

The Patriot

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Washington Township High School,
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Minutemen on track, pursue state title

Jimmy Perry '15

The W.T.H.S Minutemen Soccer team has started their season off with a 4-1 record, that 2-1 loss came against Eastern on Sept. 17.

"They deserved the win, they just played better than we did" said Twp. coach, Mr. Shane Snyder.

This loss wasn't taken lightly by anyone on this team, this is a team that was ranked nationally last year and when they lose games that on paper should have been won they don't just brush it off. Snyder believes that one of the major problems with the start of the season has been selfishness on the field. They have been working to fix this at practice every day. "We have been talking a lot about team work" explained Snyder.

"They've responded well since the loss to Eastern" said Snyder, "we have been working hard in practice and preparing well for games".

One returning senior, Derek MacKinnon '15 who was injured late in the 2013 season has played a big part in the team this season.

"It took a lot of physical therapy and I had to work really hard to get back in shape for the season" said MacKinnon '15.



Jimmy Perry/ The Patriot

Twp's Louis Vilotti '15 runs down a Lenape mid fielder for the ball. The Minutemen would go on to win 1-0.

The team is not happy with their start but they've taken full responsibility and are taking steps to come back. Along with Snyder, MacKinnon '15 thinks the team has room to grow this season "We haven't reached our potential this year"

This wasn't the start that the minutemen had planned, "We made expectations that we have to fulfill and we've worked hard to make it happen", "We haven't taken a day off and everyday at practice everyone is giving it their all" says senior Burak Ozdemir '15.

Although the team hasn't been happy with the way they have been playing their hopes have not dropped. They still have the same goals that they have every year Snyder explained that they just need to play good soccer at the right times. Though early season jitters came out against eastern they can't be making these mistakes at the end of season.

With a slower start than normal Snyder does see things progressing, and said, "Dan Marino '15 has been playing really well, he really buys into the team

concept this season." Marino '15 has been a minutemen starter for 3 years and has really carried his weight on the field this season. Marino '15 currently has 4 goals and 3 assists.

Editors' note:

Since this story was written the boys have improved their record to 12-1 and are ranked second to Rancocas Valley on the Group IV State leader board. Their hopes to do well in the state tournament have not changed.

Inside...

News - pp. 1-2

Commentary - p. 3

Features - p. 5

People - p. 7

The Arts - p. 8

Books - p. 9

Entertainment - p. 11

Comics - p. 13

Twp. Sports - p. 14

GINA LEE '15/The Patriot

Join *The Patriot*. (See page 12.)

First meeting for new staff: Nov. 18, G-208

Seniors take Atlantic City

Dominique Campbell '15

The senior prom is moving to Atlantic City! Now the students are even more excited to go. With the move to The Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel.

The decision to move the prom was made by a combination of administration and the advisors. It was moved because of a variety of reasons. "The price of the Sheraton at the Philly venue was a lot higher, we had to meet a minimum or pay extra and some students couldn't afford to go" 11/12 executive assistant principal Mrs. Theresa Pietrowski explained. One advantage of the change of venue is the price of the tickets. Senior Prom Advisor Mrs. Carol Costello hopes that the ticket prices will be lower than previous years. The new venue seems to have good qualities. Pietrowski said there are "really big winding stairs, memorabilia of Miss America, and exhibits of gowns."

Since the prom is being moved, students will have to get ready earlier for prom, especially if



CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ '15/ The Patriot

Seniors show their moves on the dance floor at the 2014 prom. This year the prom moves to The Sheraton in Atlantic City.

they have plans before like taking pictures or dinner. After the prom, many students plan to stay down or go to the shore.

In order to make sure students get home safely, "There will be Breathalyzers" Mrs. Carol Costello says when asked if there are plans to make sure students get home safely. There will also be administrators, security and police officers

to make sure students get into their cars and limos

Senior Ashley Shuster, said "You can go shopping at the outlets and there are hotels you can stay at" When asked if there are any benefits of the prom being moved to AC, Shuster adds, "If I was allowed to stay overnight and my friends were then I would." To Shuster the prom means enjoying

time with her friends and seeing everyone for the last time all together.

In addition, Senior Meghan O'Neill says a benefit of the prom being in AC is "it's near the beach" O'Neill also added that her favorite part about prom is "picking a dress and getting my hair and make-up done."

"I like how it moved. I think it would be more fun than Philly," says Derek Wharton. When asked if he thinks the people who don't want to go to the prom should, Wharton said "Yes, definitely. It's a great experience to have and will be memorable." He thinks everyone should be able to go because of the experience they will get to have. To him prom means that he gets to go out with his girlfriend and have a fun night.

Shannon Mulhern exclaims "I feel excited! Like, it's AC, It's a good place to go to have fun"

Additionally, Mulhern says what she likes most about prom is "getting dressed up. It's the best thing," she says happily. She is excited and nervous for the prom.

Interact set for year of service

Sruthi Srinivasan '17

One year ago, Olivia Smithson '17, experienced what she describes as one of the best moments of her life. While participating in an Interact Club event and working the slide at the Buddy Walk, she had the opportunity to talk to a little boy who had autism while waiting in line for the slide. He told her that he looked forward to the games all year.

Smithson said, "That just melted my heart because it made me feel like I played a role in his happiness." The Interact Club is one that provides opportunities for students to participate in volunteer work, while giving students and even participants great memories that they will remember forever.

Two year general member Celeste Subido '17 says, "Not only is the club a lot of fun, but we do a lot of activities that raise money or awareness for a cause."

The Interact Club is a service club that prides itself on the ideal of "Service Above Self". Various activities are hosted throughout the year that aim to open a student's mind to the joys of volunteer work and understanding the simple pleasures that come out of making another person's day just a little bit better.

Some of the more popular events throughout the year are Monzo Madness, a 24 hour

dance-a-thon that seeks to raise money for ALS, and Festival of Friends, which provides a day of fun for senior citizens and mentally challenged adults.

The events put on by the club require a lot of help on the students' and supervisors' parts, yet they are very rewarding for most who participate. Smithson said, "The community events we do truly bring everyone together, especially in the sense of making a difference in our own community members' lives."

Another event that is very rewarding for any participant is the Pacesetter's Dance, which caters to mentally challenged citizens by hosting a dance for them.

Interact Executive Board member Olivia McGough '17 says, "I feel that the Pacesetter's Dance is one of the most rewarding events that Interact hosts because it's clear to see how much joy the guests get out of the experience."

For many, community service starts off as a nice addition to a college resume, but it soon becomes so much more than that.

Ms. April Renzetti, one of the Interact club

advisors said, "When you have severely disabled persons enter a room with an exorbitant amount of excitement and a million dollar smile all because you invited them to a social outing is by far one of the most rewarding experiences for me." Both Ms. Renzetti and Miss. Taylor are club advisors for Interact.

The Interact Club touches the lives of many different people, mainly through the support of dedicated members who wish to better their own lives and experiences as well as the lives of others.

Subido said, "The cause [Interact's mission] in itself is very selfless and inspiring."

"The community events we do truly bring everyone together, especially in the sense of making a difference in our own community members' lives."

- Olivia Smithson '17

members' entire view of community service.

Ms. Renzetti says, "I love everything we have to offer from doing service, providing meals and clothing, and giving social outlets to people who may not ever be given such opportunities. I truly love what Interact stands for."

Commentary

President's ISIS stance seems solid

Sruthi Srinivasan '17

On Wednesday, September 17, 2014, a rather grim address was given by President Barack Obama. The address was given in regards to the brutality of the terrorist group, ISIS, which has viciously beheaded many citizens from America and from America's allied countries. Perhaps the most threatening issue is the fact that the reach of this group is still unknown, as many Westerners continue to join ranks with the terrorist organization.

Obama delivered his address outlining his four-step plan to eradicate the terrorist group ISIS in a carefully put-together speech. Since the speech has been given, Obama's plan has been put into action. I

personally believe that Obama's plan is the best way to deal with terrorism, but the backlash from this speech and his actions have dropped Obama's approval rating for foreign affairs down to less than half of the nation.

[President Obama] is not the type of president to stand unmoving in the face of opposition.

I think that the critiques voiced by these people are unwarranted. With any major decision, there are always skeptics and pessimists who love to point out flaws that they have based off of a small amount of knowledge on the issue.

A decision that could affect the well-being of our troops, and by extension, our entire country and its allies, takes time to come up with. I can only sympathize with Obama for having to make such an important decision in such a limited time frame. With any political decision, there are always two sides to every argument, and one side is often dissatisfied with the outcome.

I feel that Obama's decision was the right one. His handling of foreign policy was tactful. For the people saying that he wasn't forceful enough and isn't taking enough action, I would say that he was trying to appease both the people who don't want to take any action against ISIS and the people who wish to eradicate ISIS immediately. After viewing Obama's governing for a term and a half, I can

see that he is not the type of president to stand unmoving in the face of opposition. He often tries to consider demands from both viewpoints of a certain argument, as in this case.

Obama agreed to airstrikes so that no troops would be put on the ground in a war zone, like in the Iraq and Afghan Wars. Yet there are people who don't agree with this decision, and feel that the situation is still unsafe for our troops. He agreed to work with Syrian and Iraqi troops on the ground, but there are still people who are wary of working with and supplying the rebel forces due to innate prejudices. Obama confirmed that there are anti-terrorist groups set up to dispel terrorism in the nation, yet many felt that this point was vague and unhelpful in the fight against terrorism.

My point is, it isn't possible to please everyone, and it is ten times harder for a president to gain favor with an entire body of citizens compared to someone who attempts to gain favor with a large group. Obama did a more than formidable job outlining his plan for anti-terrorism measures, but even more than that, he brought hope to the American people, assuring them that they could sleep safely, without the threat of terrorism looming over them, for many nights to come.

Facing pressures of high school

Bria Lamonica '17

We all have those days. Those stressful, four tests and three quizzes in one day kind of days, where you have three after school clubs to go to, play practice, work until eight, and all while trying to do this after your all night studying session. Everyone feels overwhelmed at some point during their high school careers, many of us feel that way all the time.

A lot of people stereotype high school students as maybe uncaring, unfocused kids who like to get into trouble, but the truth is that many of us are the complete opposite. We are involved in clubs and activities that play important roles within the school and community. The lack of sleep every night is just an added stressor to our daily battles. I don't know about anyone else, but when I get home from school all I want to do is get a massage, sleep, and not worry about anything else. Besides just the stress of everyday classes and extra-curricular commitments, juniors and seniors also have to deal with SATs, jobs, college applications and much more. Few realize how much stress and pressure high school students are under, until they become one.

I've seen students break down in the hallway and start crying because of their 2 honors tests in a row that they just bombed; I have even done that myself at one point or another.

The point is, we all can relate to the enormous amounts of stress and pressure we are put under while in the long 4 year trek of high school, and we can all help each other to relax when we have a bad day, or are overwhelmed by our classes and lives. If you see a girl crying in the hallway, give her a pat on the shoulder or even a smile, because who knows she may have just failed a quiz she studied all night for, or became overwhelmed. We all know the feeling, and that means we all can do our part to lend a hand or even a hug to someone who is feeling stressed out, trust me it will work WONDERS on improving that person's day. And don't worry, we all get caught up in the stress sometimes, just take a deep breath, relax, and realize you're not alone.

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Security needs modification

Jimmy Perry '15

It has been a little less than two years since the horrific school shooting in Newtown Connecticut, and schools across the country are still taking precautions to prevent anything like that from happening again. How long will it take for schools to feel comfortable again and how far will school districts go to make sure we are safe, Is it time to loosen up and start going back to some of our old ways?

The most noticeable change in school rules is probably the new policy with school ID's which started early last school year. I completely agree with this policy, not only does make it harder to

gain access if you don't belong in the building but it also helps make people feel safer.

One policy I do not agree with at all is not being able to walk outside to go from one part of the building to another. As long as you have your ID and you aren't coming from off school campus you should be able to walk outside.

My biggest problem with it is hallway traffic; there are way too many people in this school to not allow them take short cuts from one side of the building to another. The most well-known "short-cut" was from the connector hallway between G hall and A-hall. This made commuting from side to side so much easier for a lot of people

but after the Sandy Hook school shooting it was shut down for safety concerns.

I can see where the administration was coming from doing this. It's just hard to say if it has actually helped keep out unwanted visitors. All we know is that it has made the hallways more crowded and makes students late to class every day.

If this were a different part of the campus, somewhere that wasn't monitored very well I could understand this better but this is probably the most secured spot on the whole school campus. On average there are at least two police or security cruisers right outside these doors at all times during the school day.

Officers parked there are in a position where they can see anyone approaching the building through the school day.

The thought is not letting us walk outside is safer for the school but anyone who is walking between buildings has already gotten in the school. No one is allowed to enter the building through these doors without already entering through the core or 11/12 main office. As long as these positions are being monitored accordingly there should be nothing to worry about.

Opening up these short cuts would only help the staff and students. Decreasing congestion and lateness, it would be appreciated by most everyone in the building.

Famous deserve same treatment

Anthony Spadano '15

The recent attention on NFL players behaving badly has drawn attention to the concept of celebrities seeing themselves as being above the law. They commit crimes such as using illegal drugs, abusing people, and driving while intoxicated. Why do they do this? The answer is simple.... celebrities see themselves as being above the law just because they are famous.

NFL running back Ray Rice committed an act of domestic violence in February. He was recently convicted for this crime. Rice slapped his then fiancé (now wife) in a hotel elevator, then drug her unconscious body to their room. He got suspended indefinitely from the NFL but no jail sentence.

Justin Bieber also got arrested for a DUI as a minor. Not only was he drinking and driving, but he was under 21. His only penalty was a single day in jail. He also kept all of his "beliebers".

Celebrities do whatever they want, whenever they want. They seem to recognize that they will get off easily, which is why they are often repeat offenders. Celebrities get off with fines and maybe a short time in jail for something that ordinary people would get multiple years in prison for.

The only celebrities that get some type of professional conse-

quences are athletes. They at least face punishments like multiple game suspensions for illegal drug use and DUI's. However, they often find ways to avoid the jail time that non-celebrities would receive.

While they do get off easily, some celebrities lose their reputation. Some of the most talented actors started doing drugs or drinking at a young age. The most famous case for my generation is that of Lindsey Lohan. She was one of the most talented childhood actors, but she felt she could do whatever she wanted. Now she is in and out of rehab, and her career as an actor has suffered.

The same goes for athletes. Ray Rice was one of the NFL's elite running backs over the past 7 years he has been in the league. That is not the case anymore because he is suspended indefinitely. By committing these stupid crimes, athletes ruin their careers, and let down their teammates.

In today's society it seems that fame is power. Celebrities continue to abuse drugs and people, knowing they will not be severely punished. This is something that will continue if people do not take a stance and refuse to support these celebrities. The day where fans reduce their support of the crime-committing celebrity, is the day where we see a major improvement.

Give Summer work a rest

Nick Georgoulanos '17

As most of us know already, the summer is short enough as it is. After a long, challenging school year of waking up before the roosters do, many of us sleep in until at least 12:00 and miss out on most of the day. Sophomore year has started for me already, but I can remember sitting in my freshman classrooms like it was a few weeks ago. On top of the summer being way too short already, teachers feel the need to give us huge packets to complete and a book to read over the summer.

This sort of Summer school work is wrong and unfair to students.

The first and obvious reason is because summer is supposed to be a break from school. Summer only lasts about 8 weeks, and for most students, it takes a week or more to complete all of their summer school work. That is at least 1/8 of the summer gone because students have to worry about school work on their so called "break" from school.

Also, summer school work has a major impact on students' grades to start the school year. Many students do not achieve the grades that they deserve in school during the first marking period because they don't do their summer school work. A student who earns an A once classes begin can end up with a B or C for first marking period simply because of the impact that summer work has on their grades. Summer school work has way too much of an impact on students' grades.

The final reason that I think summer school work is unfair to students is because, whether they do their summer school work or not, it stresses students out. If students do their summer school work, they are stressed out because they have to take time away from their summer break to do their summer school work. However, if students don't do their summer school work, they are stressed out because of the impact it is going to have on their first marking period grades. One way or the other, summer school work stresses out many students.

All in all, summer school work is unfair to students. It takes away from students' summer break, has a major impact on students' first marking period grades, and stresses out many students.

Summer is supposed to be a break from school, but it takes many students a week or more to finish all of their summer school work. Summer school work is unfair to students, and should not be required.

Features

Best foot forward

ROTC Drill Team sets sights high

Theresa Arocena '17

AFJROTC's Drill Team finished last year's season with a total of 35 trophies from the 6 competitions (including the home competition) they attended. It's no surprise that expectations for the coming year are high. The team looks like it will have a busy year with their plans to go to one competition a month and few more during the months of March and April. The words, "I have very high expectations for this year's team," have been echoed by last year's Drill Team Commander, Cadet Captain Bri Murphy and many more. It brings up the question of whether or not they can continue fulfilling the expectations left by their performances last year.

However, Murphy expresses her utmost confidence and faith in both the team and the new Commander, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Courtney Rosenstiehl. Despite her sadness that her time as commander is finished Murphy said of Rosenstiehl, "I see her doing amazing things with the team and I wouldn't want to have left my team with anyone other than her."

For Rosenstiehl being Commander is a bit nerve-racking, but she has every intention of facing any obstacle head on. She has initiated changes to the team because in her words, "I'm hoping to improve the entire team as a whole in as many aspects as I can." Such changes will be improving and strengthening the team dynamic as a whole, training the new first years separate from the upperclass-



THERESA AROCENA '17 / The Patriot

The Drill Team gather after a competition. The team brought home many awards last year and is working hard to continue that winning tradition.

men and creating a more competitive atmosphere among the upperclassmen on the team. She wants to be more organized and most of all meet the expectations left by the team last year.

"I want to bring us closer together as a team, but I also want to make sure we're living up to the standards we've been set and then going beyond that. All in all, I'm just hoping for a really fantastic year!" Her fellow peers and the Command Staff of Drill Team are showing tremendous support for her and the changes. Cadet Master Sergeant Jenna Williams states, "Courtney's really good at her job and she's definitely doing everything she can to improve the team."

With all the dedication and effort being put into the Drill Team, one has to wonder why these cadets do what they do. Some people

don't know what the difference between Marching Band and Drill Team is. To interlopers, the whole affair seems like nothing more than pointless "fancy" walking. What's the reward for all the work? Cadet Technical Sergeant Kevin Smyth vehemently objects to such assumptions, "Drill Team isn't just fancy walking. There's a lot more that goes into it like military bearing. Plus we're affiliated with the military while Marching Band is not. Not to mention Marching Band plays an instrument while they march." There's also the opportunity of getting a Varsity letter which looks amazing on college applications. And of course, the satisfaction of placing in Drill Team Competitions.

Nonetheless, the reward of Drill Team is more than the satisfaction of winning a trophy or

getting a Varsity letter. It's about the bonds created between one another. It's constantly said by Drill Team members how much Drill Team is a family to them. 2014 graduate and former Drill Team member, Joseph Alex Frick raves about his time on Drill Team. "It wasn't just a team or group of random kids mashed up as one, it was and still is my family. I've never been better friends with anyone in my long four years of high school than the people I met and became family with the Drill Team. We all started out nervous and shy and wondering why or how on earth we got here on this team, but in the end, there is nowhere I'd rather be. There isn't a single regret from joining Drill Team. Everyone on that team will forever be my best friends and still even after graduation. I miss the memories of Drill Team and would kill to get those opportunities again."

Overall, Drill Team has a very busy year ahead of them, but it looks like great things can be expected from them. They are all very dedicated and some of the best in the Corps. There are a lot of exceptional people in commanding positions and the new first years seem to be a good group. Everyone is being supportive of one another and the bonds they have aren't just for show.

AFJROTC DRILL TEAM COMMAND STAFF

Drill Team Commander - Cadet 1st Lieutenant Courtney Rosenstiehl

Junior Varsity Colorguard - Cadet Master Sergeant Jenna Williams

Let 1- Cadet Technical Sergeant Kevin Smyth

Director of Services and Drill Team - Cadet Captain Chris Ratcliffe

Varsity Colorguard - Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Iona Garate

Physical Training - Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Nathan Kupstas

Kittyhawk Academic Team - Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Devon Grundvig

Freshmen react to new surroundings

Thereasa Arocena '17

For the newly minted Freshman, September is the month of "Where's my next class?" and "I'm so confused," and "Why does everyone hate us?"

It's a big adjustment from the relatively tiny middle schools to the vastness of the high school. For some, the hallways at first seem to twist in every direction and are filled with hordes of students at every turn. The struggle of actually finding your classes is even worse. "I keep getting lost a lot," Allyce Andricola admitted during the second week of school.

Middle school workloads pale in comparison to that of the high school. To add more fuel to the flame, Freshman, (especially those not used to being time efficient) find themselves caught off guard by the workload and responsibility seemingly thrust upon them. And there's no way to forget the stigma of being a Freshman. Raquel Marotta says it best, "It sucks to go from the top all the way back to the bottom."

Still, Freshman come in just as excited as they are nervous. Kaitlyn Vitzthum reveals her excitement to join AFJROTC Drill Team and to meet new people.

Maddie Campbell expresses how much she looks forward to the opportunities the school presents in the form of clubs and sports. Raquel Marotta said, "I'm looking forward to the cute

boys ; the upperclassmen are hot." So while this year is one step closer to college and adulthood, they still have time to be teenagers. School doesn't revolve around PSATs, SATs, college application, military enlistments, college acceptance letters, etc.

Freshman year comes with a lot of expectations and surprises. Some are good like more freedom, more opportunities and chances to meet new people. Surprises can range from finding out that high school isn't like Mean Girls, to realizing that slacking off in high school won't work all that well.

One common expectation other than constantly getting lost that's been thrown around is

how hard it is to wake up so early in the morning. As a Freshman, time schedules and workload are a bit different from middle school. Most Freshman don't expect the amount of work and quality that needs to be given. There's also the "Freshman Hate" routine that occurs and also i clichés image movies give us for high school. Hollywood presents the picture that when you hit

high school there are packs of mean girls and bullies.

One such cliché can be found in the words of Elly Shelburne, "I was just hoping I wouldn't be shoved in a locker."

The difficulty of keeping in touch with friends is also an unexpected difficulty.

Due to the different levels of study, one friend can be in an Honors Class while the other

in CP. Scheduling comes it lowers the chances of being in classes with friends due the way an individual's classes are set up.

In spite of the bad things, most Freshman are excited by the prospect of high school. Several Freshman talk about "the rallying sense of unity at football games and the feeling of TWP spirit". Students like Shanen Garate have older siblings that would inform them of high school life.

Garate said, "[My sister, Iona] would always come home and tell me how great the high school was and how friendly everyone was. Iona also made me really excited for the clubs and activities."

Not all upperclassmen act superior and rude. Most leave Freshman to their own devices and are usually more than willing to help them. Freshman Transition and Walkthrough are good examples of the upperclassmen helping out the freshman. Though some freshman think the \$80 is pricey for only a few days, most agree it does help familiarize them with the building.

Allyce Andricola half jokingly, half exasperated said, "I was expecting a lot of homework ... I was correct...I have enough homework to swim in."

Friendships can suffer, but with all the students there's always room to make new friends.

"There are overwhelmingly awesome experiences that can never be found without a leap of faith or two," said Elly Shelburne.

Overall, Freshman year is a time of growing up, of change.

Kristin Lauria '15 related that she was just as nervous her Freshman year, but "These four years will go by too quickly...The only thing I can tell you is just to enjoy every minute of it. Don't wait for it to be over... because [graduation will] be here before you know it."

"There are overwhelmingly awesome experiences that can never be found without a leap of faith or two,"

-Elly Shelburne

Sophs share perspective

Olivia McGough '17

The class of 2017 entered the halls of WTHS on Sept. 6 with one-year experience in high school. No longer the youngest in the building, some students have a fresh outlook on their position in the high school "hierarchy", yet others feel no change now that they are in their second year at the school.

Conquering their freshman year allows students to experience new programs and activities that WTHS offers. Classes become more rigorous, and students are given more responsibilities. One class in particular that many students look forward to is driver's edu-

cation. One marking period of sophomore physical education is dedicated to the students learning the rules of driving, which results in the issuing of a learner's permit.

"This year is a lot different because we're learning how to drive which is a new and different experience. This year is a lot different because

"This year is a lot different because we're learning how to drive which is a new and different experience."

-Jenna Dean

we're learning how to drive which is a new and different experience," explained Jenna Dean '17.

"In many ways, my sophomore experience hasn't been any different from last year's, other than the fact that I was able to walk into school on my first day slightly less apprehensive," said Sruthi Srinavison '17.

The class of 2017 has settled into their place at WTHS, but they will continue to learn and grow as they advance through each grade. These students are now more confident in their understanding of the school, but will continue to have the opportunity to participate and excel in what they choose.

Express
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People

President encourages involvement

Cierra Bosarge- Fussell '15

Student council president Kaitlee Francisco is a friendly and dedicated person. She has set a lot of goals for herself and student council. How many people actually know what student council president does?

"As class president I work a lot with the executive board members to make sure that our events run smoothly" she said. "The job keeps me busy, on a daily basis I make homeroom announcements, each Thursday I run the meetings where we all work together to make decorations or discuss ideas for upcoming events! I also make a few speeches throughout the year."

Francisco got involved with student council as a freshman. Early on she set her sight on presidency.

"I grew to love being involved with student council." She said, "Becoming president would allow me to use the leadership skills I have to the best of my abilities to help enhance the already existing great events that the school has to offer!"

Though she knew the job would be demanding she is sometimes surprised at how time consuming it can be.

"At times, it does get tough to manage my student council duties along with work and school work but it really is worth it!! Even when I get loaded with academic work and student council work...when it comes down to it I can make time for both and still be equally dedicated."

The job has its challenges. "The most difficult thing about being president is definitely organization. Although I am quite organized, as president you have to do a lot of multi-tasking. I find myself constantly making lists of things that need to get done with the executive board or things that need to be announced to the school"

Because being a student itself is a lot of work, with the stress of homework, tests and project, and Francisco admits she can get overwhelmed. She said "At times I do, just because I want to make sure that everything is going smoothly and that everything is going the best that it can but I am lucky and very fortunate to have an amazing executive board of 30 members and two wonderful advisors that are always

"Even when I get loaded with academic work and student council work...when it comes down to it, I can make time for both and still be equally dedicated."



Michael Raggio '16/ The Patriot

Above: Kaitlee reviews plans with her fellow student council members in homeroom. Right: Student council president sets many goals for the year. One unexpected achievement was being nominated to home coming court. working hard to make everything we do go very well!"

She likes to see students make changes in the school. She thinks that it is a great thing just because, sometimes it is nice for the students to have a voice. It's great because students make suggestions to enhance future student's experiences at the high school. Students suggestions are always a good thing to better the high school! Francisco said "If anybody has ideas they can go through the executive board members and they can bring the ideas to

me. Or, anybody can be a general homeroom representative." She would love to see more involvement. "We hold meetings once a month that they are more than welcome to come to and share ideas and help us prep for events as well!"

As a senior this year, Francisco has an eye to her future. Kaitlee's response was "I'd like to think that I am an academically sound student! I enjoy being in school not only



Michael Raggio '16/ The Patriot

for the social aspect but the academic aspect as well! My love for school has influenced me to want to become a teacher and pursue that dream in college. Rowan is my #1 choice right now.

For now, the student council president has big plans for the 2014-2015 school year? She said they have already started to plan for our major events such as Homecoming, Mr. WT, our annual dodge ball tournament, and our Senior Citizen Prom. Something new Student Council did this year, along with class council, was make a donation that revamped the outdoor landscaping for the core area. She says it turned out beautifully! We are also adding a sports charity event, where we hope to collect donations and equipment for less fortunate children.

Francisco is very thankful for the opportunity to be president. She acknowledges that it's really an honor and privilege that she was voted into this position. She's trying her best to make this school year great for everyone! She wants to remind everyone, please feel free to reach out to the executive board if they have any ideas! She hopes that everyone's school year is off to a great start and she wishes everyone the best of luck.

"Although I am quite organized, as president you have to do a lot of multi-tasking. I find myself constantly making lists of things that need to get done..."

The Arts

Taking the lead

Marching Band introduces new drum major

Bria Lamonica '17

Trying out for a leadership position for the Washington Township Minutemen Marching Band 2014-2015 season just to see what would happen, Sophomore Emily Faust '17 ended being one of the youngest students to ever become a drum major for the marching band, which has changed her entire year.

"Being a drum major is a big responsibility and it took me a little while to adapt to the new position," Faust says about her new role in the band. In Faust's opinion, a drum major takes care of the band on a student level. She believes that they are not only the show conductors, but they also represent the band as well as still be a part of it.

Faust joined the Marching Band last year as a freshman, just trying it out, and now has made it to drum major by her sophomore year.

"Honestly I thought being a drum major would have a lot of challenges, but it's just something you have to get used to. When you switch from marching with everyone else, to being a conductor (drum major), the strain is no longer physical, but mental."

"She has the challenge of leading students who are 1-2 years older than her which can be a difficult but an important life concept for all students to grasp when preparing for the real world," Marching Band Director Mr. Casey Corigliano explains.

Considering Faust herself was shocked

with the selection, having a sophomore drum major in marching band is definitely a change for the senior members. Many four year Marching Band Members take pride in the band and have strong opinions about leadership.

"I think it may work out and be good for the band if she is a drum major, usually people try out their junior or senior year and only have the position for 1-2 years, in this case she can have an extra year of experience," Paul Malone '15, 4th year member of the Band said about the young drum major. "It's definitely a change, but age shouldn't define her, if she is a good drum major, it doesn't matter how old she is."

A lot of members in the band have a strong positive take on Faust's role as drum major and where she could potentially lead the band.

"I like that's she's drum major because she will continue to be drum major throughout high school, and by senior year she will grow, inspire the band members, and be great," Marching Band Color guard Captain Anna Bradley '15 said.

"She can think and connect to younger kids, who will be more likely to respect someone closer to their age, and it can definitely help to bring fresh and new ideas to the table rather than tradition," Marching Band Color guard Captain Natalie Delasandro '15 said.

Faust not only encourages students to join the marching band, but also encourages them to try out for leadership roles.

"I remember when I first heard about leadership auditions and how discouraged I felt

about how young I was and how slim I thought my chances were, I was planning on just trying out as a junior, but after much encouragement from my friends and more confidence in myself, I tried out and the rest just happened from there. The night I found out, I couldn't fall asleep all night because I was so happy and I couldn't calm my nerves! Everyone should experience that happiness. To all the students out there, if you want it, go for it!"

Corigliano believes that leadership should be not only based on the training and audition process, but also on his previous experiences with the student(s).

"Many students want to have the title of a leader in the program and it's up to me to sort out who is indeed qualified to handle those roles and the responsibilities that come along with those positions," Corigliano said, "If future leaders always carry themselves with the 'lead by example' mantra in mind, they should find success with their application to become a leader of the program."

Faust is looking forward to the marching band season, and she is eager to learn from her fellow drum majors. For dedicated students like Faust, activities become a way to define themselves.

"Marching Band is a huge part of my life and I'd have no clue where I would be without it. Yes it is hard at times, but what activity isn't? I couldn't ask for a better family."

Music program expands

Morgan Wall '18

The kick-off to the school year brings a new freshman orchestra to Washington Township High School. Everyone involved seems to be very enthusiastic about the class of 2018, including orchestra teacher, Mrs. Judith Pagon, who is beginning her 22nd year in the Washington Township school district.

In the next few months leading up to the annual Winter Concert, which takes place on

Thursday, December 18, many things are planned for all three orchestras. For example, an eighth grade open house, with performances by the Chamber Orchestra, as well as a yard sale hosted by the Patrons of the WTHS Orchestra. Mrs. Pagon explains that her favorite event planned is the Covered Dish Dinner and Performance. "My personal favorite is the Covered Dish Dinner and Performance at the end of October," says the accomplished musician. "All the orchestra students and their families gather

together in the cafeteria and have a potluck dinner. After we eat, the students perform for their families. This year's theme is 'Broadway'."

I asked students for their opinions on the transition and entrance into the freshman orchestra at the high school, and they had much to say on the subject.

"I enjoy Mrs. Pagon," says violinist, Alyce Andricola '18. "She is different from Miss. Benecchi (Chestnut Ridge) and while I loved my middle school orchestra teacher, it is nice to adjust to a different personality."

Nadia Foderaro '18, shared the same view as her classmate, "Mrs. Pagon...has already improved our playing in a short amount of time," says the violinist, "and that's really awesome." Both students agreed that they are immensely excited for the upcoming events this fall.

"I am really excited for the Broadway show-music and for what's to come in my freshman year," Andricola reported, and Foderaro followed up by exclaiming, "Oh, and I'm really

excited about the Broadway music, too!" referring to the upcoming covered-dish event.

Further comments were made on the high school orchestra teacher by Zeina Issa, who said, "I think Mrs. Pagon is really nice!" The violist explains how the teacher understands the busy nature of high school schedules and works to accommodate the needs of her students.

Our district provides an orchestra for incoming freshman musicians to learn the basic skills needed for the high school music program, which is a major advantage.

Mrs. Pagon said, "I put the (freshman students) together because they're all at the same skill level and I can teach them the skills needed in order to prosper in the Township Orchestra... It's easier to teach a group with similar skill levels so that (students) can go farther, faster."

The orchestra teacher followed up by saying, "It's nice to have an opportunity for all freshman orchestra students from the three schools to bond and get to know each other.

Books

Fiction

No faults in *The Fault in Our Stars*

Courtney Fields '17

The Fault in Our Stars is taking over teenage and adult minds across the world. The book captivates every heart and plays with all of your emotions. *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green, is about teenagers Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters who meet at a cancer support group. The story follows their lives and we, the readers, get an inside peek on what it's like to be them. The story surrounds around their struggles, secrets, and happiest moments.

Hazel Grace Lancaster started off being a quiet young teenager. She didn't have many friends and her best friend was an author she had never even met. Except she wasn't normal - Hazel Grace was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and as a side effect is suffering from depression. One day her mom forces her to go to a cancer support group and that was when she met mysterious boy Augustus Waters.

Augustus and Hazel soon fall in love, and are perfect together. Their love grows as the story continues on and the reader becomes captivated. Hazel finally has a friend and Augustus has just been told he's cancer free. Everything was great until something tragic happens that changes everything.



Gabriella DiEmma '15 / The Patriot

I suggest this book to not only teenagers, but to every person that can read. The story is relatable to everyone. You may not be able to relate to having cancer and the specific side effects, but everyone knows how it is to love someone. Love is what this story comes down to; it comes down to the fact that when you love someone, anything can happen, even if it's just

a family member.

This story is relatable because it tells the story of the ups and downs that any person can go through, such as losing someone you love or trying to be brave and confident when it seems like the world is against you. I strongly suggest this book to everyone - you won't be sorry you picked it.

Fiction

The List makes favorite list

Grier Conville '17

Popularity and fitting in are two of the most anxiety-inducing parts of most people's high school careers. Clothes, phones, hair, and even interests are all dictated by society. These are all problems that Siobhan Vivian addresses in *The List*.

In *The List*, the students of Mount Washington High School arrive at school on the last Monday of September each year to find a list naming the prettiest girl of each grade, and the ugliest. The novel follows each of the eight girls who've been lucky, or unlucky, enough to end up on it and reveals why they ended up there.

Abby's excited about being named the prettiest freshman, but her sister's jealousy is evident, and Danielle worries about what her peers will think. Lauren is blindsided by her sudden popularity, and Candace is too pretty to be ugly. Bridget has a dirty little secret about her summer transformation, and Sarah has never

"I think that many students will be able to relate to the protagonists' struggles and worries as well as their desire to fit in with their peers."

cared about being pretty. Margo's perfect and a sure-win for homecoming queen, but her ex-best friend Jennifer has been named Ugliest for the fourth year in a row.

The List is a book that explores self-esteem, popularity, cliques, acceptance from peers, and everything in between. I think that many students will be able to relate to the protagonists' struggles and worries as well as their desire to fit

in with their peers. Not only that, but the theme of the story is to be yourself and not let anyone else's opinion of you affect how you think of yourself.

The characters in *The List* are very well developed, and each of the eight girls has a different problem. For one, it's an eating disorder, for another, it's low self-esteem. Vivian writes her characters as though they are real people, with flaws and insecurities, rather than clichés. They are not perfect and I think people will have no trouble identifying with them.

The way Vivian explains a student's mind and how they see themselves in the mirror is outstanding. She definitely put herself in each one of the character's shoes in order to convey how they felt and reacted in certain situations.

All things considered, *The List* is an amazing book with a well-developed plot and a cast of unique characters. It does an excellent job depicting a high school caste system and how many students struggle to fit in, especially when in the spotlight.

The Worst of All Words by Ashley Schwartz

Watch out for *Watchmen*

Ashley Schwartz '16

It's 1985, and costumed heroes are not limited to the pages of comic books - they're alive and real, integrated into American society.

Watchmen follows five of these vigilantes, both retired and still fighting, even after the government crack-down on superheroes. They're begrudgingly reunited after one of their former friends, also a superhero, is mysteriously murdered.

Tensions are high as the group seeks answers to their former colleagues' death, trudge through their own personal struggles, and the country gradually comes closer and closer to nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

There is little time to spare, and suddenly everyone is a target.

Watchmen is a comic book series written by Alan Moore and illustrated by David Gibbons. It ran from 1986 to 1987, the twelve issues eventually being compiled into one graphic novel.

The comic features a complex, symbolism heavy plot that exposes the best and worst aspects of human nature, while still weaving a compelling story. Our five main characters, excluding one, don't even possess any kind of special powers - they're normal human beings, facing regrets and anxieties that are artfully explored in both the writing and illustrations of the book.

The one character who does possess a superpower is cursed by it - ostracized and vilified, made a pariah by nearly everyone, including those he once loved.

When first reading *Watchmen*, it seems as though all the typically bland superhero comic tropes are present - the handsome hero, the corrupt villain, the damsel in distress. But the story quickly breaks down those archetypes, showing that nothing is as it seems, and the ones we trust the most may be our demise in the end.

Watchmen was adapted into a movie by the same name in 2009. The film is relatively good as a stand-alone project, surprisingly not



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The *Watchmen* logo

making action and drama its focus point. The characters are well-casted, and the dialogue is believable. However, it fails to live up to the comic, simply not capturing the depth and social commentary of it.

Fiction

Anderson speaks out to teenagers in novel

Emily Jones '17

She's been hurt. She's been bullied. And she has no one to talk to about it. Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* is about a freshman in high school named Melinda Sordino. After being raped at a party, Melinda calls the police. This call, however, ends the party. After this incident, the entire school refuses to speak to Melinda, even her best friends. She goes into depression, eventually skipping school and withdrawing from authority figures. She befriends the new girl, Heather, only to be left in the dust by her. It isn't until she befriends her lab partner, David, that she finally learns to speak up and tell people like her old best friend, Rachel, and her art teacher what happened at the party.

This book shows people what's going on in some teenagers' lives. It makes people aware of the fact that horrors can happen to anyone, whether it be rape, depression, etc. Anderson is spreading awareness of these issues in schools across the country. *Speak* is in the English curriculum, and I believe that that's an amazing way to let everyone know that they need to be careful of these things.

It's also a painfully accurate description of high school. This book is filled with stereotypical cliques, teachers that don't take into account students' personal lives, parties that easily get out of control, and so much more. I realized that



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Author Laurie Halse Anderson has written several books about problems many teenagers can relate to.

I've seen all of this in the first few months of high school, just as Melinda had, and it really allowed me to connect to the book on a new level.

Speak not only relays a fantastic message,

but it's also written very well in a very unique way. The book is written in first person, like a diary. This style is perfect for this book because it enables the emotion behind each event or sentence to be felt by the reader. There were points in the book where I felt Melinda's sadness - for example, when she was left by the new girl who she thought was her friend, her fear when she called the police at the party, her happiness, her pain, her heart beating out of her chest. Writing the novel in first person really made the words on the page come alive in my heart and in my mind.

Another strong point in the book was the symbolism used throughout. Melinda is told to draw trees in her art class in the beginning of the year, which symbolizes her growth as a person. Also, Melinda's school keeps changing mascots, symbolizing the school's search for identity. Melinda hides in closets, symbolizing her need to get away and hide from everything in her world, as well as the fact that she isolates herself from everyone else.

In all, *Speak* is a great novel with an even greater message behind it. Being forced to read it in freshman Honors English may not be a bad thing. I really enjoyed it, personally. Laurie Halse Anderson wrote a book that really allows the reader to feel the emotion and experience the actions occurring. This book opened up my eyes to a whole new world of thought.

Entertainment

Enemies Unite to save the *Galaxy*

Dominique Campbell '15

Guardians of the Galaxy is an amazing movie and is an action, adventure and sci fi. Rated PG 13 due to language and some occasional violence in scenes, the movie is sad, funny, exciting and suspenseful. In the movie these five enemies have to unite and come together to save the galaxy. They have to be a team and get along as friends would.

The main characters in the movie are Groot (Vin Diesel), Peter Quill (Chris Pratt), Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Drax (Dave Bautista), Rocket (Bradley Cooper), Ronan (Lee Pace), Yondu Udonta (Michael Rooker) and Korath (Djimon Hounsou). Other important characters are Corpsman Dey (John C. Reilly), Nova Prime (Glenn Close), The collector (Benicio Del Toro), Meredith Quill (Laura Had-



Gamora (Zoe Saldana) and Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) offer some of the snarkiest lines the film has to offer.

dock) and Nebula (Karen Gillan).

Nevertheless, the acting was great! The actors were perfect and did an amazing job. Also, the movie had lots of action. The action and suspense made it even more captivating. My favorite part was when the guardians make a force field

with just the 5 of them and Yondu Udonta. Everyone else was on the outside of the blue force and frozen in time. I thought that was great and cool to watch! In that time, Yondu Udonta had called them the 'Guardians of the Galaxy'. The guardians, after an argument and

confrontation with Udonta, Peter Quill says ("You said it we're the Guardians of the Galaxy!") I also liked the quote ("I am Groot").

Notably, some of the more technical parts of the movie like the angling were outstanding too! At different angles, the effects in the movie make it even more intriguing to watch. I give the movie a 10 all together because the effects, acting and plot were just outstanding. The movie's ratings from viewers was 8.5 stars and a 76/100 from Metascore. On its opening weekend *Guardians of the Galaxy* had made \$94, 320, 883. The filming of the movie took place in Shepperton Studios, Surrey England, UK and three other locations in Surrey and London England..

Also, as I watched the movie it continued to pull me in. It was one of the best movies I had seen. This is the perfect movie for family time.

Iconic Comedy turns 30

Laura Dressel '18

When there's something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call? Ghostbusters! This past Labor Day weekend *Ghostbusters* was presented in select theaters for one week only in honor of its 30th Anniversary. The 1984 comedy about three friends who start a ghost hunting business was played in 4 thousand theaters across the country, including the United Artists 14 here in Washington Township. I was very excited about the movie being back in theaters because I remember watching it with my cousins when we were little. It's one of those movies that I have always loved watching and watching it again on the big screen reminded me of how much I loved watching it. I also thought that it was a good idea for the UA to bring back an old movie for a week and that they should do that more often. In the next couple years they could bring back movies such as *The Breakfast Club* (1985), *Ferris Bueller's Day off* (1986), and *Back to the Future* (1985) for their 30th anniversaries. They could even do older movies for example, *Grease* (1978), *Jaws* (1975), and *Rocky* (1976) were all released in the



Theatres celebrated Ghostbusters' 30th anniversary with a re-release of the 1984 film. Will other classic films follow?

70's and could be brought back into theaters for their 40th anniversaries. Movie theaters should bring back some old classic movies once in a while so that people who watched them when they were younger can re-experience them on the big screen. Rereleasing classic movies for a week or two would be a really cool thing for movie theaters to do and is something I would like to see happen more often.

Behind every great movie is a great story.

Uncover the next great story!

Join The Patriot and write movie reviews and much more!

Ultraviolence strikes new chord for Del Rey

Ashley Schwartz '16

Lana Del Rey, albeit one of today's more controversial stars, has many adoring fans across the world. However, the initial response to her recently released album *Ultraviolence* shows that even the most dedicated music fans are often times fickle and in need of instant gratification. At first, many were quick to turn away Del Rey's new style in *Ultraviolence*. However, they eventually had to give in to the talent and allure it exemplifies. It's easy enough to see why once you give the album a listen.

Unlike her previous hit album *Born To Die*, which features a more trip hop and pop genre, *Ultraviolence* is a harkening back to the melancholic rock and blues of the 70's. The opening song, "Cruel World" sets the tone for the entire album with its somber lyrics ("Shared my body and my mind with you/That's all over now/Did what I had to do/'Cause it's so far past me now"). It's then followed by the four singles of the album, "West Coast", "Shades of Cool", "Ultraviolence", and "Brooklyn Baby."

While each of these tracks is easily a hit, "Shades of Cool" is perhaps the most notable

of them. "Shades of Cool" expresses the entire mood of *Ultraviolence* itself with its passionately pensive guitar solo and Del Rey's dreamy, yet mournful vocals that carry us through the song's wistful lyrics ('Cause you are invincible/I can't break through your world/'Cause you live in shades of cool/Your heart is unbreakable").

Many of today's albums simply are not meant to be listened to as a whole. There is often little consideration regarding how each track sounds before and after the other, how the lyrics from different songs relate, etc. In the digital age, we often don't even bother to buy full albums in the first place; rather, we go online and purchase specific tracks that speak to our tastes in particular. However, *Ultraviolence* does not play into this new phenomenon. Every song on the album transitions smoothly into the next, from "West Coast" (one of the few songs on the album reminiscent of *Born To Die*'s hip-hop-esque feel) to "Old Money", a ruminative, slow track that gives a very hazy, vintage feel. The fact that *Ultraviolence* is really meant to be listened to as a whole album also lends to its old-timey aesthetic.

Overall, *Ultraviolence* epitomizes Del



Lana Del Rey's latest album features powerful lyrics and moving vocal stylings. The change has shocked some long-time fans.

Rey's true style: weaving a story through deeply emotional lyrics, masterfully orchestrated instrumentals, and a tone reminiscent of the past, yet one that can appeal to a modern audience.

Wanted:

Reporters Writers Graphic designers
Proofreaders
Cartoonists Photographers Illustrators

...and anyone with good ideas.

Join *The Patriot*.

Attend an informational meeting for new staff members to learn more.

Tuesday, November 18 after school in G-208.

Come check it out. There is no obligation to join.

Comics

"Extra Credit" by Ali Altimuro '15



Courtney Treude '16



SCHOOL DAYZ Gabby DiEmma '15



Twp. Sports

Repeat performance



JIMMY PERRY '15/ The Patriot

Twp's Cheer Squad gathers before the first home football game. The team is striving for their 13th conference title.

Cheerleaders ready to carry on conference tradition

Krissi Hazzan '15

The Washington Township Cheerleaders are back in action this year as they continue to bring the TWP spirit to the Minutemen football games. The team has officially started their season, and the cheerleaders have started off their season along with them. However, the cheerleaders have another event marked up in their calendars, retaining the Conference Championship.

"Conference to a Township Cheerleader is a tradition and a journey," says Lauren Murray '16, "It is something that motivates us and brings us together with our current team, to remember all the cheerleaders before us who have set us up for our 13th title."

For 11 years in a row, the Washington Township Cheerleaders took home the Olympic Conference Champion title. In February of 2010, they lost their title to the Timber Creek Cheerleading team, and again in 2011. After the championship was canceled in 2012 due to lack of teams being able to participate, the competition season, and Conference Championship were moved from winter to fall.

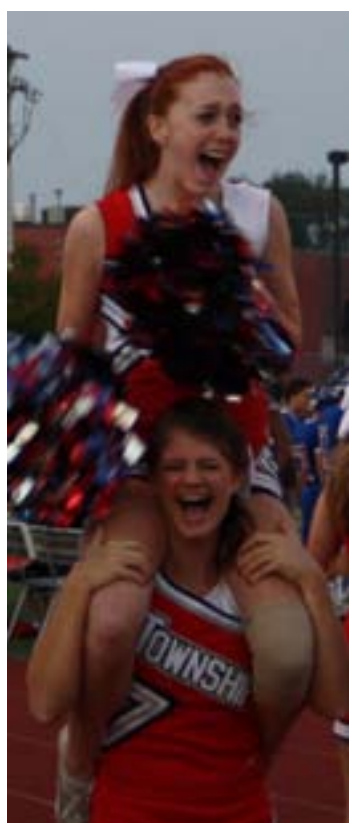
In November of 2013, the cheerleaders gained back their title as Conference Champions. A "2013" was finally added to the Cheerleading Conference Championship Banner, starting a new tradition. Since the competition had taken a year-hiatus, half of the current team members had never competed for a conference title before. For all of them, it was their first time ever winning a conference.

"Since this is my first year on varsity, I don't know how it felt for the team to win conference last year, but I know how much it means to my teammates that did win", says Trish Espiritu '17, "Keeping the title of Conference Champs won't be easy, and we're going to struggle, but winning would be worth so much more if we know we got there by pushing through the difficulties."

"Conference is something you hear about when you become a Township Cheerleader," says Lauren Murray '16, "you don't understand it at tryouts or when you're handed your uniform, you understand it when you look around the room and there are 20 people there for the same reason as you, and that 200 more of the ones you love came to see you make it happen."

It is now 2014, and another conference title is on the horizon this November.

As far as what the squad has to do this season to prepare their team for the win, Captain Callie Meintel says confidently that "We are Township, and we can renew our conference title. We have a great work ethic and if we continue it, this season should be a successful season for our team!"



JIMMY PERRY '15/ The Patriot

Sammi Pollack '17 and Lauren Murray '16 warm up before the game against Hamonton.

Doubling Up

Gymnasts start off strong with twice the members of last year

Allyce Andricola '18

The Washington Township gymnastics team is back in action and better than ever. Compared to last year's roster of six girls, the team has doubled that to include twelve girls this upcoming season. Team Captains Abby Haley '16 and Micaela Coltellaro '16 are ecstatic about the amount of girls wanting to join.

Starting the season with a 3-1 record the team has some momentum to carry through the rest of the season.

Maddie Harris '18 said that she did not know if she would fit in. Her feelings about going out for the team were expected. She was concerned if she would have the skills. But Ms. Harris melded in with the team easily. Sophomore Abby Deal '17 said that she was nervous to join because she thought her hiatus from gymnastics for a year and a half would affect her performance this season.

A huge part of participating in high school sports is the difficulty of balancing homework with the sport's demands. Especially if the athlete is in higher level/advanced classes, getting homework completed is a real sport in itself. Soph-



ZEINA ISSA '18/ The Patriot

Kelsey Mountford '16, works at the beam during practice.

omore Casey Hubbard '17 said that she does it right after practice since practice starts after school. Junior Taylor Corson '16 reported that if she has any excess homework, she would do it before practice or meets. While it is challenging to do homework in addition to a sport, being organized and working hard will make it worth it in the long run.

When you go to the gymnastics meets there are perhaps ten people in the stands. Certain gymnasts enjoy the emptiness of these competitions but most of them do not. Deal '17 admitted, "I want people to come for moral support. We would feel special and loved, so we know that all of our hard work is being paid off."

Co- Captain Coltellaro '16

explained, "I would feel excited if people went to our meets, but nervous because we would want to do well in front of our peers and might be hard on ourselves."

While some team members have never gymnastics before, some teammates have. Hubbard '17 started when she was three at Rainbow Gymnastics and went off to Atlantic Coast to compete in USAG levels 4, 5, and 6. She then switched to a different division in gymnastics, called USAIGC, and competed one year of Silver, two years of Gold, and the last season she competed as a Platinum. Deal '17 started at a young age like Ms. Hubbard and competed at Will Moor gymnastics. She got injured during her level 9 season and was out for a year and a half because of it. Now she is back at it in high school gymnastics.

The gymnastics team is fortunate to have very likable and skilled coaches. Deal '17 said that they are extremely fun and loving. Glinnie Elmore and Lauren Pellicchia coach for the TWP gymnastics team and have done so for years. Hubbard '17 stated, "They are good at what they do. They are always there to spot and help you get ready for the next meet."

Going the distance

Olivia Smithson '17

Running is not for everybody, but for some, it is part of their daily routine. Washington Township Cross Country is a sport like no other in that it is the ultimate mental test. With only your mind and your body as your equipment, cross country challenges both external and internal strength.

Cross country, or XC, participates in 5k races (3.1 miles) on various courses across the state. Boys and Girls XC is led by Coach "Boz" Bostwick and Coach "Patty" Patterson, who work together to create effective workouts and training methods to get all of Washington Township's XC runners ready for competitions. Manager Jessica Bodner '17 is keeping track of XC's success this year as the season stretches into November, making XC one of the longest-lasting sports of the fall. The 2014 season is stacked with a handful of talented and experienced seniors, as well as having accomplished

underclassmen lined up on the roster.

Senior captains, Jen Klavens, Andrew Torney, and Dennis Williamson lead and represent boys and girls XC this year with outstanding motivation, skill, and dedication to the sport. All three plan on running throughout their lives, and they are positive that their participation in WTHS's XC team has contributed to that goal.

Klavens, the only female senior on the team, has been in the XC program for two years already, this year being her third, and is a huge inspiration for her underclassmen teammates. The combination of Klavens's hard work and appreciation for running has formed an esteemed leadership among the XC Girls' team. Her favorite memory from being on the team is going to the pasta parties with her friends, and she will never forget the feeling of accomplishment and confidence she has as she crosses the finish line of each race.

Andrew Torney, commonly known as just "Torney" by his teammates, has been running

since fourth grade, and does not plan on stopping anytime soon. He aspires to run in college and beyond, hoping to see new places to run along the way. Torney shares that he enjoyed sneaking into high schools at the XC meets, as well as "the legendary runs" that he took with other team members. Torney explains his passion for running by saying that "the time you enjoy wasting is not time wasted at all."

Torney's co-captain, Dennis Williamson, is partaking in his fourth year of WTHS XC. Despite saying that running is sometimes "terrible," he likes doing well in the races as well as going on "legendary runs" with team members. Williamson would like to run in college and participate in numerous road races in the future. Alongside of his other captains, Williamson possesses an organized and effective management of the WTHS XC team.

Boys and Girls XC has been working hard since July, and at the sound of the gun, TWP XC is ready to run!

Quest for redemption

Minutemaids eye another shot at states

Anthony Spadano '15

"We [the field hockey team] sat down and discussed our goal to get to the same game as last year", said Varsity Coach O'Connor.

Last season the WTHS girls' field hockey team made it to the Group IV state championship, where they lost to Eastern, who was the number one team in the country at the time, according to the maxfieldhockey.com.

In order to achieve their goals, O'Connor feels they will need to make corrections and adjustments, especially after losing standout seniors from last season. One standout player they lost was midfielder Shea McGee, who went off to the University of Massachusetts for field hockey.

"She was a dynamic midfielder who could play any position", said O'Connor.

While the team did lose some leadership due to graduation, new captains Juliana Macrini '15, Katie Hatch '15, Lauren Sandelier '15, and Katie Cleary '15 are motivated by their teammate's confidence in them, and seek to take charge and lead the team to victory.

"It's an accomplishment to be leader of the team and to be put in a situation where everyone goes to you", said Cleary.

The team is in rebuilding mode as they look to repeat last season's impressive run. They do have some weaknesses on the defensive side. Most coaches view defensive im-



ANTHONY SPADANO '15/ The Patriot

Forward, Iris Shuck '16 moves the ball down the field against Lenape High school. The minutemaids would go on to win this game.

provement as the key, seeing which players work well together. In addition, they are dealing with inexperienced goalies, who have not seen any varsity action. In addition second year goalies Emily Horn '15 and Mackensie Parker '15 are preparing for the challenge of facing varsity

competition for the first time.

We [the coaching staff] hope that they [fullbacks and goalies] begin to click and feel comfortable playing together", said Coach O'Connor.

When the defense starts to mesh, the field hockey team will see improved results. However, what the team lacks in defense, they make up for with speed and offense. O'Connor is very pleased with how fast her players get to the ball, in addition to the experienced players who distribute the ball well.

While physical attributes are an important element to team success, the WTHS squad will have to rely heavily on team work and cooperation in order to be the quality that will get them to the next level. These girls play for their team, not for themselves.

"You can't do anything on your own", said Macrini. "Whatever I do, I'm doing for my team, and they're doing the same for me."

The team does face some tough competition this season, like Eastern, who is number one in the nation again, and beat them in the Group IV championship. The girls will continue to strive for success.

"We have a tradition of excellence, that's what we live up to," said Macrini.

The Minutemaids will look to continue this tradition by preparing one game at a time. If all goes as planned for the team, WTHS could see a rematch of last season's championship.



ANTHONY SPADANO '15/ The Patriot

Minutemaids' captain, Katie Cleary '15, warms up before the game against rival school, Lenape.