

The Patriot

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October 2009



Senior class shows spirit

Sarah Kurtz '10

Dedication is defined as devoting oneself wholly and earnestly, as to some person or purpose. The purpose? To show that the 2010 senior class has as much spirit if not more, than any other class before them.

If you want to talk about wholly devoting yourself, how about striping down to the bare essentials and painting their bodies with the school colors in honor of our beloved minutemen football team.

Anyone you ask that wasn't a part of that rainy frigid season opener would call them crazy, but they just call it pride. The fact that it was

"After years of drama, it was nice to finally see the whole senior class bond over something."

- Jacqui Dunn '10

about sixty-five degrees and raining wasn't going to stop the seniors from supporting their team.

Though many people suffered the consequences of standing in the rain the next day, most

would agree that a weekend cold was well worth the fun they had that night.

Tailgating is fun all its own even before the football game even begins. There is grilling of hotdogs and ribs, body and face painting, and even music to entertain while working on perfecting spirit. Then inside the game, crowd surfing and cowbells became the main priority.

Before the 2010 school year

began, many students had heard rumors about the new senior class not having school spirit like the classes before them. But they sure did prove that statement wrong.

Looking up in the crowd over all the faces from a senior class that has been together for the past three years was amazing. But seeing everyone get along, was even more amazing.

"After years of drama, it was

nice to finally see the whole senior class bond over something," Jacqui Dunn '10 said about her classmates.

What's the difference between a good football game, and a great football game? Fans. You're not going to be uplifted by a bunch of empty bleachers are you? Not likely. But a bunch of rowdy seniors that have been waiting for their time to show how much they love their school, now that's inspirational.

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WTHS forgoes Obama Speech

Taylor Perkins '11

On Nov. 4, 2008 with a popular vote of 69,457,000 and an electoral vote of 365, Barack Obama, was elected the 44th president of the United States and the nation's first African American president.

Although president Obama is a part of history, Washington Twp. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cheryl L. Simone made the decision for the district schools to forgo setting aside class time for students to view the speech live.

Instead, Simone opted to make the speech available through the district Ethernet so that teacher might show it at their convenience as part of a lesson.

WTHS Principal Mrs. Rosemarie Farrow said, "I would have liked to show the speech and educate students about the government and their president, but the timing of the speech would have



Obama's message was only seen in certain schools around the country.

interfered with the first day of school, freshmen orientation, the amount of time in class and the four lunch periods that we have."

Even though Obama is now one of the most respected men in the world, his story is one that many can relate to. He grew up in an average neighborhood, with a sibling

and a single mom. Every once in a while he would live with his grandparents. President Obama had to work hard to achieve his goals, just like most Americans. Through grade school, high school, Columbia and Harvard Law, he has come a long way and wanted to share his story with future leaders of America.

Kiki Scanlon '11 said, "I think that we should have been able to watch our president speak during class. I feel that it was a very important speech."

Sept. 8, was back to school for students all over the country. Because of that, President Obama felt the need to televise a speech encouraging students to stay in school and work toward the best grades possible. Despite his intentions, many districts around the country opted not to watch the speech, including Washington Twp.

Many students felt the speech was important, especially students

of color. Viewing it during the school day would have given students an example as to what can happen if you study hard and get good grades.

"We should have watched it, he wanted us to watch it, and it was a part of history", said Alicia Commorto '11.

The administrators at WTHS choose not to show this speech to students on the first day of school. Though fitting the speech into the busy opening day schedule would have been difficult, there were other factors the superintendent had to consider,

"There was some controversy surrounding the speech," said Farrow, "some parents emailed me as well as other administrators asking for the speech not to be shown."

Farrow pointed out that this opposition was far from universal.

"Some parents, after the fact emailed [administrators] asking why the speech was not shown," she said.

Plaid makes comeback

Christina Schillaci '10

Every season people will debate the hottest fashion trends and colors. This fall, oddly enough, it seems to be all of them!

You may have noticed the increasing number of students wearing plaid in the halls of Washington Township High School.

Along with fall comes this traditional style that is always classy, and always in. You'll see plaid in almost every article of clothing this fall. There are plaid skirts, dresses, jackets, blouses, belts, coats, and more. And guys aren't left behind. Along with the button up shirts and shorts, there is now something new. Check this out: there are even plaid cufflinks!

There are many different reasons as to why this style is popular. "I like plaid because it's something different and unique compared to other styles. And it can be worn casual, or even dressed up," said Lisette Battle '10.

The traditional style is the blouse, which is the most commonly seen, and it makes a bold statement

within itself. Plaid can be worn casual, chic, or even as business attire.

This fall is all about bright colors, so take that into account when buying this season's trends. Red and burgundy are rich autumn shades to consider. Deep teals and purples are also popping up this year. However, if classic black and white is more your style, they are just as popular and can go with just about anything.

Take into consideration that certain styles may not work for everyone, but plaid is something anyone can easily wear. Larger patterns can sometimes overwhelm petites, but in that case, accessorizing is the best way to go. Focus your attention instead on handbags, tights, hats, scarves, and even shoes.

Accessorizing is also a safety net if wearing plaid is a bit much. Without being too overwhelming, you can adapt plaid to your wardrobe, because not everyone feels comfortable wearing such a bold fashion. If you want to be subtle, a pair of low heeled plaid shoes paired



Google Images

Plaid seems to be the most popular trend thus far in 2009.

with tights and a skirt might fit your style. You could also carry a simple handbag, which would pull together many outfits that would otherwise have been ordinary.

It is impossible go wrong, as long as you don't mix and match too heavily.

"It's comfy. I like to roll the sleeves to a three-quarter length and wear it with a neutral tank. Skirts are also in – I like to wear plaid skirts

with a high waist. There are plaid boots, too," said Gina Tierno '11.

Is plaid a fading fashion, or is it hitting WTHS at full force? Being a traditional fall style, plaid is always in, although this year it seems to be getting more attention than usual.

"It gives edge to your outfit," Tierno said. With so many ways to wear plaid this season, everyone can pull off this trendy and versatile fashion.

No more “Golden Tickets”

Renaissance card holders exam exemptions eliminated

Nicole Heath '10

The WTHS Renaissance program has lost what is probably its most prized reward, final exam exemptions. In past years, Renaissance members were entitled to opt out of the final for any class in which they received a 93 average for each marking period. Gold card holders were allotted two subjects, and blue card holders received one. But now, the school administration along with a committee made up of teachers, department heads, and other WTHS staff have passed a policy that will revoke this exemption.

Assistant Executive Principle of the 11/12 building, Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, said that the decision was “pretty much unanimous.”

Though this policy may be suitable in the eyes of the committee, many students were dismayed to learn of this new rule.

“It’s absurd,” said Matt Griechen '10.

Many students share his feelings. This policy not only revokes the exemption but also changes the percentage that the final exam will play in the final grade. Both the final exam and the newly instituted midterm exam will account for 10% of the student’s final grade in the class. This means the exams make up 20% of the student’s final average in each subject.

The larger issue is not the student’s disdain for exams, but how this new policy will affect the Renaissance program. Without being able to skip finals, many doubt whether students will still see any reason to strive for getting a card.

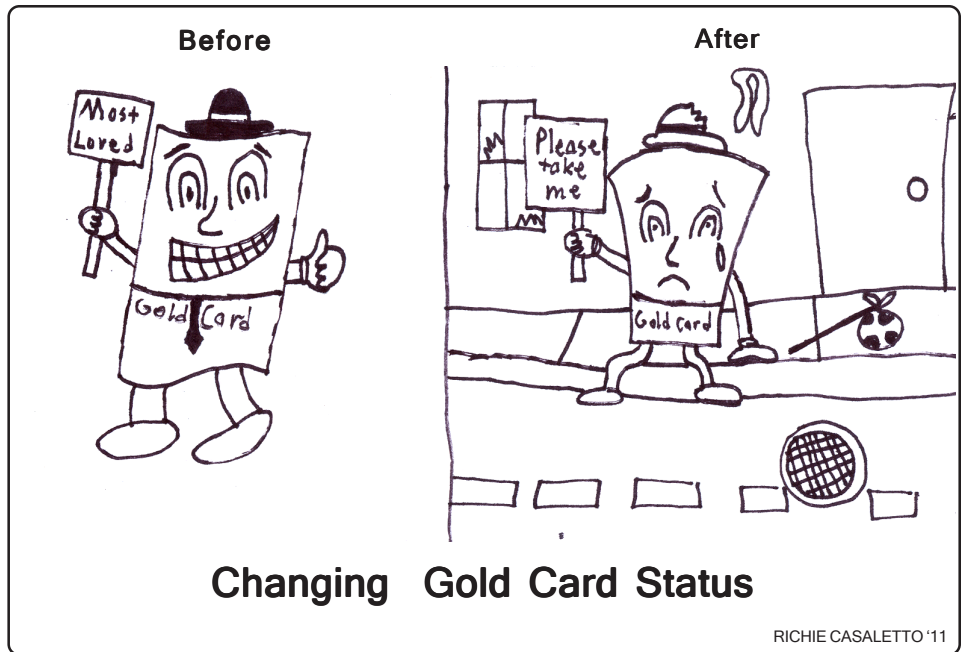
“It’s pointless to have a card,” commented Christina Jones '12.

Without getting out of exams, students may not see the reason to fulfill Renaissance requirements. These requirements include participation in one extracurricular activity, no more than four unexcused absences, and no discipline referrals. Students may keep their GPAs up, but not see the point in complying with the other rules. Renaissance Treasurer Jessica Healey, '10 believes this will occur.

“They are not going to try as hard to get the card,” she said. Upon hearing about the change Michelle Amand '12 said, “I was really motivated. I’m not now.”

Though students may feel upset, many staff members view the exams as necessary part of WTHS education.

“We felt a very strong need to amp up testing,” said Bollendorf. The cause for the change lay in the enacting of state mandated ‘benchmarks’ for the school. This requires that teachers need to have midterms and finals that evaluate the knowledge that students have acquired throughout the year. This policy of a formal midterm and final exam schedule is widely



accepted throughout the state of New Jersey, and according to Bollendorf, WTHS felt it was time to incorporate this system and “raise the bar” for its students.

The downside for the students is that enacting final exams meant ridding the school of the Renaissance exemptions.

Teachers as well as administrators see this as a positive change. Physics and Forensic science teacher Shannon Hornibrook believes that making exams mandatory will allow teachers to get a better interpretation of final exam scores. “Exams are supposed to be assessing us,” said Hornibrook, and with the higher scorers getting exempt from finals, the “results get skewed towards the lower side.” The Administration also sees the need to exam the entire student body.

“These benchmark assessments have been carefully designed by our own teachers and department supervisors to match our high school’s courses,” said 9/10 Executive Assistant Principal Ms. Anne Moore, “so it becomes very important that all students are assessed and that we have a clear understanding of the academic progress of all of our students.

Having all students, high and low scorers, will help teachers evaluate the class and test with more accuracy. Also many believe that the school is not correctly readying its students for college without making them take a final exam. They view exams as a necessary item in preparing students for the next step. Hornibrook said “If we’re going to prepare you for college [without exams] we’re not doing a good job.”

Still students feel as though the exemptions did not hinder their education.

“We’re not skipping all the finals, just two,” said Healey, “We’re still getting prepared for college.”

While the administration sympathizes for the students, it doesn’t believe that this will deter them from obtaining high marks or participating in Renaissance. Many agree but see the policy as a slight.

“You’ll still work hard but there’s no reward,” said Rachel Lawler '12.

However the WTHS staff firmly believes that this exam policy will benefit the students and overall school.

Bollendorf said “The good that will come from it will outweigh the bad.”

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Protesting at the Capitol

Maria Brasco '10

"On September 12th, 2009, a Tea Party March in Washington D.C. was held, the most beautiful part of the whole event was that so many people gathered in one place, representing different nationalities, religions, and political parties/ perspectives to stand up and speak out with out fear of penalties or imprisonment," explains Camille Brasco, a clinical nurse liaison at Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. "At the steps of the capital, people held signs, spoke freely, and even sang in unison to the Nation Anthem."

Over one million people attended the protest in D.C.; not just locals but also people from all over the United States.

"We employ you! You do not employ us!" chanted citizens on that brisk September morning. Janet Margusity, director of marketing at Weisman Children's hospital, was also at the event. "We can do health care reform without having the government control our health care. We can open states up to other



Courtesy of Camielle Brasco

Many came out to protest against the new healthcare plan.

insurers, create healthcare pools for small businesses and individual contractors.

The government should go after the fraud in Medicaid and Medicare and create or reform to cut down malpractice." She also thinks with this proposal she will get less care than she is receiving now and it will negatively affect Weisman, which operates eight nursing homes.

Margusity has contacted congressman and senators to voice her opinion. She has also attended town meetings.

"I believe that the quality of care will go down and the ability to access care will be harder. The cost to the consumer will ultimately go up," prophesized Margusity.

Erin Hills'10, a honor student at WTHS is also against this

proposal, "Health care is a complex issue. Forty-seven million Americans do not have health care insurance," explains Hills, "Obama's health care plan is very expensive to run. With our country in two wars and a faltering economy, I do not believe now is the time to take action. Once a federal program is established, it never ends because people become dependant on it. I really believe we do not have the funds to create such a program right now."

President Obama and his congressman have presented a bill that includes provision of health care coverage for all US citizens; however, there are many hidden features in this bill.

Something that many people may not know about it is that if you do not sign up for this government health care, you may be fined. Many, if not all, agree that some type of reform in our health care system is due.

The question President Obama will frequently find himself asking, what is the right thing to do for our country?

Swine Flu continues to grow

Chloe Dawson '10

Swine flu is growing more and more each day. According to the CDC, Center for Disease of Control, as of early September more than twenty-one states are reporting that they are having wide spread influenza activity. During the week of September 16 influenza was continuing to rise over the week in the United States rather than weeks before.

Public places are increasingly starting to have Purell hand sanitizers' container posted up on walls around their facilities. Many teachers' classrooms have multiple bottles of hand sanitizing bottles on the desk.

Nowadays students are being cautious of what they touch and put excessive amounts of hand cleanser on it.

"I carry hand sanitizer in my purse" said Charna Cottman. It's essential that you have your own bottle as well where your own hands have been on it. Cottman

explains that she scrubs her hands thoroughly after coming out of the bathroom.

Gyms like Active Fitness put large squirt bottles on posts with papers towels so their members can cleanse their station before the next person uses it.

Local children's activity centers are trying to do their best. Again, Purell hand dispensers are posted around the children's play pace. The majority of places like that have extensive cleaning to wipe down all toys, and jungle gym areas.

Protecting a school of over 2,500 students from spreading such a horrible virus can be a challenge. Just a few days ago a letter was mailed home to all students regarding H1N1. The letter advises our classmates to learn proper coughing and sneezing etiquette home and in school. Sneezing and coughing should be done simply in the crescent of your elbow.

"I wash all my paintbrushes, and wipe down tables where I know my art students have been touching them all day" said Ms. Smith an art teacher.



Google Image

Swine flu hits all ages around the globe.

She also explained that she carries her own pencil or brush when she knows she has to help a student with their sketching or painting.

There are several sinks in her room and she also has her own sink for her personal use.

Our school wants us, as young adults to look for anything out of the ordinary in our health pattern. Some symptoms include over 100 degree fevers, chills, cough, or sore

throat. There are different symptoms that are specifically for swine flu like; muscle pain, and fatigue. They are uncertain how widespread or severe the novel flu virus will be during the upcoming flu season.

Doing simple things like sneezing in between your elbow and washing your hands after you touch things can help even though it does seem like a lot.

Lest we... um... forget?

Impact of 9/11 may be fading with younger students

Nicole Heath '10

Friday night at WTHS's first football game vs Cherry Hill West numbers of giggling students were puzzled as to why they were being quieted and told to face the flag by parents and teachers. Students either didn't remember it was the eighth anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks or simply didn't care.

People noticing these patterns of behaviour are starting to believe that 9/11 may be becoming just another event in the history books and that the severity and the momentous impact that Tuesday had may be forgotten as younger students come through the door.

The freshmen, class of '13, were only in second grade when 9/11 occurred. Some freshmen say they still remembered the day, but at that time lacked the understanding of what was really happening.

But does this lack of understanding by younger students breed disrespect? Some believe so.

"...freshmen are actually gaining respect through the teaching of 9/11"

"It's like a moment of silence then whatever," said Bob Brennan '09 "They [underclassmen] don't have the same respect."

Though the senior class was only in fourth grade during the attacks, most still remember that day and how the nation changed. But those in younger classes didn't have the same awareness.

The freshmen disagree.

"They're wrong," said Nick Keppler '13 of the notion that underclassmen don't revere September 11. Some freshmen think that the impact of that day is not being lost on them because of their age, but that they are actually gaining respect through the continual teaching of 9/11 at school.

"We're still learning about it," said Nikki Scarpiano '13.

Through class discussions, videos, and other assignments the memory of that day is being reinforced by teachers.



Illustration by Julia Hahn/The Patriot

There is a growing concern that new classes may not share in the respect and general understanding of 9/11.

"They're making us learn even more about it," Keppler said.

Teachers may be at the forefront of September 11th remembrance among students, but even they see a change in new classes.

"They still have recollections," said Mr. Bob Gorski US history teacher at WTHS believes though his younger students may not remember everything, their memory is not completely lost. However he does see a difference from his former classes.

"It was burned in their brains," he said.

Having a less solid memory of that day, many younger classes get much of their understanding from the media, parents, and other sources. Films such as *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *World Trade Center* have been made documenting that day, and shows such as *Rescue Me* try to capture post September 11 feelings. This can change the way students remember and respect the day.

"Their memory isn't going to be of that day," said Gorski, "but of what they heard."

US History teacher Mr. Dan Saia believes the same and that many students, "take the lead from their parents."

For some it is not surprising that, with many outside influences and few actual memories to recall, younger classes don't have the same respect for the day. However, teachers and students alike agree that the impact of the attacks should never be lost to future students.

"We study the past to understand the present," said Saia, "[We] need to take the time to reflect on how our lives changed."

"It's an unforgettable event," Scarpiano said. Gorski agrees, "We need to move forward but we cannot forget the past."

He believes that, regardless of age or lack of first hand knowledge, students need to realize that those who lost their lives, especially the heroes of that day "can never be forgotten."

NYC recalls painful day



AP image

Citizens gathered at ground zero to observe the eighth anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks. The loved ones of those that died left flowers, pictures, and other tokens for the victims.

Commentary

Summer reading needs update

Maria Petruzzi, '10

At the end of the summer, there's one last event on everyone's list: to read your summer reading book. Many students put off their reading till even the day before the test. Reading has turned into a chore, rather than an enjoyable experience as it is intended.

For years, Washington Township High School has required a summer reading test to be taken by students, usually around the second or third week of school. The test may be fifty multiple choice, but the nature of the questions requires students to look into fine detail. The variety of literature for WTHS students to choose from is very limited. The books on the dreaded summer lists are usually works of writing published from the 1800s to early 1900s. Therefore, most students have difficulty paying attention to books required and the test results have been affected negatively.

I feel that summer reading is important and should be required



MARIA PETRUZZI, '10 / The Patriot

Books on the summer reading list fail to appeal to students' interests.

for all grade levels within the district, yes, but students should be able to choose from a selection of interesting, recently published, books.

Last year, the *Twilight* saga written by author Stephanie Meyer phenomenon swept our school, as well as the country. The cultural impact was so large, even some

teachers found themselves reading the popular vampire series. If we replaced one of the books on the summer reading list with even just one *Twilight* novel, the summer reading test scores would have skyrocket through the roof and improve exponentially. The school hasn't changed their summer reading lists for the past couple years

and its becoming blaringly obvious. It's time, for the sake of the next year's underclassmen, for the school district to examine the summer reading choices and make a much-needed change.

Summer reading books are difficult, not just because of the theme, but due to the wording and style of the time period. What may have been popular in the 19th Century may not have carried on to modern times. Recently published books would avoid this problem and help students throughout their reading process.

Last year, my English teacher took about two years to get the school to allow her to add *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* into the curriculum. I ended up really enjoying the book and was able to contribute to conversations about the chapters during class. The novel was published not too long ago either. Not only would students not mind summer reading assignments as much, but teachers could also feel the satisfaction of their students getting better grades.

State slashes exam exemptions, prepares students for college

Taylor Perkins, '11

Gold, Blue, Red. Here at WTHS those colors mean one thing and one thing only: Renaissance Cards. Those three colors on those small cards are something that we all work hard for. And for many years that hard work has resulted in being exempted from finals. This year there will be no more exemptions from finals.

Now of course there are other perks for having those cards. If you have a gold card you can miss two finals, get into sporting events free, discounts at certain stores and many other things. Blue card holders get out of one final, discount, and red card holders get discounts.

But coming into the 2009-2010 school year, students were shocked by a disappointing announcement. There will be no more final exemptions. Word of the decision traveled quickly and has disappointed many students.

While administrators think that the decision is fair, students are outraged.

"I think it makes it almost pointless to earn a gold card. It takes away the best part of having a gold card," Candance Brown '11 said. This statement conveys an opinion that is shared by many other students as well.

"Its so frustrating especially for me as a senior, I understand that it is [colleges'] way of preparing us for college because it's like that," Gina Garrison, '10 stated. "But in college you only have four or five classes per semester. I feel it's going to be very difficult and overwhelming when I'll be studying for my exams. Before I would work hard all year and with exemptions I would have to study for four exams, which is more like college if anything."

So as you can see students have been strongly affected by the decision. And hope for it to be changed.

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People

Flip n' Flank prepare for school year

Weston Eldridge '10

"Hello, how about that ride in, guess that's why they call it Sin City, hahah," said Tim Flank '09, Student Council President.

It wasn't your typical opening line, but it was typical for Flank's personality.

This comical reference to the movie *Hangover* received laughs from many among the 700 seniors filling the seats of the 11/12 Auditorium on the second day of school. Flank's speech focused on the importance of coming together as one class and making this year one that will hopefully be remembered forever.

Flank may be the president of Student Council, but few know exactly what he does as president. Student Council is a representative body which voices the views of WTHS students.

Its Executive Board is com-

prised of about 30 members, or one percent of the school.

"We work together throughout the year to organize many dances and school events throughout the year," said Flank, "My role as Student Council President is to lead meetings in a productive manner and make sure everyone's opinion is heard and decisions are made in the most fair way."

Joe DeFillipo '10 ran beside Flank during last year's election, holding the title of Student Council Vice President. Throughout the election, the two established the nicknames Flip and Flank.

"My responsibility is to help oversee and coordinate all of the activities Student Council sponsors and to assist President Flank," said Flip.

Flip and Flank have a lot of goals for the school year and feel the pressure to make it the most memorable year for their fellow senior



Courtesy of Joe DeFillipo

Flip n' Flank balance business and fun.

classmates. Their main concern now is on everything pertaining to the numerous Homecoming festivities.

"We want to improve the tent and dance floor from last year," said Flank. After Homecoming, they hope to be successful in bringing a nationally acclaimed speaker to the school. Then, they plan to turn all

focus to Mr. WT and the Junior and Senior Proms.

You will be sure to find Flip and Flank at almost all sporting activities, covered in body paint and leading chants.

Both have their eyes set on pursuing four year colleges, NYU for Flank and UD for Flip.

Students athletes commit to colleges early

Maria Brasco '10

A little over five years ago about twenty student athletes went on to play in college, currently since Mr. Murphy has been our Athletic Director, fifty or more student athletes every year go to college for a sport. Playing a sport in college is years of hard work, determination, and commitment.

Janine Valerio '10, a four year soccer varsity starter, has made a verbal commitment to Marshall University in West Virginia. Her years of dedication to being the best student athlete finally has paid off, and as Valerio said

"It was totally worth it!" For years she has been around the sport because her sister was playing but to her dismay she wasn't of age to play until she was five. Ever since then soccer has been her life. Valerio played six years at T.B.A.A Renegades and currently plays for the F.C Bucks, a total of eight years of club soccer. Valerio came into high school and stepped right up to the varsity level.

"It made me realize I had to work a lot harder in games and at practice because they were so much older and more experienced than me at the highschool level." To some, that kind of pressure may be hard to deal with but for Valerio, she took everyday in stride, kept a positive attitude,



MARIA BRASCO/The Patriot

Janine Valerio has already committed to Marshall University for soccer.

and worked hard every day; she was her biggest competitor.

Along with Marshall, about eleven other colleges were tossing her great offers, such as Delaware, La Salle, St. Joseph's, and North Eastern. Valerio had four requirements of her future college: at least three hours away, major athletic program with a big football team, location, and over ten-thousand students. "All the schools I visited had scholarship opportunities for me. The amount of the school didn't have a major part on my decision. I thought it was more important

that I liked the campus, coaches, players, and environment the school was around," Valerio explained.

Unlike Valerio, her teammate, Kim Krauss '10 had different reasons why she chose her college.

"The location really mattered to me. I decided I didn't want to be in a city and not too close to home so I chose Elon," describes Krauss, "The amount was a big part of my decision because I would have to pay the extra money from my own pocket."

Krauss has been playing soccer for twelve years and currently plays for FC Delco. She also has been playing at the varsity level and wants underclassman to know, "You should never be afraid to stand out. You're only hurting yourself if you don't show your talent to others." Krauss showed her talent and got the credit she deserved, a verbal commitment from Elon University.

Seniors Lisa Patrone, Laura Rose, and Nick Favatella have committed to Rutgers and Matthew Lopez to La Salle. In these coming months, the additional senior student athletes will be making their decisions final.

"To all underclassman, set your goals high and work hard. It pays off one day and you'll be so excited to commit to your dream college!" says overjoyed Valerio.

Perspective

Summer offers opportunity for travel, career exploration

Carolyn Cicalese '10

I walked in scared and alone and left with the experience in film, television, editing and about a million new friends from all over the place.

I couldn't tell you everything I did, because that would be a novel—a quirky, long, ridiculous, boring, hilarious, and adventurous novel. Between getting lost in Boston, having eating contests, making my first film, and writing and directing my first television show I found myself.

When I left I had only taken the Communications Technology class at our high school. I had learned a few basics of camera shots, directing, editing and the multiple other positions in the studio. I felt terribly inexperienced, a little fish in a big pond.

But then it hit me, these people may know more than me, but I came there to learn something and I was going to. From then on I was free to embrace whatever came my way.

On the first day I had already made a best friend, and it wasn't my roommate. We promised each other that we would not only step up in the classroom, but we would make this trip a memorable one.

The first major project in my television class was to produce a talk show. I was nervous and scared so I didn't volunteer for anything and was going to end up as the extra in the production. But when the director started to attempt to put the show together she couldn't get through it, she knew the show was depending on her and she couldn't handle that pressure. I thought, what



Courtesy of: Carolyn Cicalese

While on her trip to Boston, Carolyn Cicalese learned the aspects of writing and directing.

We had produced our own pre-scripted show, and then it was time for the more daunting task: putting together two classes, writing our own screenplay and then producing it as a short television show.

do I have to lose? So as she was tripping up her words and losing our airtime, I grabbed a headset and started my own commands. She immediately stopped hers and let me run the show. It was clear; I was at home in the director's chair.

The group made it through, we had produced our own pre-scripted show, and then it was time for the more daunting task: putting together two classes, writing our own

screenplay and then producing it as a short television show. After hours of arguing over the topic of our show, we chose one that would be unique to everyone in our major. The roof incident.

One night Cassie and I had just came in but didn't want to go to bed yet, so we went to the city convenience store bought our favorite snacks, trail mix and chocolate milk, and went to our favorite spot in the building—the roof. We sent out group texts to everyone from our major. The party grew and grew.

What started off as Cass and me with a little iPod stereo and a few snacks turned into all of us dancing to a massive amplifier someone had brought out. Apparently that violates the noise ordinance of the dorm building.

So we were ambushed by a large group of RA's coming to break up the party and take our B.U. ID cards. What was so innocent turned

into all of us having meetings with the head of housing. This inspired my script for my television class' spin off on Law and Order. It spirals into a story of which point of view is the real point of view. When it came to the task of writing the script nobody stepped up—my chance yet again. It took hours upon hours of Cassie and me attempting to rework the story into a mix of a murder mystery and a joke on our fun night turned wrong.

Finally I was finished and I cast myself as the hard hitting but in the end sympathetic detective. I acted and directed and loved every moment of it. Because the story was so personal to us I knew exactly what I wanted to see and made it happen. I may have been bossy to some, and sometimes it would take us two hours to shoot one scene, but we finished it and were proud of our work.

Besides each of our individual successes in the classroom, Cassie and I had some adventures of our own. We tried our first Indian dinner. We challenged our guy friends to a cake eating contest. I got to meet people from Japan, Puerto Rico, and Turkey. And we wandered everywhere our feet would take us and when they wouldn't go further we took the subway, and usually it was the wrong one.

It was all new and different for me, but I got to be independent and free and that's what I realized I had wanted all along and never got a chance to be until then.

I may have spent a majority of my summer in school, but at least I was doing what I loved—writing, editing, directing, and filming.

Join *The Patriot*

First meeting October 13 at 2:30 in Cafeteria C

Senior makes bracelets to help friend

Luke Verrillo '10

Students will recognize Cara Swetsky '10, due to her involvement in a number of clubs and activities at WTHS such as Drama Club and the Diving Team. However, many don't know that Swetsky formed Bracelets for Sara, a charitable organization dedicated to helping her friend Sara Skibitcky over the summer.

Skibitcky was diagnosed with rare skin disease called toxic epidermal necrolysis. 90% of her skin has peeled away and she's in terrible pain. "She's been my friend for years and it hurts to think that she spent most of her summer in a hospital bed," Swetsky says.

Swetsky thoroughly researched her friend's condition after Skibitcky was admitted into a hospital in New York during August. She learned that doctors are often hesitant to treat the disease with medications, due to

the reactions that the drugs can inadvertently cause. It was after this that Swetsky decided to take action to help her friend.

"Sara needed our positive thinking and prayers, as well as her family," Swetsky says. "My friend [and cofounder] Ashley Russo and I always made bracelets for our friends and family, so we decided to put that to good use and help Sara. We started selling the bracelets for \$2 each, with every dollar earned going to Sara and her family."

"Cara really came up with the idea, I just helped her along the way," Ashley Russo, Wildwood Catholic High School, says. "She really inspired people here in Wildwood and I know she's doing the same back home."

So far, Swetsky calls the organization a success. She began selling the bracelets at Cool Scoops, a local ice cream parlor in Wildwood, but quickly expanded as she brought

bracelets everywhere she went and made more money than she imagined possible.

"I don't know Sara, but I know Cara and this cause is very important to her. It was a no-brainer when she asked me to buy a bracelet," Dylan Brody, '10, comments. "She's a great friend for doing this."

"Sara is doing much better now, and the money really helps her family out with the medical bills and lets them all know that they are in our thoughts and prayers," Swetsky says.

Swetsky plans on continuing with the organization and is constantly making bracelets in her spare time. She encourages others to follow in her footsteps and help those who need it most.

"I never saw myself as a leader or a truly charitable person," Swetsky says. "It wasn't until Sara got sick that I realized how much of a difference two girls and a couple of



CHRISTINA SCHILLACI '10/The Patriot

Cara Swetsky '10 handcrafts the bracelets and sells them for \$2 a piece in an effort to help her friend meet costly medical bills.

bracelets could make."

Swetsky and Russo are still selling bracelets and raising money for their friend. If you're interested, talk to Cara Swetsky or visit "Bracelets for Bravery" on facebook.com for more information.

For the love of the game

Chloe Dawson '10

Kenny Patrone '13 is making headway in a sport that some male students wouldn't go near. Field hockey is where he found his passion. Being the only boy on the team doesn't bother him at all. Kenny, along with his other family members, became one with the game and also very good at it.

Everyone needs someone to keep pushing them in a sport and Kenny has everyone in his family to support him. His four sisters, his mom, and dad seem to be the backbone of this phenomenal field hockey player. They keep Patrone on his A-game so he can be sharp for every battle.

While some pass criticism on a boy playing a girl sport, the freshman ignores it very well and keeps on going, but that doesn't keep Patrone from doing what he does best. Patrone has a positive outlook on the situation.

"The [football] team is practicing with guys I'm practicing with girls," he said, "I'm just normal, they don't care if I'm a guy."

The twenty-five girls that he goes to play and learn from have no problem with him being a boy. They joke around and never filter their words, as if he's a just another player. One big thing that you wouldn't find senior girls doing very often are actually taking advice from someone younger. Its amazing how someone so young can have such skills and talent and then spread it to his older teammates and be respected. They honestly look at Patrone as another coach on the field and never treat him



MARIA BRASCO '10/The Patriot

Kenny Patrone '13 is restricted by state requirements from being an active player in field hockey games.

like a little kid.

Girls in Washington Township can play football and wrestle with the guys, but a boy can't play on the field hockey team despite there being little or no physical contact. Patrone and his mom tried to protest the rule and see if they could make a difference. With no success, they didn't get very far. He thinks it isn't worth making it a big ordeal, as some coaches are for and some coaches are against playing a boy on a girl team.

Fellow players describe Patrone's movement on the field as "smooth" and "cat-like". When he gets the ball everyone backs off because he has amazing speed. These qualities have helped him become a part of the US Men Under 18 team. The team consists of players all around the United States. Before he could say he was part of such a team, he had to go through a championship round. Being a little different from everyone else, he was the youngest boy on the team and recieved no

"trash talk" on his unique situation. After Patrone's team won in San Diego he was voted Most Valuable Young Player and then picked to a national team out of four other teams.

As Patrone starts freshman year he continues to do an excellent job at balancing his life. "Field hockey always came first." Either before or after Patrone will get his homework done on the bus, which may be not so easy to do with over twenty screaming girls. So far his year is going well. The field hockey girls make life a little more easy in the hallways by saying hi so he won't feel left out. He expects nothing but fun and is trying to make some too.

Odds and Ends

He said, She said by Sarah Kurtz '10 and Luke Verrillo '10

Each issue Luke and Sarah will advise students, from their own perspective.

1. I come from a big family, but now it's just me and my two parents in the house. They're thinking about moving and aren't really involving me in the decision making. Should I be annoyed or just be passive?

Dear Misunderstood,

You should be upset. If you don't voice your opinion on the matter, you're going to regret it. Let your parents know that you have a life here and remind them of their high school days. They wouldn't want to leave their friends, just like you don't want to leave yours.

-Luke

Dear Misunderstood,

If I were you, I would be annoyed. It's your life too and you have to speak up. If they don't hear your opinion and your concerns how will they know that you would like to stay where you are? It can't hurt to try. If you don't say it, you could regret it for the rest of your life.

-Sarah

2. My friend's boyfriend's parents don't like her. They've been together for 4 months & she doesn't know what to do. She comes to me for advice & I don't know what to say. Recommendations?



MARIA PETRUZZI '10/The Patriot
Seniors Luke Verrillo and Sarah Kurtz lend their thoughts to puzzled students.

Dear Good Friend,

It's hard, but parents rarely get along with their kid's boyfriends or girlfriends. There's nothing you can really do about it. Sucking up annoys them and acting indifferent only angers them more. The best your friend can do is stay with her boyfriend and avoid the parents as much as possible, without it being obvious. The less they see each other, the less tension there will be.

-Luke

Dear Good Friend,

That's a hard one. Parents can be stubborn, they may not want to change their minds about

her. The most she can do is be on her best behavior around them. Just smile and be polite and hope that they'll come around. And if it bothers her that much that they don't like her, maybe she should talk to her boyfriend about it.

-Sarah

3. One of my good friends dresses like a hoochie. How can I nicely tell her to cover up?

Dear Concerned,

You may think you're looking out for your friend, but who cares what she's wearing? You don't want people judging you on your clothes, so don't judge her. Nothing's wrong with showing a little skin. If anything, you should try it out and see her point of view.

-Luke

Dear Concerned,

That's a hard one. You don't want to offend her, but you also don't want people to think badly of her or get the wrong impression. My best advice would be wait till the right moment. Don't tell her in front of other people or in a rude or disrespectful way, you don't want this ruining your friendship!

Need Advice or have unanswered questions?
Contact Wthspatriot@gmail.com, subject Advice.

Opinion

Driving law unfair to teens

During most students' junior year, each student earns the privilege of a driving license. It is beneficial and convenient in a multitude of ways to teenagers.

Whether you are going to school, practice, or social events, a license relieves the issue of transportation by adults. However, over the decade laws have been passed restricting persons with provisional licenses. Such restrictions presently include: the amount of passengers a provisional driver can transport, the time in which the provision driver may operate a vehicle, and the right to plea to remove points on a traffic violation. Is this fair? If not, you will disagree greatly with new legislation.

Upcoming laws, such as Kyleigh's Law, will restrict provisional drivers even more. Kyleigh's Law, constructed because of the death of a young girl, will impose on many teenagers' driving privileges. Kyleigh's law states the following: provisional license holders must have his or her car marked with an orange hang tag, one motor vehicle offense will result in a suspended license, license suspension will be increased from three

months to five months, and the standard six month wait after obtaining a learners permits will be increased to a year. As controversial as this bill was, it passed through state legislation with haste. Kyleigh's law will be effective on May 1, 2010. An outrage has erupted from teenagers as well as parents. Thousands of people have declared this law discriminative and it most certainly is. Another public cry is shouted that Kyleigh's Law is a miracle since car accidents are the leading cause of teenage deaths.

For the class of 201, this law will affect you as well as the other grades following. I feel the driving laws for the most part are unfair. Just because we are of a certain age we get to be followed by cops just because we have an orange sticker. The orange sticker will cause you to have a number of blames. If a teen driver got into an accident I feel the cop would take one look at the sticker and point all fingers to the teenager.

Cops will have a field day with the number of tickets they can give out to new drivers after May 1st. For all the upcoming license holders, play the game safe and stay out of harms way.

Get in the Game!

The first meeting of
the Game Club will be
Thursday,
October 15 at 2:30
in Cafeteria B.

Check out our e-board
for more details.

Entertainment

Rob Zombie's latest film a letdown

Jessica McFadden '10

Michael Myers dons his goalie mask and strikes again in this summer remake of a classic film, wielding his weapon of choice: knives.

Back in 1981, before any of us were even thoughts in our parents' minds, director, Rick Rosenthal released Halloween II... the first time.

Set in 1978, the original Halloween II opens up in the hospital where the young Laurie Strode (Scout Taylor-Compton) was admitted after being attacked by Michael Myers that very same October 31st. Myers stalks down Strode—who turns out to be baby Boo, his sister!—Through out the entire movie, he strides to get his family back together, and that means taking a few lives in the process.

That was the original Halloween II. Now, 28 years later, Rob Zombie releases his own remake of Halloween II. Director of Halloween (2007 remake), Zombie attempted to make this film as good as the original. In some ways, this movie was better than the original. In my opinion,



Google Image

Michael Myers doesn't stop at anything to get what he wants.

it was much, much worse. In the 2009 Halloween II, Zombie seemed to take gore and violence to a whole new level. It seemed to me as if he focused more on the killing than he did on developing a substantial plot.

Zombie did do a rather good job on the special effects, though.

"The special effects in this movie were very, very good. Zombie left the killing mostly up to the viewer's imagination," senior Steve Stuhr, '10, said.

This was supposed to be the 'remake of the year', but in many ways it was quite a letdown.

"This movie was so different than I'd expected it to be," Dave McLeod, '10, remarked, "and I don't mean in a good way. The media worked it up way too much."

Halloween II (2009), is rated R, which is a well deserved rating for this horror flick. With the blood, gore, language, and violence, this movie will keep you either on the edge of your seat, or leave you nauseous. This is definitely not a movie for those with a weak stomach.

What happens in Vegas...

Chris Bucci '10

Las Vegas seems to be the place to have a bachelor party these days. The lure of Vegas seems to be strong for men and women alike. They go there to go wild and let loose.

What I really liked about "The Hangover" is that these four guys aren't the 'cool guys'. They are just four regular men who don't really know how to handle Vegas, or what to do there.

Phil (Bradley Cooper) is a middle school teacher with a wife and a child. Stu (Ed Helms) is a dentist with a girlfriend who bosses him around all the time. Alan (Zach Galifianakis) is the tag-along-guy who is so dumb he makes you laugh after every foolish remark. Doug (Justin Bartha) is the groom whom this wild night is arranged.

The group arrives in Vegas for a weekend of fun as the groom's last fling. They wake up the following morning in their trashed hotel room. There's a tiger in the bathroom, a baby in the closet, and none of the friends know how either got there. Worse yet, the groom is missing and nobody can remember a thing.

A great part of the movie is how



Yahoo Image

This comedy hit the big screen on June 5th, 2009.

the three pick up clues on what happened from the night prior and slowly putting the pieces together and having to go on a wild hunt searching for Doug.

This movie is full of surprises. It has a hilarious Asian gangster, a run-in with Mike Tyson, and plenty of others. This is far from a dumb movie that makes you laugh. The characters are awesome and the movie is legitimately a superb one.

Join the news team

The Patriot is currently seeking new staff members for the 2009-10 school year.

If you are interested in:

reporting
writing
proofreading
photography
illustration
cartooning or
layout and design...

attend the first meeting
for new staff members.

Tuesday, October 13
2:30 in Cafeteria C

Or contact us at wthspatriot@gmail.com

All day rock fest heats up summer

Dianna Lombardo '10

Walking into the front gates of the Sesquehanna Bank Center, you're attacked by crazed fans sprinting to get to one of the seven stages. Hundreds of tents filled the voids and lined the skyline. If you look to your right, you see one band playing, if you look to your left you see a different band playing. The options were endless. This was the Vans Warped Tour.

Vans Warped Tour has been running for 15 years and every year it just gets better and bigger. If you're into hardcore scream music, alternative, or pop punk, this concert has something for you. Some of the biggest bands this year were 3OH!3, A Day to Remember, All Time Low, Attack Attack, Bayside, Chiodos, Cobra Starship, Emmure, Escape the Fate, Forever the Sickest Kids, The Devil Wears Prada, Underoath, Valencia, and that doesn't even begin to cover any of the other 50 bands.

This concert also offers a special stage for local bands to be able to play. All they would have to do is have their fans vote for them and the winning band can play on the Ernie Ball Stage. There are about seven total stages set up around the parking lots of wherever the event is held that day. Every year they play at the Sesquehanna Bank Center, which is only a short drive away to Camden. This year, Warped Tour played 47 dates total.

There are tents dedicated to every band and every underground fashion designer you can think of. PETA has a tent where you can sign up and help save the animals even more. Truth, the campaign against cigarettes, has a tent also. There are plenty of tents where you can purchase merchandise from the bands, or just clothes and accessories in general. A good amount of the bands, usually the more well known bands, also have meet and greets at their own tents.



Inquisitr.com

A Day to Remember, All Time Low, and Attack Attack are just a few of the bands that played in Warped Tour.

In between the tents, in the middle of the parking lot is a huge skyscraper-like inflatable wall divider with all of the seven stages listed at the top. Under each stage, it reports on what band will play at what time at that stage. Staff members also give out the same

schedule on a sheet of paper so you can carry it around with you and try to be where you want to be on time.

For one CD you can pay up to twenty dollars, for forty dollars you can attend a well put together concert for an entire day and get a nice tan while doing so.

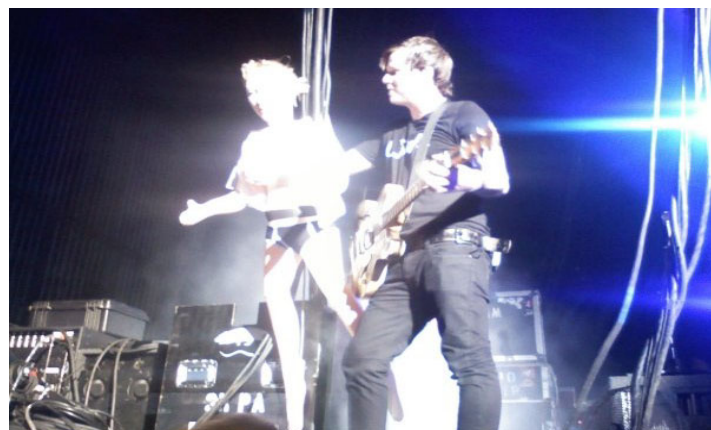
Blink 182 hits center stage

Carolyn Cicalese '10

We all prayed it would come, it came and it went and we loved every moment of it. Blink 182 made a reunion tour. The show at the Sesquehanna Bank Center included Taking Back Sunday, Weezer and Blink 182 headlining.

Before Blink came on, you could feel the air around you getting excited. I don't know if I've ever seen the lawn that crowded, and if you're under 25, the lawn is where you belong. It was a sea of people who had been waiting for this moment for years and it was finally here. And then it happened, they didn't use a grand entrance; there were no special effects, no crazy jump outs, no fog. They simply walked out on the stage to the song "Everybody Wang Chung Tonight" and that in itself was enough for every person in that crowd.

They played crowd favorites song as an attempt to make sure no person felt left out. They mostly played songs from their 1999 album *Enema of the State*, their 2001 album *Take off Your Pants and Jacket*,



MIKE CEDRONE '10/ The Patriot

Lead guitarist, Tom DeLonge plays duet with an inflatable friend.

and their 2003 self titled album *"Blink 182"*. Few even left their spot, for fear of missing one minute or because they would never find their way back because it felt as if every centimeter of grass was filled with people.

People were singing incredibly loud and out of tune and didn't care for one second. It felt as if the whole crowd was singing "All the small things," and "Girl at the Rock Show," to the point where you couldn't even hear the band. Mosh pits would

break out when they were completely necessary and people danced when they thought they should.

The band never specifically talked about why it was they broke up or why they were back together but they seemed happy. Tom DeLonge was sporting his Angels and Airwaves t-shirt, which signals that he is still working with his other band much to diehard fans' dismay. DeLonge also did leave out some pivotal lines in "First Date" and

wasn't always the best at hitting the high notes, but the crowd was right there to back him up. The typical funny Tom and Mark banter made us all remember why we loved and missed them, and songs like, "Down" made us feel nostalgic and miss our middle and early high school days.

The moment they left the stage not a person dared to leave. And then Travis walked out. Travis literally harnessed himself into his drum seat and the drum set was lifted from the ground. The set turned to its side and spun, it flung across the stage, and it swung about and still Travis played on. It was reminiscent of their tour seven years ago where Travis drum set was also lifted from the stage, but the drum set had much more movement then before.

The crowd sang as one and swayed as one. Most people missed the performances of Taking Back Sunday and were just arriving as Weezer played, but it was a full house for Blink. Although Blink may not have been at perfection, people loved the chance to see them again in concert.

Glee offers new spin on high school drama, comedy

Dianna Lombardo '10

Glee is a one hour show, every Wednesday night, which follows one hopeful high school teacher as he tries to restore the school's singing group, Glee Club. Matthew Morrison stars as Will Schuester, as the energetic leader of this dismal club. McKinley High School's cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester, played by Jane Lynch, is out to destroy the club because she fears it is stealing attention from cheerleading. She also just doesn't like Mr. Schuester.

This afterschool makeshift club includes the stereotypical jock, Finn (Cory Monteith), the over achiever hopeful singer, Rachel (Lea Michele), the nerd, Kurt (Chris Colfer), a diva who wants everything her way and all the attention on her, Mercedes (Amber Riley), a constantly picked on wannabe guitarist, Arty (Kevin McHale), and the awkwardly



411onsoaps.com

Cast of unique stars hopes to bring show to high level

introverted girl, Tina (Jenna Ushkowitz).

The directors, Ryan Murphy

and John Scott, do an excellent job of intertwining many different plots into a short 60 minutes without confusing

the viewer. Finn is in trouble with his stuck up cheer leader girlfriend Quinn, played by Dianna Agron, because she suspects he may like nerdy Rachel. Mr. Schuester is constantly trying to have a baby with his rude and insensitive wife Terri, played by Jessalyn Gilsig. He's also always fighting off the sarcastic yet humorous cheerleading coach out to wreck his dreams.

Every episode has two to four big song and dance numbers. What would a show about a glee club be without singing? The actors in this show give it their all; it's visible to the viewer. Their hard work has already drawn attention, since the show has three nominations for the Teen Choice Awards.

The show has a lot to offer a viewer. It's very entertaining, can make you laugh and comes on at a reasonable hour. It is on channel Fox every Wednesday night from 9pm to 10pm.

Fab Four revived

Julia Hahn '10

The fab four are back!

It has been 39 years since The Beatles have broken up but by the amount of publicity the band still gets, is as though they are still around and playing.

The Beatles music has been growing in popularity among teens in the past few years with the film "Across the Universe" and the resurgence of the classic rock 'n roll from the 60's and 70's. Paul McCartney even recently held a concert at Mets Stadium to celebrate The Beatles playing at the Shea in 1965.

But now the comeback has begun to grow with the technology of our age. The Beatles have been linked with the vastly popular game Rock Band. *The Beatles: Rock Band*, which hit stores on September 9, is an interactive game that allows players to become a part of the Beatles experience as they take the part of lead guitarist (George Harrison), rhythm guitarist (John Lennon), drummer (Ringo Starr), bassist (Paul McCartney), or lead vocalist (John, Paul, George or Ringo).

The players can play in a number of their favorite Beatles' songs such as "All You Need Is

Love", "Can't Buy Me Love", "Hello Goodbye", and "I am the Walrus". The game also includes lesser known songs that the long time Beatles' fans can enjoy such as "Boys", "Dig A Pony", "Taxman", and "The End".

"I love it!" exclaims Susan Hahn. "It's really great for someone my age to participate in a game like this." Hahn placed an order for "The Beatles: Rock Band" ever since she heard about it. "I'm such a big fan and it's a cool new way to experience my favorite band."

What better for way our generation to become Beatles fans than to have them play along with them on one of the most popular games of the year?

Beatles' music is also coming back in a more conventional way. All of The Beatles' original albums are going to be re-released with better



semibeta.com

New game hopes to bring back good times for Beatles fans.

sound and quality.

This is very exciting news for long-time fans. The entire collection of Beatles CD's has been re-mastered with mono and stereo sound. The buyers can choose to purchase them either way.

Fans that have had some Beatles CD's since they came out are thrilled that they will be able to listen to some of their favorite tunes the way The Beatles wanted them to be heard. Beatlemania is back, there's no denying it!

Sports

Returning talent leads the way

Weston Eldridge '10

After a 17-3 record last year, the expectations are high for the 09-10 Girls' Tennis season as it returns four varsity starters; Ali Salkowski '10, Erica Venuti '10, Christina Luizzi '10 and Janel Eldridge '12

"Our main goal this season is to win the Gloucester County Tournament [which they accomplished] and to compete for the Olympic Conference Title," said Mr. Rich Flemming.

During their first match of the season, the girls ran into an unexpected challenge against Olympic Conference foe, Cherokee. Eyes set on winning the Olympic Conference; Flemming was disappointed with a tight 3-2 win. However, he motivated the team to bounce back with a convincing win the next day over Eastern. This turnaround was significant to Flemming as it revealed the team's potential.

Also aiding in keeping the girls motivated and mental focus is a new addition to the program, a sport's psychologist. Flemming notes that the psychologist has positively



WESTON ELDRIDGE '10 / The Patriot

Sophomore Janel Eldridge strengthens a promising squad that has set its sights on the conference title.

impacted the girls' attitudes toward the game and that the girls seem to respond very well to his mental training methods.

The team was also lucky enough to be the recipients of another well respected trainer, Coach

Cindy Surpluss. Surpluss has been with the team everyday, helping them train and providing moral support during their matches.

On the court support is always provided by Salkowski, appointed captain by Flemming for

the second straight year.

"Ali never gives up and she is such a good role model for the other girls on the team; she always has her head up and inspires us during our matches," said Taylor Vandell '10.

Returning to the 1st singles position, Salkowski has her sights set high. Flemming feels optimistic that she will win the Gloucester County Times Tournament, along with the more difficult Olympic Conference Tournament.

"My goals are to win the Gloucester County Times Tournament and to win the Olympic Conference as a team," said Salkowski.

Providing the depth to the team include varsity new-comers Aviana Paraggio and Gabrielle Muller '12. As the only freshman on varsity, Flemming references Paraggio as providing aggressiveness and a fresh outlook to the team.

"This season our strength is our depth, and our weakness is match experience," said Flemming.

Be sure to be in attendance for these key October matches: Oct. 14 against Cherokee, Oct. 20 against Cherry Hill East.

Minutemaids primed for "memorable season"

Kevin Whitehead '10

The WTHS field hockey team have established themselves as one of the premier teams in the Olympic-American Conference. With nationally ranked rival, Eastern, the Conference front runner, the Minutemaids are maintaining a positive attitude about advancing through the 2009 season.

"Every game in our conference is a big game," coach Ms. Jeannine O'Connor said. "Our team knows what has to be done and our goal is to beat everyone. One game at a time."

The team is led by senior captains Laura Rose, Lisa Patrone, Erin Hills, and Sam Miller.

"They are all great leaders," O'Connor said, "Erin is the organizer, Lisa leads on the field, Laura is the easy going one, and Sam is the motivator."

The four were also apart of the historic 2008 team who defeated number one ranked Eastern during the regular season last year, but lost to

them in the Group IV semi finals.

"We ended the season being the best team we could. I don't think we have unfinished business, but we definitely reached our full potential," O'Connor said.

At center back, Rose is surrounded by fellow defenders seniors Steph Gardner, Steph Cleary, Erin Hills, and goalie Brianna Shea. On the forward line there are Sarah Jackson '10, Lindsay Hatch '11, Erin Waller '11, and Maria Brasco '10.

"I'm very confident in my teammates this year," Rose said.

While playing defender, Rose managed to score 15 goals in 2008. Her versatility has helped the Minutemaids' transition to offensive play.

The Minutemaids are a balanced team. They have a mix of offensive and defensive strength, especially from the Rose-Patrone duo.

Also, there have been some key underclassman added to the varsity squad. Sophomores Kaitlyn Grabert and Taylor Miller have stood out and played some major roles, with

Grabert stepping up to earn a slot as a varsity starter.

With a relatively new group of players, O'Connor has implemented new practices to keep them into the game.

"I'm always changing my techniques. Your team can get stale if you use the same system," O'Connor said.

In addition to O'Connor's preparation, she also does some scouting of their opponents.

"I make sure we're prepared to play different systems," O'Connor said, "I look for scoring leaders, their record, and certain match ups to play in our favor."

Though ranked number two by Courier Post online, O'Connor fails to see that as a measure of her team.

"We have a lot of respect from 2008, but we have to focus on this season," O'Connor said.

Moving forward this season, Minutemaids are primed for a promising year. And for many seniors, they hope to make it a memorable one.

Volleyball prepares for good season

Julia Hahn '10

Washington Township has taken much pride in its saying-“TWP: Together with Pride.” The Washington Township Girls’ Volleyball Team is looking forward to a team building year. The team has decided to take new measures in becoming more of a team family and having more spirit.

“I’m confident that we’ll end this season with more wins than losses.” -- Bevenour ‘11

The girls have adopted the new traditions of attending PJ’s half off wing night together and having pasta parties the night before their games. It is the hope that these activities will help the team bond more and come together. It’s a common fact that a team works well together when it actually feels like a team. The football even holds hand when they come out onto the field to become their “brotherhood”. Why shouldn’t the girls’ volleyball team start becoming a “sisterhood”?

The new captains for the 2009 season are senior captain Stephanie Semple and junior captain.

“It’s exciting to be the junior captain this year. The varsity juniors are going to look up to me to be a leader and I hope I don’t let them down,” says Kaileen, who also plays the position of setter on the team.

The season has been going well for the girls

so far. The team triumphed over their big game with Eastern High School, but lost against Cherry Hill East.

“You win some and lose some,” states Kaileen. “But I’m confident that we’ll end this season with more wins than losses.”

Before each game, the volleyball team has their customary warm up. The warm up CD, a vital part of many teams warm ups, is made up at the beginning of the season. During an early meeting, each member of the team is given a slip of paper so they can write down one of their favorite songs to work out to. That way every girl gets their own song.

The physical warm up partly consists of four minutes of hitting and four minutes of passing. The coach helps out by throwing the balls at the girls as they hit and pass to simulate a real game.

The last thirty seconds are a vital part of the warm up as well. The girls do a pattern of stomping, pounding their heart, and clapping. It’s a tradition that has been done for many years.

When the varsity team wins, it’s quite an exciting sight. The junior varsity team comes to stand with the varsity team and creates a bridge.

“It really gives the team a chance to enjoy our win. A team should enjoy their wins and losses together,” explains Kaileen.

Minutemen lean on athleticism

From FOOTBALL page 16
Now it’s Brickhouse’s turn. He will take on a much larger workload. But this year he may see more footballs thrown to him rather than handed off.

The Minutemen’s admiration for football and thier brother hood helps on and off the field. In fact, they have developed a “Player Council”. Rather than appointing a few team captains, Wechter and his staff allowed the players to vote for eight players who would be their Player Council.

It includes seniors Marcucci, Finneran, Dakari Connor, Karch Conners, Jim McCabe, Brickhouse, Sam Nocille, and Kyle Lehm.

“[This year’s captains] are the best group of leaders I’ve ever been around. They are good at addressing problems... and meet teammates on a personal level,” -Coach Wechter

“These are the best group of leaders I’ve ever been around. They are good at addressing problems, have good character, and meet teammates on a personal level,” Wechter said.

Quite a complement to give to a collection of players. After all, Wechter has been coaching for 19 years. In fact, Wechter’s experience could provide the Minutemen with the extra push they need in the hunt for the Olympic-American Conference crown.

“Cherokee seems to be the frontrunner. They’re our Homecoming game too. They’ll be a big test, but I think every opponent will be a tough one,” Wechter said.

The Minutemen are ready for that challenge.

Premier athletes look to future

LaSalle University




Matt Lopez
Basketball

Elon College




Kim Krauss
Soccer

Marshall University




Janine Valerio
Soccer

Rutgers University




Lisa Patrone
Field Hockey



Laura Rose
Field Hockey



Nick Favatella
Baseball

photos: MARIA BRASCO '10 & SARAH KURTZ '10

Wechter adopts aerial attack

Kevin Whitehead '10

A new leaf has been turned in the playbook of the Washington Twp. Minutemen with the implementation of a novel offensive scheme known as the spread.

The depth of nearly every offensive position has given head coach Mr. Mark Wechter flexibility as to what he can game plan for in the upcoming season.

He has a few tricks up his sleeve.

"We have a lot of good athletes on our team. We have nine really good wide receivers who are very athletic. We use that to our advantage," Wechter said.

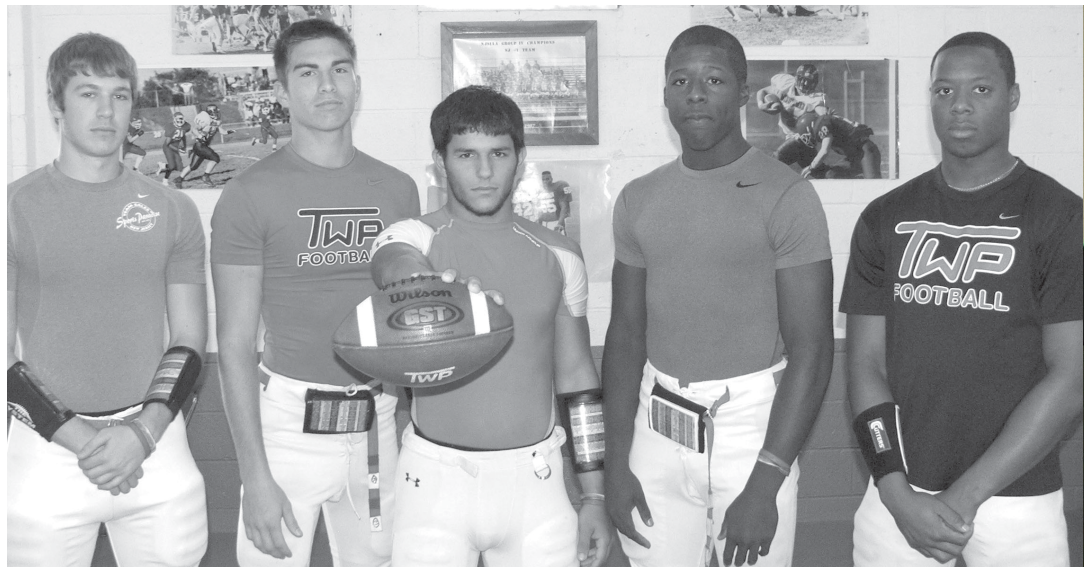
Among these nine wide receivers, Adam Marcucci '10 leads the charge for the Minutemen.

"We do a great job. We have a great group of receivers. We don't drop any balls," Marcucci said.

The amount of pure athletes on the Minutemen will make them a well rounded team. The fact that Wechter and defensive coordinator Mr. Bob Kelly have these athletically incline players gives the whole coaching staff the ability to mix and match to their advantage. They will be able to keep guys fresh and still mirror the same results as the starters.

"We have a lot of depth in our secondary. We have a young line backing core and we're a lot bigger this year," Kelly said.

Returning from last year,



KEVIN WHITEHEAD '10/ The Patriot

Quarterback Nick Valori is surrounded by some of his favorite targets (Adam Marcucci, Craig Boznjak, Rob Dim, and Cordell McInnis) in the Minutemen's new, high-flying, pass-oriented offense.

standout strong side linebacker Dan Finneran '10 will be a leader on the defensive side of the ball. He has emerged as a stout defender and an excellent tackler.

"He really has come along for us. He was here with us last year, but now he's a leader," Kelly said.

Also, the defensive line of defensive ends Colin Walsh '10 and Chuck Clark '10, and defensive tackles Chris DeMarco '10 and Bob Irwin '10 (led in tackles versus Winslow) will be an integral part of stopping the run. The Minutemen have switched from a 3-4 defense to a 4-3 yielding fewer holes for the opposition to exploit.

But defense alone won't propel the Minutemen to an Olympic Conference title.

"We all have to come together as one between defense, offense, and special teams. On defense we want to be physical and have 11 hats flying to the football. 11 equals one [team]," Kelly said.

On the offensive side of the ball, the spread offense enables the Minutemen to have more of a passing attack. Starting quarterback Nick Valori '11 will be the catalyst to their offense. In his second season, Valori will be looking to make great strides toward a big junior campaign.

"I've been studying the offense

since January," said Valori. "We have a lot of good wide receivers and running backs that can have a big play at anytime."

Although the spread is more geared towards the passing game, the running game will also benefit backs Uriah Brickhouse '10 and Charlie Huff '11.

"We hope to get Uriah and Charlie out in the open field so they can make people miss and go for big gains. The more space they have, the more effective they'll be," Wechter said.

Brickhouse was the backup to Brandon Colavita '09 last year.

See **FOOTBALL** page 15

Patterson to close coaching career

Chris Bucci '10

Mr. Tom Patterson has been the Washington Township Boy's Soccer coach since 1971. He has been the face of boy's soccer in this town for the past 38 years. This season will be his last as Washington Township's head coach.

"I obviously liked the kids and the game to coach it this long. We always had the game in common and had fun with it," said Patterson.

When Patterson first started here, Washington Township was just a Group II school. The only way he could recruit players was from his gym class. It wasn't until the mid 1980's when Twp. started developing a youth soccer program. This led to more years of experience for players entering high school.

His first big accomplishment was winning

the conference for the school's first time in 1979. He would later go on to win three Olympic Conference titles in 1983, 1994, and 2007.

His top moment of coaching didn't occur until just a few years ago in 2007 when the Twp. took the South Jersey title.

"It was the first time in school history that we ever won. That was one of my top moments as a coach," said Patterson.

Through the years Patterson has coached a lot of outstanding players. So many, that he felt it wouldn't do the other kids justice if he were only to name just a few of his top players.

"We have had numerous players go on to have successful college careers," said Patterson. Patterson has given so much time and effort through his tenure, however coaching has also given something back to him

"I really just liked teaching the game and teaching the kids to be good teammates. It gave me a sense of accomplishment, but the most joy I got out of coaching was the feeling of beating someone you weren't suppose to," said Patterson.

In regards to this being his final season, the long time Twp. coach doesn't want to build it up into a big story.

"I didn't want to build this season up for myself. I just wanted to enjoy it. I have to admit I've been thinking about it a lot," said Patterson.

For Patterson's final season, the Minutemen are trying to improve from their .500 mark from a season ago.

The team has been competing in Olympic Conference play and hope they can give Patterson one last memorable season.