

The Patriot

Issue 1

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

October 2008

Something to cheer about

Contract issues in past, WTHS returns to normal

Katie Mount '09

With the turbulent, 2007-8 school year behind, the students and staff of Washington Township High School are looking forward to what they hope will be a smoother one.

"The 2008 school year began very smoothly," WTHS Principal Rosemarie Farrow said. "... our students, especially the seniors, seemed very excited to be off and running."

Last year, WTHS was negatively affected by the teacher negotiation dilemma. When the Board of Education and the Teacher's Association reached a stalemate, the Washington Township Education Association (WTEA) decided that the members would not volunteer for school events.

Their attempt was to draw attention to the negotiation problem, but in doing so, many students were affected. Many activities were cancelled, and many students were disappointed. Now, with the contract issue solved, many staff members are again stepping forward to volunteer.

"I'm glad that teachers are volunteering again," Shamera Morales '11 stated. "I was a freshman last year, and I felt like my first year wasn't really complete with all of the activities being cancelled."

The freshmen can expect additional help this year from Team Step Up. This program has teachers serve as mentors to freshmen helping them make a smoother transition into high school.

"I am very excited about the number of teachers (60) who have volunteered to be part of Team Step Up," Farrow said.

Along with teachers volunteering to help the freshman, they have also volunteered for school activities. One event that the students are most excited for is the Powder Puff football game. Powder Puff is a tradition at WTHS where the



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Students share the good times as they display school spirit at a recent football game.

junior and senior girls do the playing, and the boys are the ones cheering. Last year the game was postponed to June, nearly seven months later than its original date.

"I was really disappointed last year," Josette Pono '09 said. "It didn't feel like true football because it wasn't during football season."

When the game was held in June, students were prohibited from decorating the halls. Administration felt it would distract students from their final exams.

Pono added, "I'm really excited that it's back in November.

We can show our school spirit by decorating the halls, and not just the cafeteria."

The SURE Coffeeshouse and District Art Night will also be returning as scheduled. Last year, both events were cancelled due to the lack

of volunteers.

"I am very excited for District Art Night this year," Brie Dace '09 stated. "It's a great feeling to know that I will finally be able to properly display my work. I was upset when it was cancelled last year, but I know this year will be different."

Students are not the only ones excited for the events. Many teachers love to attend the senior trip to Disney World as chaperones. Because of the problems last year, the event was chaperoned by administrators, and the teachers were unable to go.

Now that all of the events are back on track, WTHS looks forward to a year filled with opportunities for all of the staff and students to be a part of. Farrow advises staff and students to take advantage these opportunities.

She said, "Be proud of yourself. Be proud of your school."

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Students kick-off senior year

Kate Verspill '10

Mardi Gras. Not a festival normally associated with Washington Township High School. However, this was exactly the scene that met the seniors' eyes as they walked into the senior gym for the annual Senior Kick-Off Dance on September 26th.

"The theme is fun and new," commented Heather Alfinito '09 of the Mardi Gras motif.

Streamers strung across the gym, lights draping the bleachers, a color scheme of purple, gold, and green, and a huge mask hung for all to see were just some of the decorations used to accomplish that Bourbon Street feel.

"The decorations really complete the atmosphere," said Kaitlin Shockley '09.

Also included were a balloon arch above the entrance, streamers lining the doorway, and balloon clusters tied to all the tables.



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Seniors enjoyed their first opportunity to bond as a class.

A dance is not a dance without music. Pumping out of the DJ's speakers were all the latest hits, such as *Disturbia* by Rihanna.

Of course, some old time favorites were also thrown into the mix. *Cottoneye Joe*, *Shout*, and *Everytime We Touch* also could be

heard loud and clear through C hall.

"The music is good. It's fun and danceable," said Jackie Campbell '09.

However, while the decorations and music added to the success of the dance, it was already predicted to be a hit. "This year's Kick-Off

dance was expected to be one of the best," said Student Council Advisor Francesca Muscelli.

"I've watched the class of 2009 grow since they were freshmen. Their attendance was what made this dance the success it was," she said.

The seniors agreed. Despite the dance's location being moved from Quay Way due to substandard weather, the dance was still a hit. "I like it a lot more than all the other dances I've had in the gym," said senior Danielle Brasco. This was the common sentiment among the seniors in attendance.

"It's a lot better than I thought it would be," said Homecoming nominee Prachi Pariha, "There was already a lot of energy when I walked in."

With the decorations lending the gym an entirely New Orleans atmosphere and the latest music being pumped from the speakers the dance definitely deserved, as put by Alex Pate '12, "two thumbs up".

Strict cell phone measures take effect

Nicole Heath '10

The cell phone policy at WTHS has been forever changed. The lose-get-it-back-at-the-end-of-the-day policy has been forsaken, and replaced by a new and stricter policy.

The new policy with electronic devices, not limited to cell phones, is that if it is seen or rings and a staff member confiscates the device, students must have a their parent and or guardian come in to claim it from an administrator. The student will also receive two to three detentions.

This rule was developed last spring by a committee of teachers and staff who believed that the old rule was not working and made proposals for a change.

"We discussed this as an administrative team," said 11/12 Asst. Principal Mr. Steven Cordner. Cordner along with 11/12 Asst. Principal Mr. Allen Dempsey, and 9/10 Executive Asst. Principal Ms. Ann Moore gathered to discuss the committee's suggestions. They agreed on the proposal and presented it to the Board of Education who passed the changes. Now with the rule in action the staff is seeing a difference.

"I've seen an improvement," Dempsey stated about the effects of the rule. He believes that the rule is helping to limit the improper use of cell phones.

Many students don't feel the same. With the new rule, some students are finding themselves in trouble, with the school as well as

their parents.

According to administrators, when a phone is confiscated, the parents that are made to come down to the pick up the electronics are angry, but the anger it not directed towards the staff, but the students. Dempsey states that most guardians he has encountered are "annoyed that their kid can't follow the policy." Some have even threatened to cancel their child's plan.

But not all parents have reacted that way.

"My mom didn't care," said Reesa David, '10 who had her phone confiscated while in the hallway. "She didn't think she should have to come down, if they already called her."

The concerns of many students is the use of cell phones in the case of an emergency during the school day. During an unplanned fire drill or bomb scare a cell phone could still be confiscated.

Other students challenge the very policy of no cell phones in school.

"If you're not talking in class or taking away from students, what's the problem?" said David.



Maggie Bonanni '09/The Patriot

The new rule attempts to diminish the use of cell phones.

But the rules say differently. If students are in need of the use of a phone for an emergency they must go to the office.

"Come to the administrator's office and we'll help you," said Moore.

Whether students agree with the change or not, the rule has a strict adherence and severe consequences.

"It is an issue that we will be fair and consistent about," said Moore.

Features

Two heads are better than one

Seniors to share *Patriot* top job

Brittany Tartaglia '09

A Editor-in-Chief's job is never done. Once one issue is completed, they are working on the next. They spend time with writers, editing stories, and designing layout. This year, having graduated many experienced editors in 2008, the E-i-C will have to take on even more responsibility.

Patriot Advisor, Mr. Jim Evangelisti and 2007-8 E-i-C Alyssa Figueroa, decided that this year's chief would face a daunting task.

They came to the decision that seniors Maggie Bonanni and Katie Mount would share the position and responsibility of managing the paper.

However, sharing responsibility for such an important job can create problems.

"Yes, we disagree, but we've working together for so long between this and *Pieces* that we eventually come to an agreement," said Mount.

The Editors try and determine what stays, what goes, and what is added. This year, the Head Editors intend on doing many innovative and out-

of-the-box ideas.

"We plan on localizing it with advertising, fundraisers, local stories and reviews on local restaurants," said Bonanni, "We want to do special features every issue and special separate issues like Homecoming, Mr. WT, student elections. Basically, I want to turn it from your



Gina Parker '09/ *The Patriot*

Mount and Bonanni consider stories and photos for the October issue.

'average school paper' into an empire."

Working with a smaller staff can have its pros and its cons. The size brings along more responsibility because there is more work to for each individual person. However, it also brings the staff members closer together.

"There's more work for us. But the fact that we will share the responsibilities and help each other will help us make it a successful year," said Mount.

Bonanni thinks, "It's beneficial [sharing the job] because we each bring something extraordinary to the paper... we're such opposites.

Sharing it with such a good friend also makes it a lot of fun. It's great because so much work will go into it and the finished product will be that much better."

Although there are some significant changes, the staff intends to continue living up to its good name, and spreading the news across the high school.

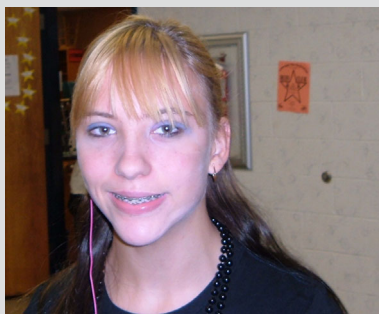
Roving reporter: freshmen transition

What is the most difficult transition from middle school to high school?



"Definitely gym; there's a lot more running and it's harder!"

-Robert Buck '12



"The lunches are too expensive, but high school has been great so far."

-Samantha Stewart '12



"Overall it's hard, but high school is fun and I enjoy it."

-Adrianna Unella '12

Commentary

Getting involved with politics

Maggie Bonanni '09

As a child, I found politics boring and thought that it only involved adults. Now that I am on the fringe of adulthood, I realize how politics play an important role in my life.

After graduation, I will assimilate into in an America that is quite different from the America of a decade ago. I will be one of the thousands of college freshmen who will be taking out loans with ridiculously high interest rates. I will be one of the millions of Americans who are paying the growing price of gasoline, and are struggling to meet mercurial food and utility bill prices. I will be living in an America that is being ravaged by what economists deem the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

After realizing what a feeble state our country was in, I started to become more interested in the upcoming election. I started research both the candidates and how they planned to solve these issues. My research illustrated how both parties differ from one another concerning the issues.

One of the most controversial issues on the debate platform is health care. Obama feels that by creating a nationalized plan, health care can be high-quality and affordable for all Americans. McCain wants to increase the competition among health care companies, hoping it will lead to lower prices and more personally based plans. The candidates are also debating on issues such as

Joining campaigns, encouraging people to vote, and even just researching the issues to better inform yourself are all ways that high school students can get involved.

abortion, social security, green energy, and ways to assuage the devastating effects of the economic crisis.

The issues in this election made me want to get more involved in politics and what was going on around me. The only problem that I faced was how someone who was seventeen, not even old enough to vote, could make a difference. After talking about elections in my sociology class, my teacher told me about how she joined John Kerry's campaign when she was in high school. The next day, I joined Barack Obama's campaign, and realized what one teenager could accomplish. Doing small things such as making phone calls, hanging posters in my community, and encouraging people to vote were ways that someone even as young as a high school student could play a role in the upcoming election.

No matter what political party you support, it is time for our nation's youth to become more involved with politics. With such a crucial election coming, it is the perfect time to start making a difference. Joining campaigns, encouraging people to vote, and even just researching the issues to better inform yourself are all ways that high school students can get involved. Issues like social security, health care, the energy crisis and the economical crisis are not just issues that will effect your parents, but also you and your children for years to come. I feel that by getting involved with the election, we can work together to solve the issues our country is facing, and move a step closer to a better America.

The Patriot welcomes your opinions.

Send letters to
wthspatriot@gmail.com

Please limit letters to 200 words. Letters must include the author's name. Letters may be edited for clarity, length and accuracy.

National Honor Society Presidential Symposium

October 29, 2008

8:25-9:25 am



Broadcast live from WTHS
on CSPAN

The Patriot Issue 1- October 2008

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The Patriot is published by the students of
Washington Township High School.

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Decision 2008

Where the candidates stand

Senator Barrack Obama

Steve Choate '09

If asked, "Do you think our country is headed in the right direction?" most Americans would say no. Americans are growing more and more discontent with the government and the way Washington is run.

Americans are struggling to get by, with all time highs in foreclosures, the highest income inequality since the 1920s, the average salary decreasing since 2000, and a mismanaged war costing the government billions of dollars that should have been spent fixing America's problems.

Barrack Obama offers a change from this; he is one of few politicians who can proudly boast that he has never taken a single penny from any corporate lobbyist in Washington and chooses to raise money for all campaign costs. Obama's campaign focuses on the restoration of America to represent the people, not the corporations.

Economical approach is where Obama and his opponent differ greatly. Obama has a fundamentally different idea than McCain's trickle-down

theory that favors America's rich elite. His plan calls for cutting taxes on the middle class greatly while raising taxes on the wealthiest few who are currently paying a lower tax percentage.

Obama will give 95% higher tax cut for Americans than his opponent. He plans to audit the national budget for wasteful spending, and to return the government to Bill Clinton's surplus state. Economic analysts have confirmed that Obama's plan will be three times more effective for economic recovery than his rival's.

One of the major platforms for this campaign is foreign policy and relations. With nearly three years on the Senate Foreign relations committee, Obama has experience in dealing with foreign policy. He opposed the Iraq war from the start.

Today, the US spends \$350 million a day on the war, totaling trillions in all. Obama supports a timetable for withdraw from Iraq, turning over the duties to the Iraqi military. Obama also supports reallocating forces to Afghanistan, to catch the terrorists that were responsible for the attacks on American soil in 1993 and 2001.

Recent BBC polling data also indicates that overwhelmingly, foreign leaders and citizens prefer Obama to be elected, so that the once flourishing relationships between the US and other countries can be restored.

Another major platform is healthcare.

The United States was ranked 37th in the world for quality of healthcare by the WHO. Ranking first was France, and Cuba ranked directly under the US.

Obama's plan is simple; you can choose, but are not forced, to use the congress plan of healthcare. This plan allows you to pay into a government run program that cannot turn you down for any care, unlike HMOs, which can claim certain procedures experimental. This will also affect the behavior of regular HMOs, forcing them to act more fairly, in order to keep their customers.



Brie Dace '09

Senator John McCain

Weston Eldridge '10

It almost seemed that all the hype on the democratic election was between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. John McCain, in a sense, flew under the radar as the Republican candidate with running mate, Sarah Palin.

McCain attended the U.S. Naval Academy and received some valuable lessons during his four year attendance. One of the most valuable lessons that McCain took to heart was to sustain his self-respect for a lifetime it would be necessary for him to have the honor of serving something greater than his self-interest — service to his country. McCain carries a respected legacy from his lengthy career in Washington, D.C. Some of the issues that McCain attended to included: speaking out against his own party's out-of-control spending, against the Administration to change a failing strategy in Iraq, and against an energy bill that was full of giveaways to Big Oil companies.

McCain's economic plan will return American's confidence in their economic future. He plans to reduce corporate tax from the second highest in the world to one par with America's trading partners,

lower the rate on capital gains, allow businesses to deduct in a single year investments in equipment and technology, eliminate tax loopholes, and ending corporate welfare.

Another heated platform in the debate is energy. McCain believes the United States will be on their way to gaining independence from foreign sources of oil. He proposes a comprehensive energy plan called the Lexington Project which will, lower the price of gas while utilizing every energy source to move us toward energy independence.

To develop America's advanced alternative energy sources, McCain wants to develop existing energy sources by drilling offshore, expand nuclear power and encourage clean coal technologies.

McCain's foreign policy plan outlines a victorious end to the war in Iraq. He believes it would be a mistake to leave before Al Qaeda is defeated and before a competent, trained, and capable Iraqi security force is in place and operating effectively.

McCain's health care plan attempts to put the choice of health care into the hands of American families rather than exclusively with the government or employer. He feels that Americans should pay for outcome in the treatment of disease rather than individual procedures.

McCain's stance on education is that parents should be empowered with school choice to send their children to the school that can best educate them just as many members of Congress do with their own children. He feels that our schools can and should compete to be the most innovative, flexible and student-centered - not safe havens for the uninspired and unaccountable.



Brie Dace '09

Remember to vote in the
Presidential Election on Nov. 4

Special Feature

Clubs and Activities at WTHS

The school day at Washington Township High School does not end after the eighth period bell. Everyone can find something interesting to do after school within the multitude of clubs and organizations offered after school. Whether you're interested in technology, community service, or poetry, there is something that can interest anyone.



Two of the many anticipated events run by Interact are the bi-annual blood drives. As with most Interact activities, it offers students the opportunity to serve their community.

One of the more populous and influential clubs of our school is the community service club, **Interact!** Whether you are passionate about helping others or simply need something highly admirable for your applications, Interact welcomes everyone in hopes to better our community. -Adam Stern '09: Public Relations

At the **French Club**, we enjoy celebrating anything to do with French culture. It is open to ALL WTHS students. We meet monthly to discuss upcoming events, which include eating various French foods, taking after school field trips to local French restaurants and crêperies, trips to the Philadelphia Art Museum, and making crêpes and chocolate croissants. We also have various parties for members to look forward to. -Mrs. Lester

Pieces is a club that celebrates creative writing, illustrations, photography, and the influence of poetry in our society through our new online magazine. We are a student run publication and are looking for new members to write and add artistic support to our online magazine. Feel free to come to meetings, which are held every Thursday in room I-109. For more information, check out our E-Board on wtps.org/wths, or see Mrs. Wells in room I-109 or I-110.

-Maggie Bonanni '09, Editor in Chief: Public Relations and Advertising.

The **Game Club** is basically a gathering place where members socialize while playing board games or card games. The club has a collection of games which is listed on the E-Board although students are welcome to bring along their favorites. Prior knowledge of game rules is not needed. The club is very casual and students may attend meetings whenever it fits into their schedules. Starting October 2, the Game Club meets every Thursday through April at 2:20 in cafeteria B. -Mr. Evangelisti



Members of the Game Club play games that range from classic board games like Risk and Monopoly, to the latest collectible card games.

Photos: Patriot Staff

The **Mock Trial Team** is looking for motivated students to defend its Gloucester County title from last year. No experience is necessary. Mock trial appeals to a variety of interests, including law, acting, leadership, and public speaking. Attend a practice and come see what it's all about. Please view the mock trial E-Board for more information.

Mr. Muscelli

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a extra curricular organization committed to facilitating the transition of its members from their education development into their business career path. This is accomplished through curriculum development and innovative assessment tools. For more information, see Mrs. Vavrika or check out our E-Board page!

Ms. Victoria Vavricka

For Teen Read Week 2008 (Oct, 12-18), join the **Book Club** in reading *Interview With The Vampire*, by Anne Rice. The discussion is on October 29th at 2:15 P.M. in the IMC. The book club will also be reading and discussing books throughout the year. All students are welcome. To find out more information, stop by the IMC, ask Ms. Gaugin, or go to our EBoard on wtps.org/wths. Hope to see you there!

The **Tech Crew** is a school Club that works in both of the school's theaters. The Crew is trained to operate and run all of the stage lighting and sound systems and spotlights and stage rigging systems in the 11/12 Auditorium and CBAC theaters. The crew is always there for all of the school productions. They run Tech for everything from the Musical to the Talent shows and Mr. Washington Township and The Dance Concert to Music concerts and meetings. If any student is interested in joining the Tech Crew please see either Mr. Huff in E-9 or Mr. Heinze in the 9/10 wing. Meetings are usually in either the CBAC or the 11/12 auditorium. Dates vary due to availability of the theaters.

Mr. Huff

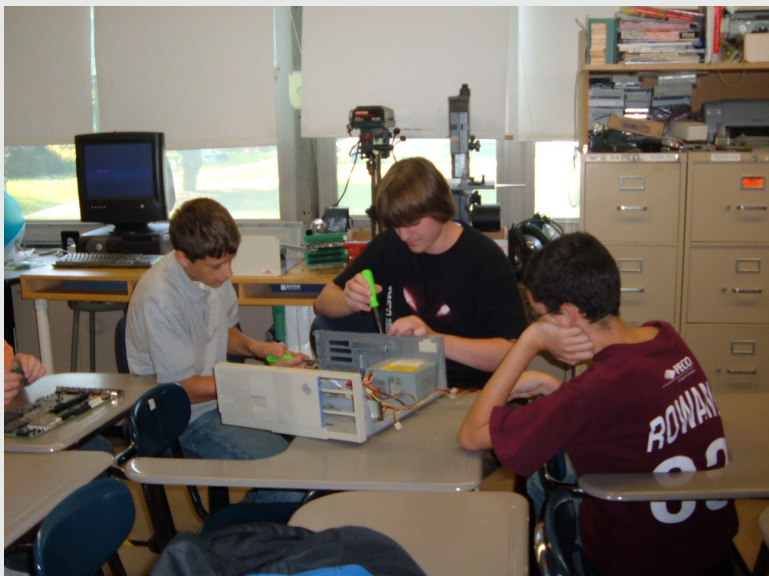
Haven't found a club that interests you here?

No worries!

You can check out dozens of more clubs by going to Wtps.org/wths and clicking the Clubs and Activities link.

In the **Computers and Robotics Club**, members can get technical and enjoy a wide variety of activities related to technology and gaming. Members can build computer-controlled robots, play DDR, build and rebuild computers, play with leggo robots, and program computers. If you are interested in joining, come to our meetings in D-9 every Friday.

-Mr. Bozzuffi



Members of the Computer and Robotics Club fix and assemble a PC.

The **Technology Student Association** is always looking for students to come out every first and third Wednesday of each month to room H-111 in the 9-10 wing at 2:20. We do many activities during the school year. Last year we sent students to the College of New Jersey to compete at the state Technology Student Association conference in film, desktop publishing, robotics, radio controlled transportation, flight endurance, and carbon dioxide powered dragsters. Additionally, we have also competed in architectural modeling, engineering design, as well as web page design. As you can see there is most likely an event or activity for virtually everyone.

Mr. Ambacher

Lifestyles

Weekend fun found at ballparks

Kevin Whitehead '10

If you're looking for weekend fun, enjoying playoff baseball is the way to go. Living in Washington Township, we very fortunate to have access to a variety of professional baseball. Only a 20 minute commute to Philadelphia or Camden is an acceptable ride to afternoon or evening fun.

Now that Fall is in full swing, Phillies baseball is intense. The atmosphere at the ballpark is focused solely on playoff glory and high expectations. Every person that pays admission is dressed in home team apparel, anticipating a great time at the ballpark. The raging, 10th man persona of Phillies fans supports our local team that gives them that extra encouragement that makes going to the ball park a great outing for the entire family.

Citizens Bank Park is filled with food and fun that the whole family can enjoy. The Phillies ballpark is a unique venue having



Citizens Bank Park has fun for all ages, including children, teens and adults.

atypical menus across the board. Ashburn Alley is located beyond the outfield stands all the way from left to right. This is where you'll find exclusive accommodations for every fan. Bull's BBQ, which is named after Phillies' outfielder Greg Luzinski, has everything from turkey legs to BBQ spare ribs. One can also find Philadelphia's very own Chickie and Pete's and order their famous crab fries. Although this may

be the most expensive bucket of fries in Philadelphia, it's worth it. Just outside of Ashburn Alley is a stand named The Schmitter that sell Philadelphia's famous sandwich from McNally's Tavern, in Chestnut Hill.

When it comes to souvenirs, the Phillies put a twist on the modernly popular Build-a-Bear. They have their very own Build-a-Bear stand that makes Phillie

Phanatics. This is where you can bring your very own Phanatic to life with customizable clothes and features.

If the rowdy, extreme environment of Citizens Bank Park is not your best choice of a night, perhaps a more laid-back atmosphere will suffice. Just off of Route 76 Campbell's Field, home of the Camden Riversharks, an independent baseball team.

This fun-loving atmosphere welcomes all for an exciting day. There is a Fun Zone down the right field line for children. There is also a spectacular view of the Philadelphia Skyline and the Ben Franklin Bridge.

Part of the Atlantic Independent League, the Riversharks are the most reasonable way to watch playoff baseball.

There truly is nothing like Fall baseball. The stakes are higher and the pitches are bigger. A drive across the Walt Whitman Bridge or a ride down to Campbell's Field is great way to spend the weekend.

Mind Body and Soul by Maggie Bonanni '09

Conference gives insight to leadership

Maggie Bonanni '09

On September 4th, my friends and teachers asked me what I did over summer vacation. I replied, "I started to lead."

Last spring, I won the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, and was given an invitation from the my local Rotary to Richard Stockton College for a week-long conference. Students from South Jersey and guest speakers attended the conference to talk about leadership, and its role in everyday life. After attending the conference, I now know how to use leadership skills to succeed in everyday life.

One tip I learned at RYLA was that **a leader is always tolerant of others and their differences**. Ten international students, from France, Japan, Germany, and other countries, attended the conference. Spending the week with them illustrated how much you can learn

from others' differences. When in college or the real world, there will always be a person that you do not understand whether it be because of their culture, religion, or just their personality. A leader has the responsibility is to be a person who open to everyone, regardless of their circumstances. You never know what they may teach you about the world, and yourself.

Another tip I learned at RYLA was that the work load in college is intense. Guest speaker Richard P. Gallagher, an educational consultant, taught us that **because of the heavy work load, the best thing you can do is study smartly**. During the presentation, he gave us tips, (which can be found on www.studyskillscentral.com) that contained pertinent information. For example, instead of writing down the answers, write down the questions because they will be on the next test.

Don't just make index cards, make *study cards*; by color and shape coding your cards, it more likely that you will remember the information. We remember with our senses, associating information with a sight, smell, or motion may help you retain it. By studying smartly, you can easily get through the exhausting workload.

The most important thing I learned at RYLA is that **being a leader is not a role, but a lifestyle**. A leader is not someone who sometimes leads, but is someone who can always be counted on. This means they always give their



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The conference was comprised of key speakers and group activities.

personal best when challenged. They do not keep the glory for themselves, and always accept the blame. They do not star in the show, but instead work behind the scenes to help the people involved do their best.

RYLA showed me that leadership is a way to better your mind and soul. When this rare trait is shown, you definately stand out. It is a way that you can better yourself as a student, and a person.

People

Q & A: Getting to know Jordan Cotter

Questions by Maggie Bonanni '09

Q: How do you balance being the Captain of the field hockey team, Student Council President, and all your other various school work? Would you consider it a hectic life-style?

A: Well, it's actually really challenging; but I wouldn't give it up for anything! I try to manage my time as wisely as I can, and I definitely think that's the key to balancing everything is budgeting your time. I do the best I can.

Q: What events does Student Council plan to execute this year? How do they compare to last year's events?

A: This year we started with Senior Kick Off. The Mardi Gras theme was definitely fun and different from last year's theme. Our most involved event is the Homecoming Dance. It is a truly amazing event to plan. A concern of ours is to give the class of '09 and the events an edge and set them apart from prior senior classes. We are also planning on doing Mr. Washington Township, Dodge Ball, and Township Night at the Phillies.

Q: How do you plan on making your presidency memorable?

A: I hope to increase event attendance at every event and get everyone excited about their senior



Maggie Bonanni '09/The Patriot

Student Council President, Jordan Cotter, is also a captain of the field hockey team.

year. If I can be the reason that the student body looks back and says "Wow, that event, or dance was awesome," then I did my job.

Q: WTHS has a student body of over 2,500. Many of them feel that the core is a dividing line between the under and upper classmen. How do you plan on uniting the student body this year?

A: I just want the underclassmen to know that every event is open to the underclassmen, with the exception of Senior Kick Off. We are a massive school, but we want everyone to get involved and show their TWP pride as a student body- not as individual classes.

Q: What exactly are your duties as class president?

A: I normally have to make agendas for every meeting, and basically make sure everyone does their job, and be there for any of my other board members that need help. I also try to listen my peers; what they like, what they don't like, etc.

Q: How do you feel with Homecoming approaching?

A: I am so excited! I can't wait for all of the plans and preparations to become a reality.

Q: How does it feel to be a homecoming court member?

A: I feel honored to be one of the twelve girls chosen in my grade. It is a really awesome experience that I will always treasure.

Q: What's the key or secret to your success?

A: I have such a great support system behind me. My friends and family are always behind me, pushing me to be the best I can be.

Milking the most out of summer vacation

Katie Mount '09

While most students' summers were filled with beach days and nights with friends, Caitlin Oliver '09 had another type of story to share. Oliver was crowned Gloucester County Dairy Princess on July 26 at the Gloucester County 4-H Fair.

"Everyone competing knew each other well, so we had a fun time," Oliver said.

Among the competitors was her sister, Chelsea '08. Although some may think this competition would cause jealousy between the siblings, the sisters agree there are no hard feelings.

"[Caitlin] has always loved the dairy industry, and she's very knowledgeable," stated Chelsea. "I'm very proud of her."

During the competition, contestants were quizzed on dairy information, and had to present a



Photo courtesy of the Oliver family

Chelsea Oliver (left) says she is very proud of her sister, Caitlin (right).

three minute speech on a dairy topic. Oliver wrote her speech on osteoporosis and the importance of drinking milk in order to prevent the chances of developing the disease. Although she admits she was nervous, Oliver delivered her speech

without a problem. She was crowned soon after and received her sash, declaring her title.

The Dairy Princess program is funded by local dairy farmers, and the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association (MDA) facilitates the program. MDA provides training and promotional materials for the Dairy Princesses. There is one princess for each county in New Jersey, and one princess for the entire state.

"[Being Dairy Princess] is fun, but it's also a responsibility," Oliver said.

Oliver has been involved with 4-H for over five years and heard about the pageant through her 4-H advisor. As Dairy Princess, Oliver has the responsibility of educating the public about the dairy industry. She plans to visit schools to reach out to the youth, and she will also be attending public events.

On Sept. 13, Oliver teamed up with state Dairy Princess, Erin

Posbergh, to attend the Jersey Fresh day at the Battleship New Jersey. The girls taught visitors about the dairy industry, and stressed the importance of having a healthy balance of dairy in a diet.

Oliver said, "Erin was very helpful to me. She gave me a lot of tips for the state pageant."

Oliver will be competing for New Jersey State Dairy Princess on Nov. 8. The state pageant will test the knowledge and communication skills of the Dairy Princesses with open-ended questions, a written dairy test, a speech about a current dairy topic and a skit to teach school children about the dairy industry.

"Caitlin has done a fine job. Her knowledge and dedication to the industry is far reaching," MDA representative and Gloucester County Dairy Princess coordinator Megan Miller said. "It gives me high hopes for her placement at the state pageant."

Entertainment

It's no secret

Miranda Steinman '09

Every Tuesday night since the first of July, teenagers everywhere have sat anxiously awaiting the opening credits to a new controversial sensation. *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* is one of ABC Family's newest additions, which explores the lives and dramas of teenage life.

Although informing the young adult audiences about the complexity of ones high school years seems like a great idea, there is a difference between realistically depicting the lives of teens, and making a mockery of our way of life.

The Secret Life portrays the concerns that teens face daily in an unreasonable manner. The show focuses on Amy Juergens (Shailene Woodley), fifteen-year-old, self proclaimed band-geek who is faced with teenage pregnancy and her parents' separation.

Sounds like a generally fair plot, right? Yet when you throw in the sex-addict, the Christian cheerleader gone bad, and the cheating husband



www.EW.com

Shailene Woodley (left) is the troubled protagonist of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*

sneaking around with the school tramp's mom, things start to get ridiculous.

We already have *Degrassi*, *Gossip Girl*, *South of Nowhere*, and numerous others that explore sexuality, religion, relationships, and drugs. We don't need any more so-

called "guidance" telling us how not to live our lives.

If the countless issues in this television show were not enough, Ben (Kenny Baum), a boy Amy has just met, falls in love with her during the second episode of the season. From that point on, they are

inseparable and Ben proposes despite finding out that Amy is pregnant by another boy. I believe that it takes more than a few days to fall so deeply in love with someone before marriage is even considered as an option. These kids are only fifteen and most likely do not (or should not) understand the concept of love.

This lapse of reality could have something to do with thirty-or-so year olds who haven't been in high school for over ten years writing the script instead of teenagers.

Honestly, I am sick of high school soap operas. All of the recent books and television show have been making a stir about teenagers making bad decisions and the future of America's youth in jeopardy.

Instead of focusing on negative, unrealistic situations, the media should focus on the great things that high school students accomplish?

Although the creators of *The Secret Life* tried to make an educational yet entertaining television program, I believe they did not succeed in doing either.

Same zip, new twists

Gina Parker '09

The only famous zip codes here in Washington Township are 08080 and 08012, but one that you should get to know soon is 90210.

With a new cast living in the old zip code, gossip and scandal return to Beverly Hills as *90210* (8P.M. The CW) premiered Sept. 2.

Harry Wilson (Rob Estes), the new school principal, relocates his small-town, Kansas family into their posh new neighborhood to keep a watchful eye on his mother, Tabitha Wilson (Jessica Walter) an alcoholic ex-Hollywood actress. His daughter, Annie (Shenae Grimes) and his adopted son, Dixon (Tristan Wilds) learn quickly that they're not in Kansas anymore.

Arriving at her new school, Annie finds old friend, and past crush, Ethan Ward, cheating on his girlfriend in the school parking lot.

Lies and deceit are familiar trends at Beverly Hills High and the queen bee herself, evil Naomi Clark (AnnaLynne McCord) knows how to stir up trouble.

Dixon cannot shake the spotlight of not only being the principal's son, but also being that he was adopted. In school, Annie and Dixon are constantly under the watchful eye of their father, who has great difficulty finding a balance between being a parent and administrator to his two children.

Another problem dealt with in this show is drug addiction as Adrianna (Jessica Lowndes), steals money from her friends so she can afford the drugs she abuses in an attempt to cope with the stress in her life.

Everything is twice as dramatic in this soap-opera-like show once you discover the true lives of each student in Beverly Hills High.



www.EW.com

90210 is a contemporary take on the '90s sensation, *Beverly Hills 90210*, with a new cast and new intrigue.

Though most of the story lines are hard to imagine, the outrageous story lines are what draws viewers near.

The abundance of romance, drama, and friendship is sure to lure many viewers to their couches on Tuesday nights. The age-

appropriate cast for this show make the high school setting believable.

This show even brings back fans of *Beverly Hills, 90210*. Jennie Garth and Shannen Doherty return as teachers in the school, along with other former cast members who return for guest appearances.

Sports

Spoilers

Field hockey rises to top with win over Eastern

Miranda Steinman '09

One of the team's most competitive opponents, The Minutemaids are showing that they are getting down to business this year. On Friday, September 19, Eastern High School found out the hard way. The Minutemaids victory was the first South Jersey team in ten years to defeat the nationally recognized Eastern squad.

"We certainly began our season committed to working hard every day in order to achieve great things. September 19 was a great win!" Minutemaids Head Coach Ms. Jeannine O'Connor stated. Washington Township had not beaten Eastern since 1983. The win moved the Minutemaids to number one in the South Jersey rankings for South Jersey.

"Honestly, we thought it was a bit generous this early in the season [to be ranked as number one], especially since they started us at number 14. However, we are embracing the challenge and just trying to make every day count," said O'Connor.

The Minutemaids field hockey team has already set the tone for this season. They have proven themselves hard working to their coach, Miss Jeannine O'Connor. Although they are

pushing themselves, improvements are always necessary.

"One of our goals is that every day we want to work hard so that we get better every game we play. Good teams want to peak at the end of the season so working hard is necessary every day," says O'Connor. It seems that this hard work has been paying off with all of the team's latest victories.

The senior captains this year are Jordan Cotter, Sam DiCastellnuovo, and Marisa Schoepflin. Katie Griffis is also a senior in the starting line up. In O'Connor's opinion, Brooke Cima and Frankie Contino have leadership qualities on and off the field.

"Leadership is being a well-rounded person and player. I remember as a freshman I was scared to talk to seniors. I like making them feel comfortable talking to me about anything," said Brooke Cima '09.

Juniors have also been showing themselves diligent, and six of them make up part of the starting line-up. Sarah Jackson, Erin Hills, Stephanie Gardner, Stephanie Cleary and goalie Brianna Shea, are all starting on Varsity for the



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Field hockey has taken an aggressive approach.

first time. Returning from last year are Lisa Patrone and Laura Rose. Lindsey Hatch is the only sophomore on the line-up.

"I am just so proud of the girls so far this season. We are not only playing well, but we are working hard and quickly becoming a great team on and off the field. And one more thing... you just have to "BELIEVE" in the magic! More good things are still to come..."

Minutemaids keep eyes on prize

Kevin Whitehead '10

Considering all the hype around this year's Varsity Girls Soccer team, the team is under a great deal of pressure. Before the season, the Minutemaids were considered the best team in South Jersey. The talent on this team is boiling over, and the Courier Post has them over last year's number one team, Lenape in the preseason rankings.

Director of Athletics Kevin Murphy said, "I'm happy to see that. Any time your team is number one, it's good to see. It all counts at the end of the season. That old cliché."

Mr. Murphy has absolute confidence in coach Shane Snyder. He also gave credit to Mr. Alvaro and Mrs. Goldstein for doing an outstanding job.

"We have to set goals this year

to duplicate last year," Coach Shane Snyder said. "We didn't lose any key seniors. Nothing really changed from last year."

Since the Minutemaids were ranked number one, the competition definitely increased.

"They won't be facing a harder schedule, but when your ranked number one everyone comes after you harder," Snyder said. "The games will be a lot tougher."

The Minutemaids suffered a setback when they were shutout 3-0 by Lenape, but an acceptable 3-1 record out of the gates was good for a tie for second in the conference. Currently they are 6-3, which looks promising for the girls.

"I think we could win the conference championship this year and I'm hoping a state championship," Snyder explained confidently.

Washington Township is currently third behind Lenape (8-0) and Cherokee (7-2). The Minutemaids will be playing at Cherokee for their next to last game.

On the defensive side of the ball, Snyder is very optimistic.

"I think we can stack up with the better teams except for the Lenape game," he said.

Who could blame him? They have only given up 13 goals in nine games. An average of 1.4 goals against per game. They also had a 3-0 shutout versus Eastern September 19th. Their defense is led by starting goalie Carla Vitola '10.

Seniors Robin Valerio, Dana and Shauna Wert will be leading the team this year.

"We lost Dana. She has a broken collarbone and is probably done for the year," Snyder stated.

"It'll be hard not to have her

presence on the field," Snyder continued.

Some emerging stars that will have to fill in for her are juniors Janine Valerio and Kim Krauss. But losing a player of her caliber, it'll be tough to fill her void. Therefore, all other players have to step up for her loss.

This year's team captains are Robin Valerio and Dana Wert.

"They are good leaders. They both lead by example, but of course Dana will have to lead morally," Snyder explained.

The state championships are at the college of New Jersey. November 23rd are finals. Washington Township will definitely make their presence known. At 6-3, Washington Township would have a great impact on that tournament.

"Hopefully we can make it there," Snyder exclaimed.

Hard work makes for great play

Tennis team moves into top tier

Weston Eldridge '10

Story was written in early Sept.

After a 17-2 season in 2007, the Washington Township Girl's Tennis team looks to repeat their success. The team started the 2008 season right where they left off, winning the Gloucester County Tournament on September 13. They opened the season 2-1, recording key wins over Olympic Conference foes, Lenape and Eastern.

Mr. Rich Flemming, 2007 Gloucester County Coach of the Year, understands the challenge of repeating a near perfect season. However, he remains optimistic because of the character and leadership that he sees in his upperclassmen display.

"We have to work on the things that we were deficient in last year," said Flemming, "It will be difficult to follow up last year's success."

Flemming's expectations for the season include advancing to the South Jersey Finals of the State Tournament for the second year in a row. Along with success in the State Tournament, he hopes to display a good showing at the South Jersey Open. With three Olympic Conference teams in the Courier

Post Top 20, Township has its sights on challenging for first place in what appears to be the most prestigious conference in South Jersey.

In effort to accomplish these goals, Flemming has divided the leadership responsibilities among four captains: Kirstyn Urbas '09, Kristin Urban '09, Kerri Bartruff '09, and Alison Salkowski '10.

"Their experience and depth at their positions help build the rest of the team," said Flemming.

Each captain understands their impact on the rest of the squad.

"My role as captain is to keep the team motivated, along with showing leadership," said Salkowski.

With both losses coming to Cherry Hill East, the team wants nothing more than to steal a victory from them this year.

"They're the best in the Conference, last year we gave them a good run," said Flemming.

He sites that the team's biggest strength this season is their depth, experience, and self-motivation. The team returns five varsity players from last season's starting lineup: Christina Liuzzi '10, Salkowski, Bartruff, Urban, and Urbas.

Each player has personal goals in addition to their expectations for



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

This year's team is experienced, has depth and is motivated to win.

the team.

"My goal is to win the Olympic Conference as a team and to better my record from last season," said Salkowski.

"I would like to better my record from last year (16-5)," said Liuzzi.

To reach these goals, Flemming has the team work on what he feels was not done efficiently in the prior match. His biggest concern to begin the season is the team's poor footwork. To improve this aspect

of their game, he has them run during practice and before every match.

To build "team unity", the team organizes pasta parties before important matches, as well as tournaments.

"My favorite part about the team is bonding with the girls and having fun at matches," explains Liuzzi.

The team's schedule is very intense and Flemming hopes they can have some student support for the New Jersey State Tournament.

Minutemen football starts strong

Maggie Bonnani '09

Story was written after the third game.

With the football team currently at a 3-0.

After their major victory over Winslow High School at Rowan University, many fans, players, and head coach Wechter expect to have a prize season ahead.

"I think we can definitely expect to win the championship this year," he said, "with the talent we have on the team this year and the work we've been putting in I expect to have one of the best seasons yet."

To achieve this goal, the team has been preparing on and off the field. Besides weight training and a focus on nutrition, the team attended summer practices four days a week, for about three hours a day. Not only did they practice on the field, but they would also sit as a group

and watch videos of their past games and practices on film. Coach Wechter feels that the video is a key tool in teaching the team the faults in their opponents' strategies, and in showing the players their own mistakes.

"Critiquing the film is the best way to show [the team] what they're doing. It's hard for them to realize when they're making a mistake, but when they see it on film it makes a difference," stated Wechter.

Another component that contributes to the team's success is unity. Many of the players can be seen wearing shirts that say "Township

Football -- The Brotherhood". The boys on the team feel exactly as if they are brothers, and that it is this close bond that keeps them in sync on the field.

"We are definitely a brotherhood. After spending so much time together at practices,

games, and on the weekends it's hard not to be so close," said Line Backer Marc McIvor '09.

As long as the team can stay consistent, and continues to put the effort and dedication, Wechter feels that the season should go smoothly.

"Our strategy this year is to give a lot of energy, stay focused, and to use the talent we have to our advantage."

For many Township students, the most anticipated sporting events of the fall season are the football games. Hours before game time, seniors can be found tailgating in the 11-12 parking lot, and parents as students begin to fill the stands. The Bleacher Creatures' supportive, roaring cheers resonate from the stands to the sidelines. Even as visitors, Township football fans can be seen filling the other end of the spectrum showing their WTHS pride.

"I must say that going to the games is one of my favorite activities," said Katie Dunn '09, "Cheering in the stands and hanging at the tailgate before games is something I never want to miss."

"We are a brotherhood... It's hard not to be so close,"

--Marc McIvor '09.