

# The Patriot

Vol. XVI, Issue 1

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

October, 2010

## Pay to Play makes mark

Ally Gallo '11

It's September again! School is back in session which means a lot of talk in the halls. However this year there have been some new controversial discussions aside from the hottest new cell phone or latest Facebook drama. "Pay to Play" is making its mark on Washington Township High School.

Beginning in this 2010-2011 school year, regardless of the number of seasons the athlete is involved in, any student athlete who wishes to participate on the high school's sports team must pay a fee of \$150.

This decision has not been very popular.

"Especially during these hard economic times I feel bad asking my parents to pay so much money for something that was free all my life," said Nikki Sandelier '12.

The WTHS Board of Education approved this policy in response to the recent cuts in state education funding.

The importance of the athletic teams in our high school is understood. According to Athletic Director Kevin Murphy, the Board of Ed made this decision to offset the costs of everything it takes to run an athletic team such as coaching salaries, equipment, transportation and supply costs, facility rental and referee fees, facility maintenance fees and insurance costs.

"The Athletic Fee program is off to a good start due to the efforts of our high school bookkeeper, Mrs. Deborah Cloud and our athletic secretary, Mrs. Joan Durkin," Murphy said, "their efforts have been outstanding. It is unfortunate to report that our participation



AMY DENNIS '10/The Patriot

**Jess Powell practices** on the uneven bars. This year WTHS athletes have to pay a fee to participate in their chosen sports.

numbers are down this fall, possibly a result of the new fee. We will wait and see what our Winter and Spring sport participation levels are at before evaluating the effect of the fee.

Murphy explained that this fee has been extremely beneficial to our freshman at WTHS. He said that without this decision, freshman sports teams would not have been able to survive the cuts.

"Being on a freshman team is the basis to being on a team the rest of your high school career. It has definitely helped me and I think it was a great idea to try and get them back" varsity tennis

player Nick DeVito '11 said.

Any student who quits or is dismissed from a team will not be eligible for a refund. Those who receive reduced or free lunch are eligible for a reduced fee of \$50 or can play for free.

"For me, this is kind of a rip off considering I get hurt almost every season and I won't be able to get my money back" Zoey Miller '11 said.

This decision may not be popular throughout all of the school, but even many athletes felt the time has come for this to be done in order to save our sports!

## Better late than never

### New attendance policy cuts back on disciplinary action

Christina Cockerill '10

Attendance in Washington Township has been a primary concern for many administrators and teachers. Students who don't attend class can't learn and in the past, they were also punished for lack of attendance. This year, though, the attendance policy has been changed.

In the past, ten units of lateness or early dismissal was a grace period

before a student received detentions. After those ten units, they would then receive disciplinary action, starting with detention and increasing to Saturday school and internal suspension.

This was deemed ineffective, as students who knew they were at risk of being punished for lateness would simply choose not to attend school that day. The new policy, which encourages attendance

regardless of when a student arrives, should be more effective.

According to assistant principle, Edward Fields, this policy is not entirely new. It was in effect one year prior to 2010, back in the late 1990s. Fields felt that the effect on the upperclassmen was positive; there was a higher attendance rate with less disciplinary action.

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# Tailgating kicks off senior year

Ally Gallo '11

The members of Washington Township High School Senior Class Council want to ensure this year will be an amazing one for the senior class of 2011. The 13 officers will host and be involved in many activities throughout the year.

To kick off the football season, Senior Class Council executive board member, Tara McCullough '11, with help from class and student councils will be hosting a "Senior Tailgating" before every football game in the 11/12 parking lot in front of the old tennis courts.

Tailgating will begin two hours before every game, home or away. Every senior is invited, and although class council will supply the food and drinks, it is encouraged that participants bring something to share. There will also be music and games.

The Minutemen started out their season with a game against Winslow on Saturday, September 11. The first tailgate went off as

scheduled despite the first game of the season being away and in the morning.

"Putting all that into consideration, I was very happy with the outcome. It was stressful at first but everyone came together and we all had a fun time. I can't wait to see how the rest of the games go!" McCullough said.

She was very pleased with the first home game on September 16. Over 50 members of the senior class showed up to tailgate in the

pouring rain to support their football team. The thunder and lightning temporarily shut things down and everyone waited in their cars until they could get back to the party.

This weather didn't stop anyone from having fun.

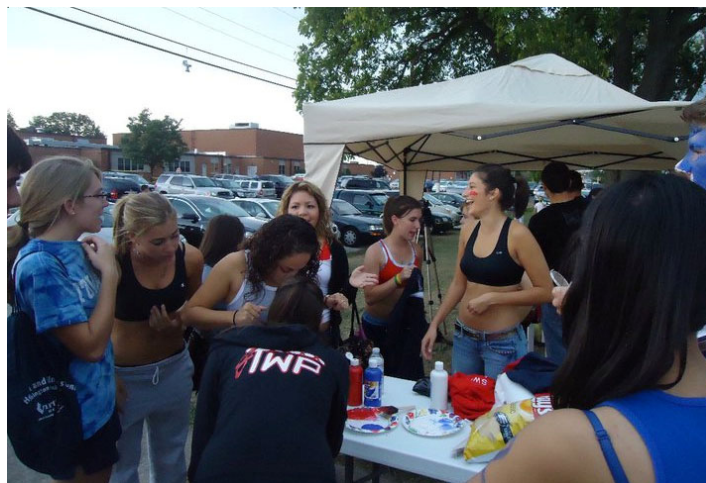
"We're just living it up right now," said Cara LaMaina '11, "we don't even care about the rain anymore!"

The event was a great show of school spirit, and an awesome way to start out the school year.

"I had so much! I felt like our

**"I felt like our class really came together as a family,"**

**- Rachel Whitten '11**



PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME ???/The Patriot

**Members of the class of 2011 enjoy themselves at the first senior tailgate.** Many turned out to enjoy some refreshments, music and socializing prior to cheering on the Minutemen.

class really came together as a family. It didn't even matter if we were friends outside of school or not. It was awesome!" Rachel Whitten '11 said.

It is very important to every member of Class Council to make

sure the senior class of 2011 has the very best year they possibly can. The tailgate parties are one way in just the first few weeks of school that the class was really able to get involved and become united, "together with pride!"

For more detailed information about tailgating for each game and the rest of the events class council hosts throughout the year, you can join the Facebook group "2010-2011 Senior Class Council."

## Courtesy busses cut for many students

Alexis Donia '11

With the state of New Jersey making large cuts to education funding for local districts, the Washington Township board of Education decided to cut out courtesy bus transportation.

The law does not require local districts to provide high school students with a bus if their house is within 2.5 miles of the school, no matter how hazardous the walk may be. This also includes days with miserable weather conditions such as rain, low temperatures, or even snow.

However, Washington Twp. traditionally supplied transportation for students who did not have a safe path with sidewalks along the way.

Even with a safe walking route, two miles can seem like quite a long distance that may be

time consuming when traveling on foot.

Christine Ferrara, a mother of two middle school children, was informed of the news by a letter in the mail that explained about the courtesy bus cuts that had been put into action. Although the district budget had passed, cuts to programs and service still needed to be enforced.

As a mother, Ferrara had feared the thought of her young children traveling to school unattended and possibly exposed to danger around them.

"I believe that the new policy made matters worse for the township, especially when I had found out that there was a targeted sex offender living by their route to school," Ferrara said.

Since she doesn't drive, she has no other choice but to let the kids walk the drawn out

distance.

Bus driver Marguete Taneski has expressed a different opinion on the situation.

"I don't believe that the new policy is a problem," she said, "I grew up in the city where I had to catch a SEPTA bus for long distances. If not, I walked."

She supports the new policy and doesn't believe that it is an issue that should leave to controversy. However, Marguete pointed out that she has not personally been affected by the arrangement. Her bus run has not changed much and she still gets to see the same children that she had driven to school from years in the past.

According to the Washington Township channel, the district is now saving approximately \$140,000 with the courtesy bus cuts.

# Cuts cause shifts in music staff

Kelsey Wainwright '11

After last year's cuts in state education funding, the cuts brought drastic changes to not only the district, but the entire state of New Jersey. Many things have been changed without most people noticing. A huge difference at WTHS has been the changes within the music department. Many of the teachers have been switched throughout the entire district, and others have left completely.

"It was difficult for the district to maintain all the staff with the dropping rates in enrollment," said , Performing Arts Department Chair, Mr. Bob Frampton.

Frampton said that cuts were made to the entire music department throughout the district. Third grade strings and fourth grade band were cut from the elementary schools. The three middle schools now have one full time teacher and a second part time teacher, and all individual music lessons have been cut. In the high school, jobs have been switched around according to seniority in the district.

One of the biggest changes at the high school has taken place in the band program with the return of Mr. Jim Beyer, who formally worked as the director of the school's Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Last year Beyer accepted an assistant principal position at Chestnut Ridge Middle School . Due to the cuts, he has made his

return back to the high school after a year of being on the administrative team.

"It's nice to be back with people I've known for a long time. I like being back (at the high school) doing what I love," Beyer said, "but I felt like I was making a difference there."

Upon his return to the high school, Beyer returned to his old job of leading the school's band program.

Not only did the changes happen within the performance aspect of the music spectrum, but also in music-related classrooms. Taking over Music Theory and Music Technology is Mr. Frank Appello, who previously worked at Bells, Wedgwood, and Thomas Jefferson as the fourth and fifth grade band teacher.

"I like working here, but every day it makes me feel older to see all my old students," Appello had to say about seeing familiar faces in the hallways or in his own classroom.

The transition from standing in front of a band to standing in a classroom has definitely



KELSEYWAINWRIGHT '11/The Patriot

**Mr. Beyer conducts** the Wind Ensemble. Staff cuts caused Beyer to return to the high school after a year as an assistant principal at Chestnut Ridge Middle School.

been a new experience for Appello as well.

"I have to try and translate everything; how can I make it similar to feel comfortable enough? I have to find a way to make it the same even though none of my students have an instrument," he said, "Giving people confidence is my job."

Though the cuts may not drastically effect any student passing through the high school currently, the possibility exists that the elementary school cuts will eventually catch up to the high school level in years to come.

Frampton said, "The interest level currently is the driving point for the future."

# Summer reading changes draw mixed reviews

Amy Dennis '12

Summer reading has always been, in previous years, a one-and-done thing. Students would select a book from a teacher-made list to read over their summer vacation (for most procrastinators this usually falls around the night before the first day of school.) Then, during the first days of the new school year, students were tested on this book and life goes on.

However, this year, the English department decided to switch things up. Instead of the quick test situation students were used to, they decided to make it a unit study of the required novel. A follow-up test was given after the discussion.

Students' reactions have been a mixed bag of disagreement, satisfaction or passiveness.

Why the switch? Ms. Melissa Leskie, who teaches eleventh grade

**"We really wanted to hit the ground running this year, and have a novel ready to go during the first days of school."**

**- Ms. Melissa Leskie  
English teacher**

English, said "Parents were concerned about the difficulty level of the tests. Some teachers made them easier than others and this wasn't fair for the students,"

But the parents weren't the only ones complaining; students also felt the abrupt testing was unfair because there was no in-class discussion. To have to come into school and have a test thrown at

them before they had even bought school supplies could be a little discomfoting for many students.

Lastly, the English department decided to give this a try because it gave them a prepared lesson that they could work with right off of summer vacation.

"We really wanted to hit the ground running this year, and have a novel ready to go during the first days of school." Leskie continued, "I think this allows for more fair ground and success overall,"

As this is the first time WTHS has tried this, it's hard to predict the outcome.

"There are still some challenges. This is a lot more than we've done before, and it will be a learning experience for all of us," said Leskie.

Most students view summer reading as an annoyance that tends to interrupt the completely school-free aspect of summer vacation.

"I didn't like that we didn't have a choice this year," said Danielle Davis '12 "I definitely like the old way better because it was a better selection of books and it wasn't such a big deal,"

There are those who prefer this new way. Sherry Mastroddi, '11 says "I like doing a whole unit on it, because for the students who did poorly on the test, maybe they can raise their grade with the other assignments given to them."

There are some students who are mostly passive.

"I think as long as you read the book and don't use Spark Notes or anything like that, you'll do okay." said Matt Andreas '14, who is just getting used to the new ways of high school. "For me, the test and book were both really easy."

The English department hopes this new approach will work better overall, for students and teachers alike.

# Commentary

## Driving Law Puts Teens at Risk

Jenn Gordun '12

Driving is an essential right of passage for New Jersey teens. The seniors are already zipping to and from school with their friends; the juniors are anxiously awaiting their birthdays in order to take their drivers test; the sophomores are getting their permits and learning the rules of the road; and the freshman are eagerly awaiting their turn to get a shot at the steering wheel. For young drivers that privilege is becoming more restricted.

In May of 2010, a new law was created for young drivers. Nicknamed "Kyleigh's Law", it requires that drivers with learner's permits, examination permits and personal driver's licenses be required to have a special decal on both the front and back license plates.

I believe that this law should be eliminated. These decals may even be more detrimental to a teen than beneficial. It is understandable that the law only wants to make the roads secure and protected for all drivers. With the way young drivers are piling underage friends into their cars, this may create a distraction for the driver of the vehicle. The red decal makes police officers aware of who can and who cannot have more than one person in the car, thus ensuring more focused drivers and less accidents. In the end, I believe these decals will be the demise of safe teen driving.

As soon as another driver notices a car with a red decal on the license plate, they will immediately know that it is a young, inexperienced driver, who is alone. Does any parent really feel safe with that knowledge? A new, untested driver makes for an easy target, and forcing every young teen to put that decal on their car is almost like making them stand out and attract trouble. Would *you* feel safe letting your child drive around with that decal on their car? Would *you* want complete strangers knowing that you're inexperienced and alone on the road?

So what is going to happen? Are we just going to sit around and wait for one of these decals to bring trouble for one unlucky teenager in New Jersey, or perhaps even a classmate or friend of ours?

The New Jersey legislature may believe it is a good idea, but they need to consider the implications and repeal of this law.

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## Long-distance travellers need break

Leanne Abrams '11

When I hear someone mention or talk about Washington Township High School, the first thing that comes to mind is how large our school is. The inside of the school is just as big as it seems on the outside. During a regular day here at township the building is filled.

During a normal day here at WTHS the students are given five minutes in between classes to go to lockers, see friends, see any teacher needed etc. The students traveling wing to wing are given an extra two minutes.

To some people those seven minutes given to travelers may seem like plenty of time, this assumption is usually held by teachers, parents, and even other students who have always stayed in one building.

Freshmen are new to the school and those extra two minutes may seem like thirty seconds when they are lost. I know from personal experience, when I was a freshman and I had to travel I always felt like I didn't have enough time.

From experience I know that walking as fast as your legs can go, sometimes it's just impossible to be in your classroom before that bell rings. Depending on what teacher you have, some teachers more understanding than others, but then again there are those teachers who stick to the letter of lateness policy and will write you up.

I think that all teachers should try to understand that it's really hard for students to get to class on time. With the crowds of people just standing in the hall way and the mounds of students walking in the stairways, sometimes we just need an extra minute.

I understand that some students might take advantage when teachers are lenient and allow students to walk in after the bell, but teachers also should take into consideration that not all students are the same.

So before teachers decide to write a student up for being thirty seconds to a minute late, they should think about how large our school is, how many people are in the halls during the switch of classes. If they take the time to put themselves in the students' shoes they would realize how tough it is to make it on time to class every day.

### The Patriot

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# Hard to swallow

## Student soured by lunch options, pricing

Alexis Donia '11

This year, the price of school lunch has been raised to four dollars. However, it seems that some service has been downgraded.

In past years, students were provided custom made sandwiches from which they could choose what type of meat and cheese that they would like on their hoagie.

This year, on the cold side of the lunch line, the selection is already prepared, plastic wrapped, and placed out on a tray for students to come by and select.

This change results in very limited choices of sandwiches, especially for those who have a lunch period that is scheduled later in the day when many sandwiches are out of stock.

Also, the food service still offers limited options for students who are vegetarians. Everyday I see a small selection of Italian, turkey and roast beef hoagies, but little to satisfy those who do not eat meat.

Statistics state that teenagers are the unhealthiest eaters in the world. However, how are we expected to obtain a proper diet if our only option is to resort to buying foods that

may be less nutritious than a full lunch?

If students are displeased with the small variety of the school lunch, they are going to rely on the less nutritional foods in our cafeteria such as chips, cookies, bagels, and soft pretzels.

From my own perspective, I have experienced how hungry a person may be when they arrive to a seventh period lunch. Some days, there is no longer even a selection. At times there appears to be no more than four of the same type of sandwiches that were the less popular choices from earlier lunches.

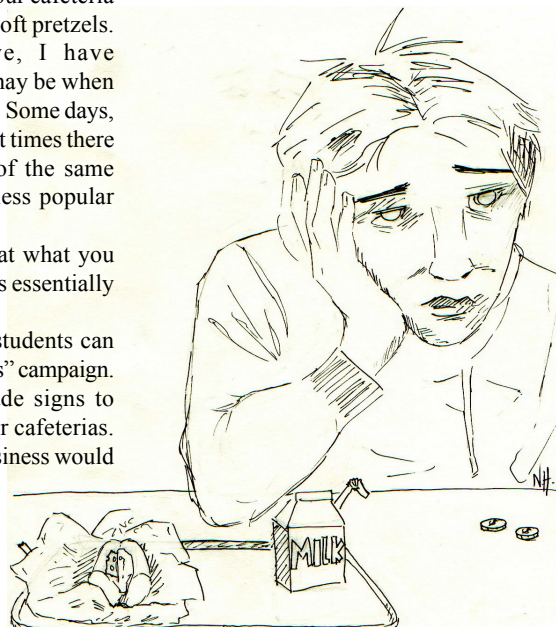
It's disappointing to notice that what you are being served at that time of day is essentially leftovers.

Many Washington Township students can recall last year's "save the lunch ladies" campaign. Many students wore pins and made signs to support keeping these women in our cafeterias.

We were told that a catering business would be supplying us with lunch if they were to lose their jobs. But this year they are being told to prep our food in advance instead of making it to order.

The workers can't be blamed

for this but the cost cutting measures they are forced to implement have created a bad reputation for school lunch.



NATASHA HESKETH '11/The Patriot

# Start time ignores teen biology

Rebecca Serad '11

When one walks into school five days a week before 7:20 in the morning, they can see the grogginess of the students aimlessly wandering the halls before homeroom.

Almost every person has the dark circles under their eyes that indicate the lack of sleep that they are getting every night. These observations alone raise the question of why the school day begins the earliest for teenagers.

Before one can ask why the school day begins so early, they must ask why there is trouble waking up to begin with. The combined stresses of school, work and preparing for college are easily a large portion of why the dark circles exist.

Guidance counselors will agree that they want their students to push themselves to succeed. Many times, this places students in honors or advanced placement classes that

require allowing more time to complete the work.

Often, the students will stay up until the wee hours of the morning to get the work done as best they can, despite the protests of their parents. In these students' eyes, failure is not an option. Colleges look for students that push themselves and succeed.

The fight to get the work done in the time allotted has an obstacle to overcome in the fact that many students in this age group have jobs that can be demanding during the school week.

Long shifts and arduous tasks can take a toll on how much energy one has to begin with. Many times, the last thing that one wants to do after a bad day at work is wake up early the next morning to continue the cycle of sleep deprivation.

Statistics have shown that teenagers need the most sleep of any age group. The average amount of

sleep that they get should be approximately eight to nine and a half hours per night. The basis behind that fact is that teenagers need more sleep for their bodies to progress through puberty correctly.

With all of these factors that have a serious effect on the number of hours of sleep that students get, one must consider why high school students have to start school the earliest.

It would seem to be the most reasonable to have the youngest students, whether they be in preschool or kindergarten, start school at an earlier time. Not only do they get to bed earlier, but they also wake up early every day with little to no problems.

However, school systems everywhere insist that high school students need to learn to wake up earlier than their body tells them to in order to prepare them for their futures as adults.

Have an  
opinion  
you'd like  
to share?

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

## Features

# Blast from the past

Alexandra Propati '13

While society is fascinated by technology, the Renaissance Faire stays firmly in the past where you can experience “Ye Olden Days”.

This year will be the thirtieth anniversary for the Renaissance Faire held at Mount Hope Estate & Winery in Pennsylvania. From August 14 through October 31, the Renaissance Fair will take place every weekend.

The Renaissance Fair revolves around the year 1589; there, a cast of people reenact the celebrations of the Spanish Armada being defeated by the English Navy. Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh must vie for the title of “Queen’s Favorite.” At the end of every Fair day, Queen Elizabeth holds a showing of the two men jousting and whoever wins shall get her affection.

There is more than just jousting, there are hilarious trials where people are accused of wrongdoings and whoever is found guilty gets dunked in a well. Then there are the mud shows where a story of a love triangle is told with

a little mud show on the side.

No matter how fun those are, you just can’t miss out on the giant chess games where the pieces are gigantic, the dances where everyone can join in, and comedy singers that will leave you laughing with tears in your eyes. While walking around, you will most likely find a guy on stilts, a Honey shop with samplers and bees buzzing around, acrobatic shows, and demonstrations for glassworks and archery.

Walking around can sure get you hungry, but don’t fear, because there is plenty of food to choose from such as Fudge Dipped Apples, huge Turkey Wings, Fish & Chips, Chicken Pot Pie, Spaghetti Pizza, and lots of other delicious foods. However that may make you thirsty, so go to Her Majesty’s Cup where you can get sodas, apple cider, and water if that’s what you want! If all of that sounds good, then you definitely don’t want to miss out on the chocolate fountain!

Every weekend there is a different theme ranging from “Chivalry and Romance”, to “Pyrate Invasion”, or “Halloween Daze and Spooky Knights”. You



**Interesting personalities in period costumes** can be found in abundance at the Renaissance Faire. The annual event offers a fun autumn entertainment.

can see people dressed up in period garb, and if you want you can get your own. There are shops there such as Fiona’s Fineries where you can get dresses for the girls and leggings and tunics for the guys. It’s a perfect place to find your Halloween costume.

It’s a great place to go on a boring weekend, and Mount Hope doesn’t just host the Renaissance

Faire, there’s something going on there every month. They range from plays such as, “Dickens of a Christmas,” to “Flavor Fests”. For more information you can go to their website at [www.parenfaire.com](http://www.parenfaire.com). If you go to the website you can get a discount for your Day Pass and directions. Adult admission is \$29.95 at the gate and \$24.95 online. A child is just \$9.95.

## Sub headed for Haiti

Jenn Gordun '12

On January 12, 2010 the world was appalled to see the island nation of Haiti smashed and destroyed into roads of rubble. In only eight short months, much has been going on to assist the country in need.

One of those many helpers is Kevin Kahler, an active member to the Calvary Chapel Church and a frequent substitute teacher for WTHS.

Kahler is one of twenty people from his church traveling to Haiti to help with demolition and construction of buildings and motivating and uplifting the spirits of the children who live there. Though the endeavor may be long, arduous, and even very dangerous, Kahler believes that it will all be worth it in the end.

“They need to know that God loves them, and in the midst of disaster he’s there,” Said Kahler, who leaves for Haiti in October.

While the trip may seem rewarding and even exciting and fun in some aspects, there is danger

that comes with traveling to a devastated country.

Before the trip, Kahler needs to spend 350 dollars for vaccinations to ensure his protection from the viruses and diseases present in the country. Malaria, Hepatitis A, and Dengue Fever are all serious viruses that can be life-threatening if not treated the correct way.

Kahler must also be careful of the water and food in Haiti. He and the rest of his church group may not drink any of the water in the country, and may not eat any of the fresh fruit there for fear of contracting diseases. When showering, they must make sure not to let any of the water get into their mouths, or they could end up sick.

The trip may have its disadvantages, but Kahler believes that the good outweighs the bad. He believes that being in the country, and helping the people of Haiti with construction and medical assistance will be one of the greatest rewards he has ever gotten in his life.

One of the most difficult parts of the trip –

Kahler believes, is the language barrier he will encounter with Haitians.

The native language of the people of Haiti is French Creole, and Kahler hopes to pick some of the language up while he is there for the week. Many of the members in his church group speak some French, so he believes that he and the Haitians will have some basic form of communication.

“It’s really hard to connect with people when you don’t speak the same language,” Kahler says. “But my goal is to assist them with anything that they need, and when you love somebody and help somebody, they know it.”

Kahler expects the trip to be rewarding, satisfying, and –hopefully Malaria free. He and his church group will stay in a building that was previously used as a resort, equipped with five rooms filled with bunk beds, and luckily –plenty of running water. They will stay there for about a week before they are flown back home, and another group flies out to take their place.

# Seniors ready for 2011

## Reflecting the past, present and future

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

For underclassmen, senior year seems so far away. However, for those graduating in 2011 their time has finally come to dominate the school. These graduating students have had many experiences in their past to make this senior year extremely meaningful and have much to look forward to in their remaining time at WTHS.

Laura Weyand said that her most rewarding experience from her time spent here was getting into *Monthly Rewind*, the school's monthly television show featuring the events that take place at our school.

"I want to go to college for communications," Added Weyand, "so this will look really good for college and it was awesome how I got to skip Advanced Telecommunications and go right into *Monthly Rewind*."

Others have fond memories not focused around goals and achievements, but around fun activities in which they have participated in their past three years.

"I have so many favorite activities and memories but I'd have to say Monzo Madness was the best. I had so much fun with all my friends and I danced the entire night," Exclaimed Taylor Heil, another senior who fondly remembers all her times in WTHS.



Photo courtesy of STACY ELEAZAR

**This year's senior class** shows their spirit at Township's first home game. It seems this year's seniors are making spirit a priority.

"Senior Directed Cabaret is without a doubt my favorite event. I met people who changed my life forever. If I could go back in time I'd do it a billion times over," Shawn Koons explained as he remembered all the special moments he experienced during Senior Directed.

There have been some embarrassing moments along the way as well. Koons recalled a rather nasty trip in the hallway during his freshmen year that still makes him laugh to this day. "I was walking down the hallway, I tripped and trust me, it was no regular trip. All my books went flying, I ripped my pants and I had a bloody nose."

However embarrassing past events may

seem, these seniors still anticipate this upcoming year.

"I'm looking forward to the prom, senior trip and project graduation." Said Caitlin Montgomery, listing all the fun events that senior year has to offer. Others are looking optimistically at their senior year as a way to improve some negative elements from previous years.

Emily Bierman stated, "I'm hoping that this year will be drama free unlike other years." Ally Gallo sees senior year in a different light as well, "I get to do everything with my friends and I'm a lot more independent because I have my license now."

Along with all the privileges and changes this momentous year brings, there are also career and future plans to consider for many of the students. Most are excited by the prospect of college and their plans to excel in their coming years. Shane Sibert, one of the many students trying to decide their major is thinking about choosing either film or computer science. For Heil, the decision between international relations and languages is going to be a tough one. Although this is one of the most important decisions she has faced in high school, she is trying to keep a positive attitude. Heil stated,

"For the most part I'm going wherever the wind takes me."

## Lateness policy revised

**ATTENDANCE** from page 1

However, for the underclassmen, it was deemed unfair. For an upperclassmen to earn credits, they could miss a maximum of thirty-six days. However, once an underclassmen reached 21, no credit was received and they would have to repeat the year. This sent a lot of freshmen and sophomores back a year and the policy was returned to students receiving disciplinary punishment, rather than counting towards their absence totals.

However, before reinstating the policy this year, it has been altered so that all grade levels are treated equally. The lower grades absences accumulated through lateness will not affect their credit status until past thirty six.

"Late to school and early dismissal are attendance, not discipline," Fields, stated. He is a strong supporter of the new policy.

From the student perspective, many don't agree that being late to homeroom eleven times should count as missing an entire day of school.

Gus Totolos '12, pointed out, "Even if I was five minutes late, every day for two weeks, that doesn't add up to an entire day of school. Why should I be penalized for classes I did attend?"

## Join *The Patriot*

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The first meeting will be held

October 19.

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for time and location.

# Tough economy complicates job search

Emily Bierman '11

After countless weeks of filling out applications and searching for a job, Lindsay Davis '11 was finally successful. After the bowling alley called her back, she didn't have to worry about what most other teenagers are worrying about now.

A popular topic of conversation in the hallways is how difficult it is for students to find jobs. At sixteen, students usually start trying to look for a place of employment.

Students have started to realize how difficult it is to find a place that is hiring. Because of job shortages, less people are hiring and more people are looking for jobs. Many places hire adults over high school students because of their schedules, experience and availability. Department stores only hire eighteen and up, and most businesses require their employees to be at least sixteen or seventeen.

"It's so difficult to find a job because most employers want people who are eighteen or

people with experience. But nobody is willing to hire us and give us our first job so we can get that experience," said Valentina Del Signore '11.

Those students who are unable to drive are forced to attempt to find a job close to where they live or flexible enough so their parents or a friend can drive them. Another problem that makes finding jobs difficult for students is their school life.

Many students have school work, school activities, sports, volunteer hours, and outside of school activities. Finding a job is difficult enough, but finding a job that will be able to fit into their busy schedules is near impossible.

"When I first started my job, it was difficult to adjust to having to balance school, softball, afterschool clubs, church, and work. But now that I've gotten used to it, I find it easier and I even have spare time to hang out with my friends," said Davis.

Although students are anywhere from sixteen to eighteen, they still need money. As soon as they are able to drive, they have to pay

for car insurance and gas money. There are many school related activities that require students to pay, such as prom, homecoming, and sporting events. Students also have to pay for clothes, food, and entertainment items, like CDs, books and DVDs. Another thing they need money for is when they hang out with their friends. Being a student can become expensive.

Some students who are looking for employment have no idea where to even look. Many start by seeing if their favorite places to hang out are hiring. Many popular places that are applied to are places students like to buy things from, like, ACME, Walmart, Kohls, and Wawa. A lot of students also try places like the bowling alley, restaurants, the ice rink, and fast food places.

Even though it is difficult to find jobs, students still try. Many have applied to numerous places that end up not hiring them. Students should try getting jobs at places they wouldn't normally consider, like the pet store, rather than look for a job at their favorite place to shop.

## Veteran players key

FOOTBALL from page 12

to fire up the rest of the team."

Suring up the rest of the defense are seniors DeFranco and Nick Caldwell, who are solid on the defensive line, and junior Jordan Parra. Parra, in addition to playing multiple offensive positions, also helps out with the linebacking duties and is a capable safety. With the athletic ability of his defense, Wechter is looking to gradually switch from a "play-it-safe mode" in which most defenses were basic zones and base defenses to a more aggressive, blitzing style.

Perhaps an even more exciting facet of the Minutemen football team however, is the spread offense which Wechter introduced last year. McInnis, the team's number one wideout said of the spread "I am more comfortable with it. Everything always takes time getting used to and perfecting. I feel we are doing great with it."

Running back Huff echoed McInnis's thoughts by stating "I feel the spread offense is going to be more effective now that were in our second year."

No spread offense is complete without the quarterback however, and Nick Valori, entering his third

year as a starter looks to have a stellar season, and has many weapons both down the field and out of the backfield to utilize.

"Valori is going to be pulling the trigger," said Wechter. "I told these guys we're gonna take chances."

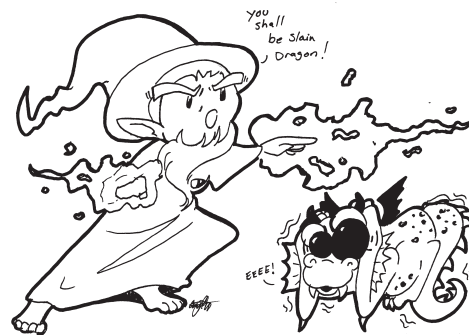
Valori, one of the many keys to a successful season, thinks that he has adapted to the spread offense and his role as a quarterback and leader of the team.

"I feel a lot more comfortable now that it's our second year [with the spread offense] but there's still a lot to work on so we can get better every week," said Valori. "I look to lead the team in every way possible and just do my job to win each game one at a time."

Ultimately, previous Washington Township football teams have set the bar high for the 2010 squad, but it doesn't bother the team, as they look to have fun and have a successful season.

"I've enjoyed this [senior] class more than any other I've had as a head or assistant coach." Wechter said, "We can razz each other in a positive way, and they just like to have fun. You can really see the bond and unselfishness from them playing for so long together."

## Join the Game Club!



Engage in fantastic duels.

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Starting October 14

The game club meets every Thursday  
at 2:20 in cafeteria B

Check out our e-board on the district web site.



# Books

## Spooky nights, turn on the lights, and read

### *Mortal Instruments* by Cassandra Clare

Alexandra Propati '13

When looking for a good book to read I usually go on *Amazon.com* and type in a book I've read, then it shows me other books similar to it. That's what happened when I found *The Mortal Instruments* Series, written by Cassandra Clare.

I was looking for a new book to read and one book led to another, and up popped *City of Bones*, the first book to the series.

I read the review and a couple days later I got it from the library, but now I wish instead of going to the library that I bought it. This series is so good that you'll want to just reread it whenever you think about it.

The series protagonist is a 15 year old girl named Clary Fray. Clary is a normal girl that is until she meets Jace. As soon as they meet Clary's world is turned upside down and she is thrust into a supernatural world where demons



exist, and shadow hunters, well, hunt them.

Clary is taken on the journey of her life and she brings along her best friend, Simon, as she searches for her missing mother, goes to parties thrown by an unusual wizard, even for the supernatural standards, kicks some serious vampire butts, and finds out what may be considered many secrets of the century.

The series has stopped at just three so far with the sequel called *City of Ashes* and the third one called *City of Glass*. The fourth one will come out April 5, 2011 and is called *City of Fallen Angels*. After that two more will come out. *City of Ashes* and *City of Glass* follows Clary, Simon, and Jace as they search for the truth.

The first book of the prequel series, called *The Infernal Devices*, has just recently come out and it is called *The Clockwork Angel*. *Infernal Devices* takes place in 1878, England with a girl named Tessa as the protagonist in this set. In order to read this series, you do not have to read *The Mortal Instruments*.

Not only that, but *The Mortal Instruments* series is currently being developed as a film project.

There are some books that thrill you, some that make you cry, some will leave you smiling, and some will just make you plain bored. This book will make you all of the above except for bored, and it will leave you with one more thing, the desire for more.

### *Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead

Alexandra Propati '13

These words could possibly count as blasphemy to the *Twilight* fans, but they must be said. There is a vampire series that is even better than *Twilight*.

That series is *Vampire Academy* is written by Richelle Mead.

The first book in the series is called *Vampire Academy*. It starts off with Rose Hathaway, the protagonist, and her best friend Lissa Dragomir on the run. They are soon captured and brought back to the place they were running from: St. Vladimir's Vampire Academy.

Rose and Lissa will have to face difficult obstacles when they arrive back home to their boarding school. They will be asked many times why they ran away, but they will never tell. They will have to go back to their old lives, and be on the constant watch for danger because they can

trust no one.

It does help that they have an unnatural bond that only they can share. Rose can read Lissa's mind, however, it doesn't help them any bit more when she has to watch her best friend making out with her boyfriend.

The one person Rose feels she can trust is her instructor, Dimitri, who's considered a "God" among all the vampires. Dimitri will have to teach Rose everything that she has missed in the past year since she's been on the run. Things will be heating up with them, even after practicing their martial arts together.

Pick the book up at the library to find out why they're on the run, and then get the other five books that follow their story of the fantasy that you love filled with, love, hate, action, adventure, mystery, fantasy, and much more.

Fans of *Twilight* will be able to sink their teeth into a new type of vampire series.

### *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Alexandra Propati '13

"Oh, well, I think. There will be twenty-four of us. Odds are someone else will kill him before I do. Of course the odds have not been very dependable of late." These are Katniss Everdeen's thoughts, as she enters the Hunger Games.

How often do you find a book that you want to read a second time, or just can't put down? Well that book came out on September 14, 2008. That day, Suzanne Collins released her book *The Hunger Games*, the first one of a Trilogy (set of three).

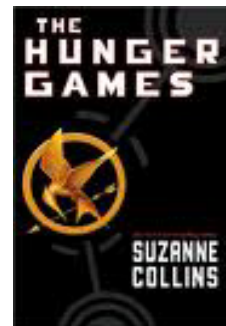
*The Hunger Games* stars Katniss Everdeen as the protagonist of this action/adventure/fantasy series. Volunteering to join the Hunger Games, a game in which once a player reaches "Game Over," they can't restart. Katniss knows that she will most likely die, and yet she volunteers for this.

The Hunger Games takes place every year, in the future, on Earth, and is set up by the Capitol. The Capitol rules over 12 districts, or towns, and forces them to do laboring jobs. Not only that, but the Capitol forces these 12 districts to take place in the Hunger Games.

A boy and girl are needed from each district, combining in a total of 24 people that have to kill each other to survive. While this is happening; the districts are forced to watch their friends and family taking place in it. The Capitol on the other hand is not being forced to watch it, but is enjoying watching the live mayhem.

Katniss is joined by Peeta, the boy from her district and together as allies or apart as enemies they have to fight to survive, and in the end only one can live. Katniss will have to find the strength to keep on going, even when the odds are against her even living.

Once you're finished with *The Hunger Games* you can move onto its sequel *Catching Fire*, and then the third and last *Mockingjay*. They both follow Katniss on her quest to overcome the Hunger Games. All three books have been No. 1 on the New York Times best seller list.



## Arts & Entertainment

# DiCaprio thrills in sci-fi nightmare

Amy Dennis '12

The 2010 science fiction film, *Inception*, has gained much popularity among the American culture and population. *Rolling Stone* called it "Wildly ingenious," and *Relevant* magazine praised it as a "Visual, intellectual and emotional, masterpiece," *Inception* was an instant knockout at the box offices this summer.

The film was written and directed by Christopher Nolan who is also known for renowned films such as *Dark Knight* and *The Prestige*. One wouldn't hesitate to say this eccentric director used his signature techniques of psychological/cinematic trickery to the fullest with *Inception*.

Also, the film's star-studded cast featuring names such as Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Ellen Page, worked nicely to make it a remarkable movie.

In a futuristic world where dreams are realities, Dom Cobb (DiCaprio), and his assistant named



INCEPTIONMOVIE.WARNERBROS.COM

**Leonardo DiCaprio and Joseph Gordon-Levitt** play the heroes in this action-packed film about manipulating dreams.

Arthur, (Gordon-Levitt) are asked by powerful businessman Saito (Ken Watanabe), to perform the difficult and elusive task of Inception. The men are faced with a critical decision. The goal of Inception is to implant an idea in to someone else's mind by infiltrating and controlling their dreams.

As the team works toward

Inception, they begin to realize exactly how much they have to risk and how deep into the mind they must penetrate to actually be successful. They face near death situations, auspicious choices, and a fair share of unexpected conflict along the way.

Surprisingly, the concept for *Inception* was developed nine years

ago in 2001 and was intended to be a horror film. Director Nolan wrote and presented the idea to Warner Bros., but feeling he needed more experience with large-scale films the director decided to put production on hold.

Filming then commenced in 2009 and spanned six countries, beginning in Tokyo and finishing in Canada. Although you'd think that a science fiction movie would take advantage of all the chances to use special effects, Nolan believed in using it to a minimum.

He said in an interview, "It's always very important to me to do as much as possible in-camera, and then, if necessary, computer graphics are very useful to build on, or enhance what you have achieved physically." This managed to pay off, because some of the scenes were especially stunning.

As a movie, *Inception* can easily become hard to follow because it is so involved. But in the end it will definitely get you thinking, and perhaps it may even lead you to question reality itself.

## Other Guys pairs unlikely duo

Leanne Abrams '11

Over the summer of 2010 there were some high profile drama movies that were released such as *Inception*, *The Expendables*, *Salt*, and many more. One comedy movie that really caught my attention and had me laughing until my stomach hurt was *The Other Guys* starring Mark Walberg and Will Ferrell.

If you're a comedy fan like me, then you will enjoy this movie when it is released on DVD this winter.

This movie takes audiences on wild ride with Allen Gamble (Ferrell) and Terry Hoitz (Walberg) two New York City police officers who are put on desk duty.

Allen doesn't mind the work; in fact he enjoys it and feels it is safer at the desk than out on calls. Terry on the other hand, liked working on the street and was always first to be called. He was one of the well known police officers until he accidentally beat up a famous Baseball player thinking he was a wild fan. No one lets him live it down.

Terry's goal is to get back into the more dirty and exciting work. The only thing is that he is partnered up with Allen.

This story centers on Terry trying to convince Allen to be more rebellious and get out on the street with him, to prove to their captain Gene Mauch, (Michael Keaton) that they are ready for action.

The two men have to learn to get past their differences when they are put on an investigation that needs a lot of teamwork. With a lot of fighting, and disagreeing these two opposites learn the meaning of friendship.

This film may be labeled as a comedy, but for those action film seekers out there, there is also plenty of action shown throughout *The Other Guys*, from the wild car chases, to the house busts, even buildings blowing up.

Mark Walberg known for many serious movie roles, may shock you during this film, he shows a humorous and sarcastic side of himself that you wouldn't expect to come out of him. Will Ferrell on the other hand is his usual self; always having the movie theater audience



**Ferrell and Walberg** play two New York City cops looking for adventure after being demoted to desk duty.

laughing until tears.

If you happened to miss this movie over the summer, make sure to keep an open heart during the Winter.

## Television

# 90s stars return to TV

Emily Bierman '11

So many television shows today are filled with drama. It's a nice change to have a show looking for laughs instead of tears.

Melissa Joan Hart and Joey Lawrence supply just that as they reunite for their new comedy series, *Melissa & Joey*. The show premiered August 17, 2010 on ABC Family to over two million viewers.

Hart, best known for her role on *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, stars as Mel Burke, an ex-rebellious party girl who is now a council woman in Ohio. Mel takes in her teenaged niece and nephew after a scandal leaving their mother in jail and their father fleeing the country. Mel finds balancing her job and taking care of Lennox (Taylor Spreitler) and Ryder (Nick Robinson) difficult, and attempts to find a nanny to help take care of the kids and the house.

In comes Joe Longo (Lawrence) who is a recently divorced, ex-commodities trader, who is bankrupt and desperate for a job so he can move out of where he has been living: his car.

In the debut episode, after Joe angers Mel at a council meeting, he finds out she needs a nanny and begs her to give him the job. She eventually agrees when she realizes how desperate they both are.

Joe proves to be a good nanny when he gets along well with the kids. He also starts to become a friend to Mel.

*Melissa & Joey* is filled with laughs, and is being compared to '90s sitcoms. The show is far



ABC FAMILY

**Joey Lawrence returns to television, starring on a new ABC Family comedy series *Melissa & Joey*.**

from being dramatic like ABC Family's other new series, *Pretty Little Liars*. Instead, it is all lighthearted drama for now, like Lennox not wanting to go to her new school, and Joey wanting his big screen television in the family room.

Reoccurring problems include Lennox wanting to rebel against her aunt Mel, Mel and Joe bickering, and Mel trying to return to her old, "cool" self. Many viewers are wondering if Mel and Joey will end up getting together on the show any time soon.

Unfortunately, there are only ten episodes

ordered for the first season, but everyone is hoping ABC Family renews the comedy.

A downfall of the show is there is no real theme song to sing along to, unlike many television programs. The producers decided they would be able to fit more into the half hour time slot if they went without a theme song.

It's good seeing Melissa Joan Hart and Joey Lawrence back on the screen. Those missing shows like *Boy Meets World*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, and *Full House* should try to catch an episode on Tuesday nights at 8pm.

## Music

## Kaleidoscope worth examining

Rebecca Serad '11

For those of you who were worrying about a sophomore slump for the "Love Song" singer, you can breathe a sigh of relief.

*Kaleidoscope Heart* offers more of the same piano-driven pop songs that made Sara Bareilles' debut album so successful. She still pushes the listener to focus on not only her catchy piano hooks, but the messages that her songs try to convey as well.

Throughout the album, Bareilles sings of relationships that have gone south. The best example of this is the lead single, "King of Anything", where she claims that her ex-boyfriend has "got the talking down, but not the listening."



OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF SARA BAREILLES

**Singer/song-writer Sara Bareilles**, uses her songs to relate to bad relationships.

Other strong songs that also convey a similar message are the jazz-inspired "Gonna Get Over You" and "Say You're Sorry".

However, this album includes the introduction of more instruments than just her customary

piano, such as the seemingly overwhelming guitar.

In addition, quite a few of the songs include clapping or snapping in the background. This may not seem like a major problem, but it starts to shift her songs into the territory of indie artists like Ingrid Michaelson.

In that way, this album may seem like she is drifting from the very sound that earned her Grammy nominees in the past. In spite of this, she manages to put her own spin on the new sound, which shifts into an area that has less of a commercial appeal in comparison to her debut album.

It will be interesting to see how the public will receive the new type of musical accompaniment that the

new CD features.

All in all, Bareilles managed to produce a solid album that's worth buying in its entirety, even in the digital age where you can pick and choose individual songs.

**Future Teachers of America**

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# Sports

## Paving the Way

### Coach Wechter feels experience should play key role

Anthony Dentino '11

Washington Township High School's sports programs have rich and storied traditions both state and nationwide. A big contributor to the school's overall athletic prowess is the Minutemen football team.

This year, the Minutemen are led by Mr. Mark Wechter who is entering his fifth year as head coach. Wechter was a WTHS graduate in 1990, and played for legendary coach Mr. Tom Brown. Wechter said "[Brown] was a huge influence to me, because I didn't have a lot of direction in my life until I met him. Football became a big part of my goals and life, and he was my inspiration to begin coaching."

Even as he attended Rowan University, Wechter was an integral part of the Minutemen's success as he was a volunteer assistant from 1991-1993, and later, a paid assistant coach from 1994-1996. He

Wechter came back as an assistant coach for Washington Township in 2002. With Coach Brown's death in 2005, Wechter was promoted to head coach in 2006.

This year, Wechter feels fortunate to return many veteran players at key positions. They are seniors Nick Valori, Chalie Huff, Marc Mollo, John Whelan, and

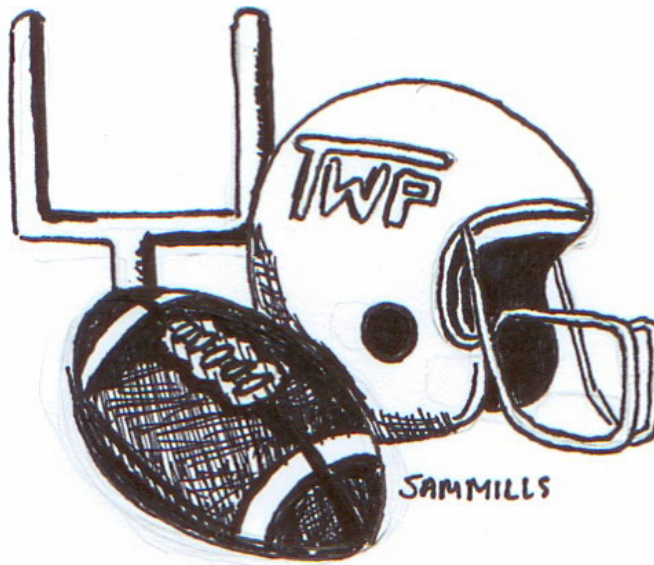
Kordel McInnis on offense, and seniors Steve DeFranco, Ryan Wills, and Lee Robledo on defense.

For leadership, Wechter looks to captains Valori, Huff, McInnis, Robledo and Wills, but not exclusively.

He also is impressed with the leadership of Mollo and Whelan who anchor the offensive line, and Robledo who teams with Wills at linebacker to make a formidable linebacking core.

"It's exciting seeing them stand next to each other," said Wechter. Wechter went on to say that "Lee is a throwback football player. The defense really rallies around him."

Wills is also a tough defender known for his strength and great tackling ability. Of his role, he said "I try to bring leadership to the team. When things aren't going our way in a game, I want to be the one that steps up and makes a big play See **FOOTBALL** on page 8



SAM MILLS '12/The Patriot

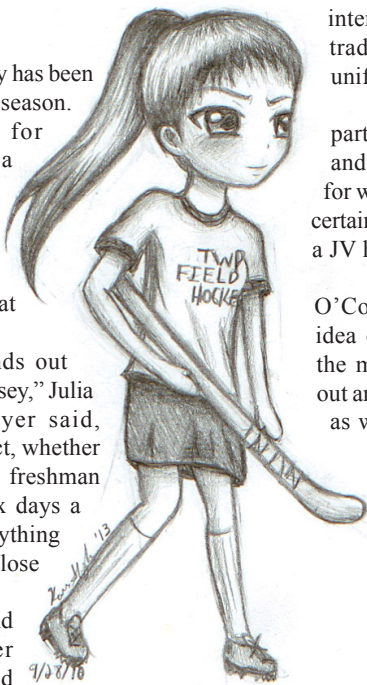
## Sisterhood fosters success

Kaitlyn Gallagher '12

WTHS girls field hockey has been a stand out sport for the past season. Field hockey is known for promoting what some call a "sisterhood" between players which creates a strong bond for the team to succeed. This season appears to be continuing that tradition.

"Our team really stands out from other teams in South Jersey," Julia Gober, a JV hockey player said, "because we all try to interact, whether we're on JV, Varsity or the freshman team. We're all together six days a week and we don't take anything for granted being in such a close group."

The girls seem to spend a lot of time together throughout their season, and from all of these close



KERWIN SLOUGH '12/The Patriot

interactions stem some interesting traditions and special games that unified the team even more.

"We always have pasta parties before any of our big games and we are each assigned a "sister" for who we buy gifts or food before a certain game." said Rachel Moran, also a JV hockey player.

Led by coach Mrs. Jeannine O'Connor and senior captains, the idea of the "sisterhood" was to get the members of the team to branch out and interact with different people, as well as doing a nice gesture for someone to get them pumped up for a particular game.

In addition, the girls play a special game called, "Think Pink" which promotes awareness for breast cancer. During the day of the game, the entire team dresses up in pink attire in order to support the cause.

Moran called the game, "Our most special event of the season."

Seeing how close all these players are and how dedicated they are to their sport, it comes as no surprise that they feel that this season will be another victorious one.

Gober said, "Of course field hockey is going to have a great season this year because we work really hard at practice and we're very team oriented. When the team practices, we all hustle and do really well."

In addition to all the optimism and spirit, some other players have great memories from their experience on the team.

JV player Briane Waters stated, "The greatest moment of field hockey for me was when we beat Eastern my freshmen year."

The other girls shared similar memories and were just as excited about this coming season as they were mentioning their past games and experiences.

"I'm looking forward to having a great season with the girls," Waters declared, "As well as hanging out with everyone and creating an even stronger bond so that we can be a real sisterhood."