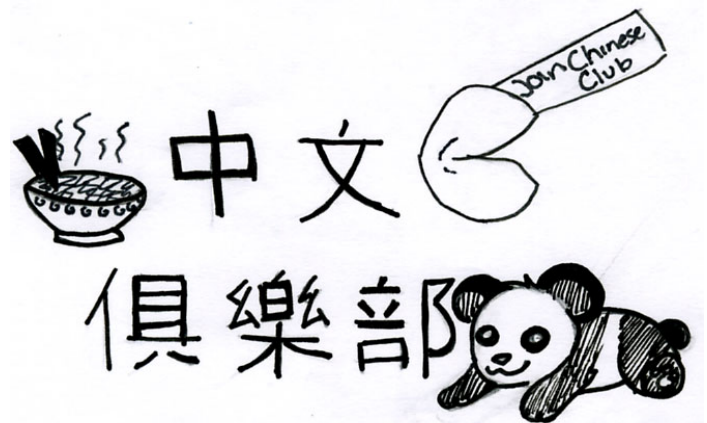
"Have fun, show up, and it's a cool experience," said Roy Smith '13, President of the Chinese Club.

The Club got its start one day, when Ronald Dempsey, Chinese teacher and club advisor, was teaching, Taornina asked why Chinese was one of the only languages at school without a club. Mr. Dempsey replied along the lines of, "You want a club? Then let's have one."

The hopes of the Chinese club are simple; they want to gain lots of members, to have a good time after school, and to bring awareness of the Chinese culture to people.

"I look forward to having interesting and fun meetings and interacting with the students," said Mr. Dempsey.

The Chinese Club will try to meet about



RACHAEL HADDEN '12/The Patriot

The Chinese club celebrates the Chinese language, food and culture. The characters above read, "Chinese Club".

two times a week in room F-12, they will post notices as the year progresses. Questions can be directed to Mr. Dempsey, Smith, Taornina, Nancy Wang '14-the Treasurer, or Alexandra Propati '13-the Secretary. They also encourage interesting students to become a member of [Chinese Club at WTHS](#) on the Facebook group.

Eastern State reveals spooky past

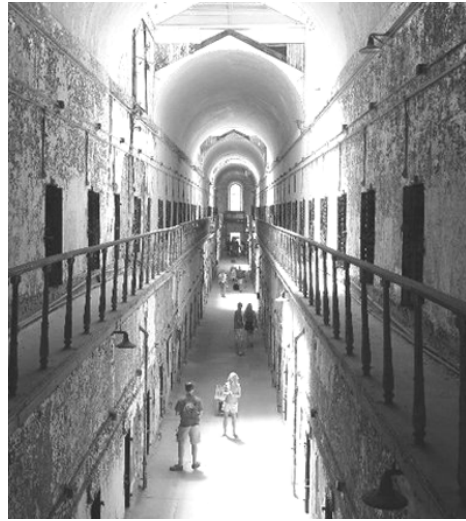
Kaitlyn Gallagher

It is easy to notice something peculiar protruding from the normal residential neighborhoods and restaurants on 22nd Street and Fairmount Avenue in the city of brotherly love. Taking up eleven acres of the city street stands a building with one of the most interesting pasts in the history of Philadelphia.

Around the Halloween season, Eastern State Penitentiary becomes packed with tourists and thrill seekers looking to be shocked by what lies behind the crumbling entrance doors. But many in this crowd are not aware of the prison's fascinating history. This penitentiary has been the home of some of the most notorious criminals and gangsters this country has ever seen. Al Capone, Willie Sutton and Morris Bolber are just a few on the long list of names who were taken to the Penitentiary in order to correct themselves of the, "moral disease" society thought they possessed.

During the development of America, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the government needed a system of discipline which would be effective, so that crime was limited in the newly independent streets.

According to Smithsonian.com, Benjamin Rush, a prominent Philadelphia physician was the first to propose the idea of disciplinary reform, seeking justice in countries all over the world. Rush came up with the idea for a, "house of repentance" in which criminals would reflect on their mistakes and hopefully emerge with a



KAITLYN GALLAGHER '12/The Patriot

Eastern State Penitentiary was once a revolutionary prison facility, now it stands dormant except for the Halloween season.

better understanding of right and wrong. By 1822, many others agreed with Rush, and the construction of the penitentiary began.

The design of the penitentiary was going to be revolutionary, featuring seven wings of individual cells that branched from one central hub in the middle of the prison. By 1829, the penitentiary was ready to take inmates. Each prisoner would be given an eyeless hood to wear over their head as to remain anonymous among other prisoners, as well as keep order among the

cells. The Penitentiary focused on total isolation; no speaking or interaction with other prisoners.

This strict silence sparked the interest of famous writers, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, who praised the concept of Eastern State's repentance policies and a sense of no mercy for the prisoners. However, after years of silence amongst the cells, by 1913 Eastern State was forced to change its plan of isolation.

As Eastern State grew in age, it acquired new technology which made it impossible to keep the previous solitude for which it was once known. As the years went on, famous criminals went in and out of the halls of Eastern State, the most famous being Al Capone. Visitors to the penitentiary can view a special cell dedicated to the memory of his time spent in repentance.

By the 1960's, the old penitentiary started to deteriorate, and was only a shadow of the great correctional facility it once was.

In 1971, the prison officially closed and was made a national historic landmark. People can take daily tours and vicariously experience how prisoners once lived in the halls of Eastern State.

Presently, Eastern State features different attractions and tours every weekend that both tourists and native Philadelphians can enjoy. Because of the prison's spooky past, the Penitentiary loves to play up the idea of a haunted prison around the Halloween season. Eastern state is a close by historic attraction that fascinates and inspires many. This penitentiary provides a great perspective of how the early penal system in America operated.

Costumes display Halloween spirit

Leanne Abrams '11

Halloween has always been popular for kids because of all the candy they can accumulate at the end of the night.

But it wouldn't be Halloween without all the fun and unique costumes.

After talking to many students, the most common and popular costumes for the year seem to be Lady gaga, witches, nurses and bunnies for the girls. For the guys Ironman, wolverine, and Texas chainsaw massacre took to the the topping.

"The scary ones seem to be the most popular, everyone likes to scare people" said Gina Appice '11

When it's time to go buy that costume though, the price might scare some away, costumes can cost anywhere from 40-60 dollars in stores. For some purchasing is out of the question.

"Why would I waste my money just for a costume ill wear for only one day?" questioned Rachel Alessandrini '11.

Not everyone buys costumes. Creating

costumes' from your own clothing is an option for some. Being a hippie is easy to make. Tye dye a shirt, and draw some peace signs on your bell-bottom jeans. That's a cheap idea instead of buying a costume at the local store.

But on the other hand some think the price is worth it. "Halloween is a time when you get to pretend and have fun, I love buying costumes every year, the price is worth it!" said Becca Habin'11

Working at Spirit Halloween in Washington Township, Melanie Brzezinski '11 said "I see mostly teens come through the door, the most popular costumes I've seen is, the gypsy and sailor costumes" Brzezinski said it is interesting how different costumes appeal to different age groups.

"The younger kids tend to go towards the vampire and witch costumes" said Brzezinski.



MELANIE MOORE '11
The Patriot

Entertainment

Music

Taylor Swift "speaks now"

Emily Bierman '11

Speak Now, the third installment from country superstar, Taylor Swift, is one of the most anticipated albums of 2010.

The album features fourteen songs, or "confessions," written solely by Swift. The Target deluxe version includes three more songs.

"Mine," the leading single, is a song that tells a story about how a relationship could have gone if Swift hadn't been afraid to jump into love.

"Speak Now," the title track, is a catchy, upbeat song that differs from Swift's usual sound. It is about the moment in a wedding where one should "speak now or forever hold their peace."

The album also features slow songs, including "Innocent" and "Back to December," the first song in which Swift apologizes to a boy, ex-boyfriend Taylor Lautner. The song is beautiful and emotional.

"Innocent" is another emotional song that Swift debuted at the VMAs. She addresses the incident from last year when Kanye West interrupted her acceptance speech on stage. In the song, she sings to him, and tells him even after all he has done, he's "still an innocent."

"Mean" is the perfect opportunity for Swift to go back to her country roots. The song is one of the more country-sounding songs since *Taylor Swift*, if not the most country sounding song Swift has released. It is her way of dealing with the criticism she receives, especially from one critic

in particular.

"Haunted" is the most dramatic song on the album. It starts off with violins and other string instruments. The song is about after a break up, and involves Swift demanding that the guy to "finish what he started."

"Better than Revenge" is the fast paced, "get back at the girl who stole your boyfriend" song on the album. Swift takes a stab at an ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend in this song, singing, "She's an actress, she's better known for the things that she does on the mattress."

"Enchanted" is about meeting a guy you believe is special and wondering if he's with anyone, and if he likes you back. It is one of the most romantic songs on the album, and definitely one of the best. Swift begs the guy to "not be in love with someone else."

"Long Live" is about Swift's past two years, ever since she released *Fearless*. It is about her band and her fans who have helped her get to where she is today.

Other tracks on the album include "Never Grow Up," "Last Kiss," "The Story of Us," and the long awaited "Sparks Fly."

One of the best tracks on the album, and certainly one of the most emotional, is "Dear John." The six and a half minute song is about John Mayer. The song is about being manipulated and betrayed by someone you loved.

Speak Now presents us with a new side of Taylor Swift that we haven't seen before. This album is more personal, and the songs are like



Taylor Swift gets even more personal in her long awaited third album.

entries from her diary. Swift is also more honest in these songs.

Swift doesn't just reveal things in her lyrics. She also reveals a lot in the lyric booklet. Since *Taylor Swift*, she has put hidden messages in the written lyrics of her songs.

If you weren't convinced songs like "The Story of Us" and "Back to December" were really about Mayer and Lautner, all you would have to do is "decode" the secret messages.

The album also offers a new sound. There are some songs that are more rock and pop. The songs are longer and her lyrics are more mature, but they are still relatable.

It's safe to say Taylor Swift is officially back to take over 2010 and 2011.

Music

Maroon 5 changes sound

Rebecca Serad '11

While the lead single "Misery" from Maroon 5's third studio album, *Hands All Over*, was quite promising, the rest of the album does not live up to the high expectations.

The band has gradually strayed from the rhythmic pop that has earned them numerous Grammy nominations and awards in the past.

They are now leaning towards a bluesy R&B sound that does not suit them as much as the former. The album sounds as if the band is trying to change their image to whatever music genre is popular on the radio at the moment.

If it weren't for lead singer Adam Levine's distinct soulful

falsetto, one may not be able to identify the band as Maroon 5.

Prominently absent on this album is the smooth blend of the rhythms from all of the instruments that made them appeal to fans of various genres of music. The beats in the background have become overpowering to the melodies of the songs.

In spite of this, there are some songs that are reminiscent of the Maroon 5 that fans grew to love.

One example is the radio friendly "Stutter" that has that rare ability to make you smile when you're having a bad day.

Another impressive song is the heart felt "Never Gonna Leave This Bed", which sounds like a softer version of one of their older hits, "Won't Go Home Without You".

In regards to their area of expertise: bal-lads, Maroon 5 excels on tracks on this album such as

"How" and "I Can't Lie".

On the former, true remorse is shown by Levine regarding his mistakes in a relationship when he sings that he "took advantage of when [his former girlfriend] lifted him up".

"I Can't Lie" features Levine singing of a lost love that he wants back in his life.

Overall, the album is solid, but not as spectacular as their previous CDs, *Songs About Jane* and *It Won't Be Soon Before Long*.

It would be best to pick and choose different songs from iTunes, rather than buy the whole album and be disappointed by changes the band has made that aren't for the best.

If it weren't for... Adam Levine's distinct soulful falsetto, one may not be able to identify the band as Maroon 5.

Television

Sunrise on new season

Jenn Gordun '12

The gang is back! *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* has returned with its sixth season and the viewers are as enthused as ever to see their favorite characters back in action.

For those who aren't dedicated followers of the show, the premiere of season 6 on September 16 may be an unimportant revelation. Avid fans of the show may think otherwise.

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia follows wacky 'Paddy's Pub' crew, Dennis (Glenn Howerton), Dee (Kaitlin Olson), Frank (Danny De Vito), Charlie (Charlie Day) and Mac (Rob MacElhenney) and the outrageous



It's Always Sunny season 5 is available on

situations they get themselves into. Each week, the gang encounters a new, outlandish problem and

uncovers bizarre and humorous solutions that leave the audience laughing at the end of every episode.

This show isn't the typical American sitcom that's filled with cliché happy endings. It focuses around a group of obnoxious friends who will each do anything they can in order to help themselves –not caring whose life they interrupt to do so.

Known by many as 'Sunny', this show features exclusive characters that each brings a different humorous edge to every scene. Dennis –the narcissistic, self absorbed part-owner of the bar, and his twin sister, Dee, who unwillingly finds herself pulled into the gang's antics episode after episode.

Sunny also features Frank – Dennis and Dee's out of control, spontaneous father who comes up with a new scheme each episode that always seems to fail in an extraordinary and compelling way. Charlie –the lovable illiterate, roommate of Frank, and best friend of the twins takes his place as the "wildcard" in the show by pulling impromptu stunts that leave his friends in disbelief. Mac –the self proclaimed muscle of the gang and "head of security" of Paddy's completes the gang and fashions a hilarity-filled episode every week.

Danny De Vito is casted perfectly in this hilarious comedy as one of his trademark characters. He is funny, avid and always unpredictable each and every episode. The humor –while hilarious may feature offensive or inappropriate language and themes for some viewers and should be watched with discretion. The show is rated MA – for mature audiences only.

It's Always Sunny is a laugh inducing, wild comedy that will leave you giggling on the edge of your seat. With its unique characters, amusing and captivating plots, and outrageous predicaments, this show will leave you wanting more at the end of each week.

So if you're tired of the same old drama series or redundant reality shows, try tuning into something that will leave you grinning, and experience the *sunnier* side of life.

Teacher proud of *Philadelphia* ties

Alexandra Propati '13

Here at WTHS we have our own TV star, Mrs. Eileen Rosell, Business Ed. teacher by day, and TV extra by night. Mrs. Rosell has been an extra in *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. Not only that, but she is the proud mother of, Rob Rosell, the Executive Producer and a Head Writer for *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

"Every mom wants their child to live their dream," said Mrs. Rosell with a smile on her face, "I'm happy my son's hard work has paid off."

Being the mother of such a talented son has its perks, such as getting to read the script before they even start filming, meeting the cast of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, and being on TV.

Even with the accomplishment of writing for a popular TV show, a movie (*Doberman*), an animated feature, and a couple other TV shows, Rob Rosell is

still a modest guy. His modesty goes so far as to that he doesn't even brag to his own mother. Apparently she is the last to hear about anything from her son pertaining to him being a big success, and she has to hear it from his friends. That is understandable seeing as how his mother was just as modest about being in the TV show.

Another thing that he gets from her is her sense of humor; however, Mrs. Rosell believes that she actually gets hers from her son.

Rob Rosell was not always a head writer, but a Productive Assistant (PA) for shows like *the Bachelor*, but he has now worked his way up. Even before being a PA, he was a student in a media class in high school. Once he took that class, he decided that he wanted to be a writer for TV and movies.

Mrs. Rosell has been watching the TV show religiously due to her son's involvement with it, and he has recently just written a script for an episode that has yet to be aired.

Television

Not just another cheerleading show

Alexandra Propati '13

The new CW TV series arrived just in time to remind us of how hard cheerleaders work. *Hellcats* is based on the book CHEER! by Kate Torgovnick. The show is full of competitive cheerleading with some comedy and drama; it's almost like the new *Bring It On*, only as a TV series instead of a movie.

Hellcats stars Alyson Michalka (better known as the singer Aly, from *Aly and AJ*) as Marti Perkins, the new girl on the Hellcats Cheerleading Squad at Lancer College in Memphis, Tennessee. *Hellcats* not only stars

one singer, but two: Ashley Tisdale (*High School Musical*). Tisdale plays Savannah Monroe, the captain of the Hellcats.

The show starts off with Perkins losing her scholarship because her mother, Wanda, didn't pay rent. Now Perkins has to look for a new scholarship or leave school. She is in total despair, which is until she learns about the Cheerleading scholarship. Perkins tries out for the squad and quickly wows the crowd. Perkins, someone that used to make fun of the cheerleaders, is now one of them.

Now safe with a scholarship that's all expenses paid, Perkins can continue school and

get her law degree. That is until another problem quickly shows up! The team's budget will decrease, along with the scholarships, unless they win the Cheerleading Championships. Not only that, but Perkins took the spot of Alice Verdura (Heather Hemmens), on the squad, because of an injury. Now Verdura's out for revenge.

With Michalka, Tisdale, and a few actors from the CW's *One Tree Hill*, such as Robbie Jones, who played Quentin Fields, and Matt Barr, who played Peyton Sawyer's crazy stalker Derek. This new series will get you hooked after just one episode.

Hellcats airs Wednesdays, 9pm on the CW.

Sports

Wild Ride

After a season of ups and downs, soccer ends strong

Leanne Abrams '11

The girl's varsity soccer team is having a "roller coaster season" said first year coach Mr. George Hobbins. The girl's season has had wins followed by loses and then some wins and then some loses again. "The girls are improving and they never give up" said Hobbins

Hobbins had many goals in mind at the start of the season. One of these goals was for the girls to make it to the coach's tournament. The girls indeed made it and the tournament is Friday October 15. The second goal is he is trying to get the girls ready and have them make it to the State Tournament. That is the main goal the team is practicing for." the girls are putting in a lot of time and hard work to make it to the states" Said Hobbins

Captains Jackie Leo '11 and Ashley Hawkins '11 play a key role as the team captains. They lead the team at every practice and game.

"This group of young ladies work so well together, everyone gets along and helps each other out and this season has been an amazing experience" said Hobbins

The girls practice six days a week, with Sunday as their off day.

When these girls are not on the field practicing they are doing community service as a team. On Saturday October 16 the girls will help with the cleanup day at Washington Lake Park. On the October 24 they are participating in a cancer walk at Cooper River.

"The girls are like a big family, they are full of energy, the girls are always upbeat and positive" said Hobbins.

The team also has a "pasta night" before home games. A fun tradition for the girls is called "Secret Sister". They pick one of the girl's names out of a hat and whoever they pick at the next home



Alex Weiss '11/The Patriot

game everyone gets something special for that girl picked. For example, they might bring a special snack.

Before every game coach Hobbins talks to the team and always tells them to work hard, give 100 percent. Remember key points, and to always

have fun.

"This year is my first year, and this team has taught me a lot, such as patience and how to keep things in perspective." said Hobbins.

After coaching boys for almost thirty years, working with girls has been a big transition for him. Because he understands that it's not only a big change for him but for the girls as well. They are learning to handle having a new coach this year.

"I just try to always keep the girls on track and have them focus on our goals as a team" said Hobbins.

"I want the girls to know it's not just about wins and losses, but that it's about relationships you developed and having a positive experience to look back on" said Hobbins.

Next year the coach has goals for the team to be more consistent in their play and string together wins in their record.

"We had a lot of ups and downs this year and I hope to improve that next year" said Hobbins.

"My first year has been great and I tried hard to make it a good season for the girls as well," he said.

Iacone sets pace for girls x-country

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

This fall season, Washington Township has seen many outstanding athletes excel in their various sports. Dina Iacone '12 is certainly no exception.

Iacone is a member of the girls cross country team and has proven to be one of the team's most valuable assets. Iacone, Sara Strucko '12, and Keli Sharkey, '11 lead the team as the three captains, setting an example of extreme commitment and drive.

"I joined the team in the Fall of my sophomore year," Said Iacone, "It started out as an activity I wasn't sure about, but running began to grow on me and now I love it."

Iacone went on to explain how running has become a part of her daily routine. "Sometimes it's hard for me to balance my school work and the practices, but I've managed to put it into my schedule," said Iacone, "Our practices usually last until five thirty every day, and afterwards I usually go right home, eat dinner and work on my homework. That way I won't get too behind on all my responsibilities."

Although it may seem as though she has a lot on her plate, it certainly isn't stopping Iacone from ranking highly in cross country events. This year alone, Iacone has placed second in the Gloucester County championships, second at the South Jersey open and third at the Holmdell competition.

"Holmdell has been my favorite part of cross country so far," Said Iacone, "It's a challenging course, so it was difficult, but that only added to the fun."

In addition to running in tricky races, Iacone believes that being on a close team is one of the keys to her success.

"We get along well together and we work hard together," She explained, "There's a lot of talent on the team and it's easier

to run a good race when you have good friends on the team."

As for pursuing running in her future, Iacone definitely sees herself adding to her already outstanding record. "I want to continue running when I go to college. I'm currently interested in Syracuse University and Boston University, because they are both really awesome schools."

No longer is Iacone unsure of her decision to join the team over a year ago. She said, "I love being part of the team and I'm really lucky to be surrounded by such a great atmosphere."

"There's a lot of talent on the team and it's easier to run a good race when you have good friends on the team."

-Dina Iacone

Pro Sports

Phillies “phever” hits WTHS

Fans bond over team’s success

Rebecca Serad '11

Written prior to the Phil's loss in the NLCS

When one walks into Washington Township High School during the early months of fall, they are immediately blinded by all of the red that they see. This red comes from the “phaith” of students and faculty members alike in the Philadelphia Phillies.

In four consecutive years, the Phillies have reached the Major League Baseball playoffs by way of winning the National League East Pennant. Even though they did not advance past the first round in 2007, they came back to win the ultimate prize of the World Series Championship by defeating the Tampa Bay Rays the following year. Last year, they won the National League Pennant, but unfortunately lost to the New York Yankees (also called the “Bankees” by their rival fans due to their astounding payroll) in the World Series.

Old fans and new fans alike have relished the opportunity to see their Phillies defy the odds and succeed in the playoffs. Whether they be people who have just jumped on the bandwagon or not, the Phillies “phans” in

Township are excited about their team in October baseball.

Kelsey Sentak '11 is enjoying the thrill that the Phillies bring.

“It’s very exciting, since we’ve been in the playoffs the past few years. It’s rare [in terms of the excitement] because we’ve only won the World Series twice in the entire time that the Phillies have existed.”

With key additions by general manager Ruben Amaro, Jr., including ace Roy Halladay, Gold Glove winner Placido Polanco and the mid-season acquisition of Roy Oswalt, fans are hopeful that the team will achieve the ultimate goal once again.

Kate Hampshire '11 believes that Halladay was the biggest acquisition to the team.

“He’s done a lot for the team [this season]. He’s pitched a perfect game and a no hitter.”

She quickly added that Polanco has made a positive impact as well.

“He’s a good hitter and a good third baseman. He impressively made the switch to third base to help the team because Chase [Utley] is a better second baseman.”

Only time will tell if the pitching punch of

“H2O” (Halladay, [Cole] Hamels and Oswalt) will overwhelm the opponents. Many former players that now analyze the contending playoff teams believe that the greatest asset of the 2010 Phillies is their pitching.

This is a huge upgrade compared with the Phillies teams of the last few years. Those teams were known for the potent offense that has received praise around baseball. However, the main doubt in the minds of local fans is not whether or not the Phillies have a good offense, but when they will wake up and return to form.

Dave Serebransky '11 is hopeful that the offense will meet the high expectations.

“The offense has been terrible, but I think they will pull it together. It’s been rough because [key players] have been hurt [during the season].”

While the Phillies fell short of the arduous task of winning the World Series, new and old fans alike have both been thrilled for the ride.

Chris Viola '11 has thoroughly enjoyed watching the Phillies battle through injuries to reach the postseason.

“There’s nothing that can come close to describing [the excitement] when the Phillies are in the playoffs. It’s an incredible feeling.”

Individual successes brighten tennis season

Anthony Dentino '11

As the seasons change and the fall athletic season shifts into the winter campaign the Washington Township’s girls tennis team led by Mr. Rich Flemming finds itself among some stiff competition in South Jersey. However, the team still remains strong and competitive.

Flemming has been coaching varsity or junior varsity tennis at the high school for 10 years altogether. As a varsity head coach, he’s led the boys in the springtime for seven years, and this is his fifth year at the helm of the girls program. His philosophy is to ask for complete effort from his athletes. He said “Basically, I look for them to give 100% every time they step on to the court and to play to their own ability.”

For leadership, Flemming looks to captain Angelia Umali '11, who leads by example.

“She’s not very vocal, but she inspires the other girls with her willingness to win every time out, and she’s a really top-notch kid,” said

Flemming.

He stated that his goals for the team this year were to win the Gloucester County Championship and vie for the Olympic Conference title.

Unfortunately, the girls came up just short in both efforts, narrowly losing to Woodbury High School in the county championships, and in the Olympic Conference, powerhouse Cherry Hill East was able to defeat the Minutemaids.

Nevertheless, the team has posted yet another solid campaign, and several individuals have stepped with strong performances. They are Janel Eldridge '12 at first singles, Gabby Muller '11 and April Basat '12 at first doubles, Ave Paraggio '13 at third singles, and Umali '11 at second singles.

With the afore mentioned underclassmen in addition to Christine Ciocco '12 and two freshman, Kelsey Bevenour and Mary Gail Muller, Flemming feels the team also looks to be strong in the future.

Have an
opinion
you’d like
to share?

Send it
to us.

wthspatriot
@gmail.com

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

Football endures rough year

Anthony Dentino '11
Written Oct. 18

The Minutemen football team got off to a rough start against some strong competition, but despite what the standings may indicate, they remain a tough and competitive team.

Aside from the 41-0 loss suffered to Cherokee, head coach Mr. Mark Wechter truly feels as though all of the games could have gone either way. He thinks that losing these tight battles is due in part to complacency on the practice field, but feels that situation has been fixed as proven by the team's 23-16 win over Clearview Regional High School on October 15.

Wechter also feels that the problem has never been a complete team meltdown. "It usually boils down to one guy on the field who makes a critical mistake. It's not intentional, but we need to cut back on those [types of mistakes]," he said.

Wechter feels the team must improve upon sustaining long drives

that can chew up some clock as well. "We've had way too many three-and-outs this year," stated Wechter. "Our defense has been on the field too much, and eventually, that will take its toll."

The injury bug has also played a role in the Minutemen's atypically sluggish start, as it has plagued some veteran players. Lineman JD Lyons '11 and senior linebacker Lee Robledo '11 both have suffered from torn labrums and offensive standouts Kordell McInnis '11 and Charlie Huff '11 both sprained their ankles.

"Charlie is finally 100%, and you can tell his ankle really hampered him. Now that he's healthy, he's really back to his old self, the coach said.

With a healthy feature back, the team now looks to implement facets of the spread offense into a Wing-T formation that had been run in previous years. Wechter has great confidence in senior quarterback Nick Valori adapting to this change, and helping others with the new offensive plans as well.

Valori is noted for his ability to stay cool under pressure and manage a game. As of late, Valori's scrambling ability has caught Wechter's attention. Huff and his backfield mates, will need assistance, and therefore, the quarterback's legs will more than likely play a bigger role in the offense than before.

Defensively, the team is playing solid football, and linebacker Ryan Wills '11 is paving the way. The senior leader is having a stellar season. His goals for the defense are simple. "We want to get as many 3 and outs as possible and get the offense back on the field," Wills said. While it may seem as though it just has not quite gelled for WTHS this year, the team is showing signs of improvement, and signs of true character.

"Certainly, we're not where we'd like to be right now," Wechter said, "but the guys are really handling the adversity and the criticism well." He also believes that this is a good life lesson, and believes his players are beginning to understand that "you can't give up

just because things aren't going the way you want them to."

Overall, Wechter's goals are for the team to enjoy the rest of the season, despite being a long shot to make the playoffs.

"It's really all about the seniors this year," said Wechter. "I don't believe in building for the future now, especially when the seniors are giving me everything they have."

However, it is important to note while they may be down, they are not out. Wills said that his goals for the team were to "win the rest of our games and [if we do] there may be a chance we can get into the playoffs."

Another bright spot in this year's season is that the younger members of the Minutemen football program are contributing in huge ways. Wechter was complimentary of not only some varsity underclassmen, namely sophomore inside linebacker Joe Cotton, but of the freshman and junior varsity teams. The freshman team has only dropped one game, and the JV team is undefeated as of Oct. 18.

Volleyball wraps season

Ally Gallo '11

The Washington Township High School girls' volleyball team has had a season worth talking about. The all around changes initiated by coaches Barbara McBrearty and Gary Mount this year have really had an impact on the girls' season.

According to McBrearty, varsity senior captains Christina Austin and Kaileen Bevenour are the leaders and foundation of the team. They make sure to keep the team unified and full of spirit.

"Our strong middle hitters, Kelsey D'Imperio and Gabby Panna have been doing an outstanding job along with power hitters Erica Eisenstein and Kristy Schaffer... This team is a close group, working hard at each practice" said McBrearty.

The team is enjoying the changes they have seen so far this year.

"We are really close, probably the closest team we've ever had and that really helps us in games. I love them all" Bevenour '11 said.

The relationship between the players is not the only thing helping out the team this season.

"The practices have been a lot better this



NIKKI SCARPINATO '13/The Patriot

year because we do a lot more drills and work a lot harder which will better us in the long run" said Austin '11.

The girls have become really good friends over the past few months and share many laughs during practices, but when it is time to get serious their skills come out and they show their opponents why they call themselves "Twp"-together with pride.

"The girls are amazing. I love every single

one of them" said volleyball manager Ronak Patel '11.

The team unity extends beyond practices and games. They also have pasta parties, make t-shirts, and they go out to dinner after some of the games.

"Off the court we hang out and will often try to all go out as a group and we all just have a great time together. I've made some amazing friends playing the sport that I love" Gabby Marrone '11 said.

The closeness was evident when the girls finished second in a tournament the very first weekend of the season.

"It was a great opportunity to check out our competition for our upcoming games. We faced really good teams, like Williamstown and Cherokee, which gave our team a boost of self assurance that we can beat any team," Emma Johnson '11 said. "In the end, we made it to the championship game, which has never been done before. Overall, the tournament was a great way for our team to come together and unite."

The WTHS Varsity Volleyball team is currently 8-9, and though they did not qualify for the states, can finish with a .500 record with a win over Lenepe Oct. 28.