

# The Patriot

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

Winter, 2014

## Many Hands; One Cause

### Helping Hands Hoagie Sale sets records

Jessica Santilli '17

The Helping Hands Hoagie sale is a major event in the district. Many students look forward to getting up early on Superbowl Sunday to make hoagies for an extremely good cause.

This year's event was a record breaking endeavor.

Over 450 volunteers assembled and sold 5,900 hoagies to clear \$48,000 to assist area families. All were record figures for the event.

The hoagie sale happens in multiple locations throughout the area and goes through multiple phases, but people are interested the most in helping to make the hoagies.

At this year's hoagie sale there were many volunteers who arrived bright and early hoping to get to have the best job offered, making the hoagies. With so many hoagie orders and so many helpers there wasn't enough room in the cafeteria for all of the tables needed to make the hoagies, so set up in the band room, part of the gym and the hallway outside of the gym and cafeteria were more tables for students to sit at.

The students at these tables make the hoagies in sort of an assembly line fashion. One student flattens the bread used for the hoagies, after that it gets passed down the table for the other students to put on the rest of the meats, cheeses, and vegetables.

See **HOAGIES** on p.3



ANTHONY RIDOLFI '18

**Volunteers assemble sandwiches** at the Helping Hands Hoagie sale. The annual event drew a record 450 volunteers and set new marks for total sales and money raised.

## Back on track

The staff of *The Patriot* would like to apologize for the delay in getting out this first issue. Shifts in our membership led to numerous delays in producing the paper.

We also apologize to all of those people who participated in interviews and to those students whose accomplishments were covered in stories that never had the opportunity to run.

With a new crew of editors in place, we are back on track to publish for the remainder of the year. We hope you enjoy the issues ahead.

While some of the stories in this issue may be a little dated, we thought it important to publicize some of the the great things that have happened so far this year.

If you have any ideas for stories or are interested in getting involved, contact Mr. Evangelisti in G-208 or e-mail us at [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com).

-The editors

## Inside...

News - pp. 1-5

Commentary - p. 6

Features - p. 10

Lifestyles - p. 13

The Arts - p. 14

Entertainment - p. 16

Books - p. 20

Tech Talk - p. 24

Twp. Sports - p. 26

GINA LEE '15/The Patriot

# Jennifer Hubbard Visits WTHS

Madison Agostini '15

“What’s my favorite book? Try asking a parent who’s their favorite child,” said author Jennifer Hubbard who visited Washington Township High School on March 14.

She spoke in the IMC to several English classes about her journey to becoming an author and followed the discussion by hosting a workshop to help aspiring writers develop their skills.

Hubbard has published three books that have the central theme of teen issues and hardships. *The Secret Year* is about Julia and Colt who are having a secret relationship, when Julia dies, Colt reads her notebook. Hubbard didn’t see much literature about the aftermath of a suicide attempt and explores this topic in *Try Not to Breathe* by trying to answer the question: “if you get that far, how do you put yourself back together and be glad that you are alive?” Hubbard said. *Until It Hurts to Stop* portrays Hubbard’s experiences of confronting the past of bullying and how bullying can come back to haunt us.

Hubbard shared her own experiences in middle school being bullied. She told the audience how the aftermath of bullying can be detrimental to people, even when they have grown up. “I didn’t realize the way it affected the way I thought of myself and my relationships with others. There was a lot of assumptions I made about myself,” Hubbard said.

Hubbard also shared her experience of being published. Hubbard was born in the New England area and moved to Philly at 17. She graduated with a degree in environmental science. She submitted stories since a young age just to get experience. She realized rejection was a very common thing in the world of writing but never gave up. She had saved all of her rejection slips, especially the ones that had a “nugget of hope” written at the bottom, these



courtesy of MRS. KAREN JOHNSON

**Students excitedly wait for author Jennifer Hubbard to sign books and book marks. Hubbard spoke to students in the IMC about her creative process and the trials of getting published. She also hosted a writers’ workshop.**

nuggets were short pieces of criticism or words of encouragement. She was first published in the Sunday magazine of *The Hartford Current* after 5 tries of submitting short stories.

When she met with the publisher, she saw how lucky she was that her story stood out among the “slush pile” of stories that would be returned with rejection slips. When Hubbard decided to move onto novels she had a hard time coming up with ideas that would be successful.

“[I thought] why don’t I try to write a book like that, that I loved and made me a reader?” Hubbard since then proved herself a very successful fiction writer.

“[In fiction] you can take real life things and focus in and look at other people’s perspectives, emotions, and thought patterns,” she said, “you don’t have to stick with the facts.”

At the workshop during period 5, Hubbard helped students learn how to develop their characters. Students were to come up with a list of facts or write a stream of consciousness of a character they made up. Hubbard shared that while some authors do this to develop their characters and plots, she “wings it” as she is writing.

Advice Hubbard shared with aspiring writers would be to “read a lot and write a lot. See how the language is used and use it yourself.”

## Two ways to be a part of *The Patriot*

### Join the club

Meetings are  
Tuesdays, after  
school, in G-208

Or contact us at  
wthspatriot@gmail.com

### Sign up for Journalism and Creative Writing

- **Contribute to the paper** even if you have a busy after school schedule.
- Writers have the chance to **earn credits** for work they enjoy.
- By covering the news you **meet people** throughout the school.
- Provides **hands-on practical experience** for students interested in careers in **broadcast or print journalism, communications or public relations.**

All schedule changes need to be completed **before May 1.**  
Contact Mr. Evangelisti in G-208 for more information

# Lending A Helping Hand

HOAGIES from p. 1

For the volunteers who didn't get to work at the tables were either paper cutters or runners.

Some people designated as runners brought supplies to the hoagie tables as they ran out of ingredients. Meanwhile, the paper cutters worked to cut wrap for the over 5900 hoagies sold.

Then of course there were the people in the kitchens cutting tomatoes, slicing meat, and getting the cheese and meats ready.

All were equally very important jobs in the process.

At this year's hoagie sale the volunteers had made over three thousand five hundred hoagies in just a span of three hours. By nine o'clock only eight hundred hoagies were left to be made.

"It's the fastest I ever remember making hoagies," said Mr. Jeffrey Snyder one of the eighth grade social studies teachers in OVMS.

All the profits of the Hoagie Sale help to financially aid families who are struggling to meet the costs of medical treatment for an afflicted family member. It's one of the reasons why so many people either turn out to make or purchase sandwiches.

"My favorite part is how everyone in Township come together to make the hoagies for the people in need," said Spencer Petro, an



ANTHONY RIDOLFI '18

**WTHS wrestlers keep up the pace at the Hoagie sale. This year's volunteers made over 5,900 hoagies.**

eighth grade student.

Students from all grade levels across the district turn out for the event. There are many who find the hoagie sale to be a highlight of their school year.

"The hoagie sale is really important, it makes a lot money for people so we need to sell a lot of

hoagies," said Jessie Altumoro '16.

The participants could feel that this year's event was something special and knew that is was an extreme success.

Mr. Steven Gregor, the principal of Orchard Valley Middle School said, "It ran like a well oiled machine."



ANTHONY RIDOLFI '18

**A tremendous amount of people** came to help out with the hoagie sale. \$48,000 was raised to help area families experiencing medical and financial hardship.



ANTHONY RIDOLFI '18

**Whitman Elementary School Principal, Mr. Raymond Anderson** hoists the Gobagool Goblet. The trophy was awarded to the elementary schools for having the most sales. The Goblet will be displayed at each of the elementary schools starting with Whitman which posted the highest sales among them.

# Weather complicates emergency response

Bria Lamonica '17

Imagine you are walking to your car after work, and a fire starts in the building behind you. You start running to your car, and you slip on an ice patch in the road. You open your car door and make it inside. You start to pull out of the parking lot, but you cannot see out of your windshield because of the heavy frost blocking your view. The fire is getting stronger and the firefighters are scrambling to clear the snow off of the fire hydrant to stop the flames in the sub-freezing temperature.

The increase in snowy weather this winter affected Washington Township and its citizens. The below freezing temperatures, icy driveways, and snow-covered streets all play a role in possibly being a detriment to the town's safety. The firefighters of the town, police officers, EMTs and other medical personal have had to take precautions for the weather.

There are many dangers that come with the hazardous weather conditions, and the firefighters of Washington Township have prepared and handled these conditions.

With the increase in snowy weather, the firefighters of the township have been preparing and expecting the worst possible sce-



AP IMAGES

**Fire fighters shovel snow to get to a buried fire hydrant. The extreme conditions this winter have caused many complications for emergency workers.**

narios. With the snow and ice come many dangers for the firefighters.

"There has surprisingly not been an increase in fires and emergencies because of the snow. It has been pretty much steady and usual." Mr. John Hoffman, Chief of the Fire Department said. It is surprising because "usually along with snowy weather conditions, more emergencies are expected."

According to Hoffman, the snow and cold temperatures also brings with it many dangers in responding to calls.

"The deep freezing conditions often cause water lines to break

and freeze, which then in turn renders the apparatus inoperable. On our trucks, we have pumps to keep the water in the tanks in case of fires, and we must continually drain the water from the pumps to keep them from breaking or freezing up." Hoffman said.

The Fire Department has placed more staff on duty, especially during the nights, in preparation for the harsh weather.

"We try to get as many people as possible to help out, it takes longer to get to emergencies and fires in the snow, so we need more people working." Hoffman explains

about the necessary boosts for on-duty firefighters.

During especially snowy conditions, the firefighters often try and come out to every call, making sure the townspeople are as safe as possible and that situations are resolved "quickly and effectively".

The Fire Department changes and alters its operations to fit the needs of the weather.

"The safety of our town would be affected by the storms if we did not change our operations, but because we do, we can ensure safety for the people." Hoffman says.

The fire trucks, on the way to fires and emergencies, drive extra slowly due to the snow and ice.

Even with the past large amounts of snow already received this year, there is a large possibility of more to come.

In order to ensure safety in our town, Hoffman said "Anytime it snows, clear snow away from all near fire hydrants, so in case of emergency it is easy for fireman to find them and access them."

Also, he says to "be cautious of auxiliary heating systems, like fireplaces, stoves and chimneys."

"When we do get snowy conditions, people should stay inside and not drive until necessary. It makes our jobs much easier when we know the people are safe inside their homes." Hoffman said.

## Township reacts to governor's call for longer day

Claudia Griffo '14

Governor Christie has been under fire from the George Washington Bridge controversy. That, however, has not stopped him from exhibiting his dominance as "Governator" of New Jersey. Christie has proposed a controversial idea that has many arguing whether it should be voted yay or nay. It is every student's nightmare. Christie has proposed the idea for a longer school day as well as an extended school year.

"Our school calendar is antiquated both educationally and culturally," said Christie in a previous speech (NBC news). Many have argued that America is lagging in its educational system compared to that of international systems, and those who argue believe a year-round school calendar would catch America up.

Retired former WTHS A.V. Director, Theater Director, and Tech Crew Advisor, Mr. Rick Huff agrees that America has "more competi-

tion with Europe".

"Personally I think [changing the school day] should be done, but nationally," said Huff. He does however feel it would be difficult to manage because of after school activities, and contract adjustments with all staff members.

While there are many logistical aspects that play important roles such as staff contracts and busing, there are other factors that also need consideration. There is a question of whether it is just too much mentally and physically for students.

"I can see the pros and cons. But I don't think kids have enough of an attention span. Me personally, I feel like it would be too much." commented Kylie Giedemann '14. Some think that the already seven to eight hours kids spend daily in school is grueling enough.

"We already get up early as it is. Mentally, it would drain me out," said Mike DeLuca '14. Some students have a wakeup call as early as 6 am (even earlier if you squeeze in a gym work-

out or hair and makeup). Studies have shown that teenagers need the most sleep, and if the day gets elongated there could be high schools filled with the walking dead.

There have been mainly students who oppose the extension of school days and the overall year. Jasper Perle '14 does not feel there is a need to extend the day any longer.

"I don't think it's necessary, I think it is long enough as it is," commented Perle. Students believe that is not needed, and rather the two and half month summer break is imperative.

"I think everyone needs a summer," began Senior Brandon Odenath. "I need that free time to relax and spend time with family and friends. 180 days is more than enough time to attend school and be educated well enough to succeed as an individual."

Only time will tell if a longer school day and year will be chosen and if it will bring the children of tomorrow a greater success than their predecessors.

# Twp. Madness rocks gym

photos by Theresa Arcena '17



# Commentary

## Cut-backs endanger U.S. international influence

Lexie Taylor '14

Our world is rife with turmoil today. Russia is invading Ukraine, the Koreans are preparing for war on both sides, the United States is in trillions of dollars of debt to China, and the Middle East is a full-out warzone. There is so much tension in our world that United States foreign policy could be at a breaking point.

We cannot afford to cut back on our military strength at this time.

This is not to say that the United States has to run around being the policeman of the world. We do not need to get involved in conflicts in which we have no business, but our country should be ready, in case if something bad should happen.

The U.S. and Russia have had a long history of distrust and even hatred. While the conflicts between democracy and communism have died down Russia and the United States still don't see eye-to-eye. The East and West always seem to be battling it out over some issue or another.

Ukraine is the perfect example of this.

Parts of Ukraine want to be affiliated with Western Society and the European Union, while other regions want to be a part of Russia again. Rather than seek a peaceful resolution, Vladimir



AP IMAGES

**U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln** leaving Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to attend RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific exercise), the world's largest international military maritime exercise.

Limiting military spending could seriously impact international affairs in the United states.

Putin has sent in his troops and started shooting.

History has shown that appeasement of aggressive powers does not curb their ambitions and desire for control and power.

If there is even a possibility of a major conflict that the United States may need to become involved in, why does President Obama support cutting back on military spending?

I agree, we have to cut spending somewhere, but in this unstable international environment it needs to be done somewhere else.

I'm afraid for what may happen in the

future. For years the United States has been known to have the most powerful military in the world, we have been protected by our reputation and have seemed almost untouchable because of it. We have made a few enemies along the way as well.

It seems like many countries, some of whom voice an open distaste for our society, are building up their armed forces.

If we weaken our military, we weaken our defenses, our abilities to support our allies and leave ourselves open to conflict and strife.

## U.S. oversteps bounds as world policeman

Brandon Decker '15

America and its leaders have taken it upon themselves for the past 115 years to be the police of the entire world.

What makes us think we are even wanted around the world? Why do we stick our nose in places it doesn't belong?

We have convinced ourselves through the media's patriotic turn that we are like a comic book hero, but in my opinion we are the heinous comic book villain, responsible for millions of deaths.

We have become the supposed "hero" too many times. We have been stomping all around the world on a rampage like Godzilla through Tokyo.

Dating all the way back to the Spanish-American War of the late

1800s to the absolute disaster that was the Vietnam War to even the Iraq War from which we are still cleaning up the mess.

I am not alone in my opposition to this role of world police.

Vietnam brought on a domestic conundrum where we saw the younger generation fighting against the older politicians in a dispute about the war. We saw the same problem with Iraq, when we saw public outrage in response to a long-dragged out war.

Some may say that if the United States does not police the world, no one will. However, we can help the world without military intervention.

We, with the United Nations, can peacefully police the world by cutting off trade with nations, or peacefully negotiating. There are

other ways. Another point to make is that if we want to be world police then we have to be such for the whole entire world. For example, America will continue to swoop into different areas of the world as long as there have been benefits in that in doing so.

In the Spanish-American War we needed Cuba as a trade outpost. In Iraq there were oil interests involved and so many more. There will always be a self-serving interest involved in these wars. The millions that have died are all in the name of the rich getting richer and the powerful getting more power.

History shows us that being the world police is a giant mistake. We need to stop this cycle of supposedly "helping" these poor countries that do not need our intervention.

**The Patriot wants to hear your opinions!**

If you have any opinions on current issues, worldwide, national, or even issues in our school, please share them with us!

Send your letters to the Commentary section to [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)  
Attn: Lexie

# Leader lived as world-wide inspiration

## Nelson Mandela 1918-2013

Olivia Smithson '17

Dec. 5, 2013 marked a sad day as Nelson Mandela, an inspiration to millions around the world, died in his home that morning. He is, and forever will be, a symbol of hope and determination for all people of the world who seek equality for one another.

Washington Township High School honored the life of Mandela by holding a moment of silence on the morning announcements.

Some people may question why Nelson Mandela's life is one to be celebrated. They argue that he was just a normal person, so his life should not be praised regardless of all he has achieved. However, I think that Mandela should be celebrated precisely for the fact that he *was* just a regular person. He has set such a phenomenal example to all the youth, and collectively, all citizens of the world through his perseverance in passionately pursuing his goals, while at the same time carrying on a typical lifestyle.

Mandela's actions in nonviolently fighting the atrocities of apartheid (the official government segregation of blacks and whites) are the pivotal points of what makes him a leader. Without the noteworthy deeds of Nelson Mandela,



AP IMAGES

**In Paris candles were lit in front of a photograph of Mandela. With his death, Mandela's life achievements were celebrated around the world.**

the country of South Africa would not nearly be as successful as it is today. Mandela taught everyone that learning the value of sacrifice improves our world overall.

After spending 27 years in jail for treason along with 150 other members of the African National Congress, Mandela was elected

President of South Africa in 1991. Mandela's generous, impartial, and encouraging demeanor made him an icon and role model for many.

South Africa honored the life of Nelson Mandela by holding a ten-day mourning period, with one day of prayer and reflection in his home town. Many children in South Africa organized special dances and parades in honor of the transformative individual. Mandela was recently buried in the rolling hills of his home country of South Africa.

Beyond his home country of South Africa, many nations are commemorating Mandela's work as well. Feb. 11 is the date of "Mandela Day" across the world. I think the United States (as well as other countries) should attempt to hold a day of reflection for the lauded man. "Mandela Day's" purpose is to inspire individuals and empower communities to change the world for the better, no matter what their age.

*"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."*—Nelson Mandela

# U.S. should stay out of Syrian conflict

Anthony Spadano '15

Since March 2011, president Bashar al-Assad and the Baath Government have been fighting in a civil war against the rebels trying to oust the government, morphing into a bloody uprising.

As of August of 2013, there have been over 100,000 reported casualties, including women and children, due to chemical weapons used by the government against their own people.

President Obama had addressed the nation on September 10, 2013 about the situation in Syria and how the United States would handle the situation. President Obama said he wanted to rid Syria of their stockpile of chemical weapons through a military strike, but at the same time, looking for a diplomatic solution.

The question people are asking is "Is it a good idea to order a military strike on Syria to destroy their chemical weapons".



AP IMAGES

**The civil war in Syria has been escalating. Al-Qaeda fighters from Iraq are shown here marching on Raqqa, Syria.**

People may argue that we should strike Syria because this Civil War in Syria has the potential to reach the caliber of the Holocaust and that could be prevented by striking Syria.

However, I do not believe it is a good idea to strike Syria. The United States is already involved in a war in Iraq and Afghanistan

and that has put us in major debt and cost us many American lives. We do not have the money to enter another war, which will surely happen if we strike warehouses that house chemical weapons.

Also, if we join the war, we will be assisting the rebels to oust Assad. If Assad is removed, the rebels will set up a new regime.

These rebels have been associated with Al-Qaeda, which would propose another terrorist threat to the U.S.

If Assad and the Ba'ath government won and we were helping the rebels, this would also institute problems for the U.S. Either way, if we intervened in this war, it may come back to haunt us.

Along with problems related to Syria, we would be creating problems with other countries surrounding Syria that don't want U.S. airships in their airspace.

We should not be striking Syria. However, I believe we need to help the citizens of Syria without ordering a military strike. We need to negotiate with Syria to get rid of their chemical weapons used against the Syrian people, rather than order a military strike, which would surely cause war.

We have to stay out of war by any means necessary because if we were to enter the Syrian Civil War, it would not fare well for us.

# 24-hour Journalism losing its focus

Brandon Decker '15

At the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Americans went to marketplaces to hear someone stand on a soap box and belly-ache about some wrong-doing bestowed on the American people. Before newspapers, news was spread by spoken word. In more recent times people read straight from newspapers to read the latest propaganda piece to push for some sort of political movement.

This could all be considered journalism, but what we look at as the main form of journalism today is broadcast journalism. Broadcast journalism is defined as journalism practiced on radio or television or any spoken/video type of media.

Radio and television started making great leaps and bounds for journalism, inventing breaking news and allowing people to see and hear the reporter telling them the news. However, radio and especially television news have unfortunately worsened over the years. Real news anchors like Walter Cronkite used to rule the television and radio news world, now we have anchors that compete in a popularity competition daily to keep their jobs.

As some of you might have heard early last year "Today Show" co-anchor Ann Curry was replaced after a ratings decline hit the morning news juggernaut.

The hardened journalist was replaced with a more upbeat anchor named Savannah Guthrie. Backstage politicking got Curry terminated but if the news was really important to NBC executives then they would have kept Curry on as she is the more hard-hitting reporter out of the two (Curry and Guthrie). Why must journalist be criticized on the way they look or speak rather than the way they report the news?

Another facet of broadcast journalism would be the sensationalism of the news. This has always been a problem for journalism since Yellow Journalism ruled the industry. Also it is not only evident in broadcast journalism but in newspapers as well. However, broadcast journalism has taken sensationalism to a whole new level. They decide what people talk about and shove it down our throats non-stop. Now with the invention of the 24-hour news networks we see they run out of things to talk about rather quickly so they sensationalize things that aren't as important. They report on the latest drunken celebrity or the next whack job the media decides to exploit to the point of nausea instead of real important matters.

The blame is not solely on the supposed journalists and their executive bosses as we, the public, bear some of the blame. We need to speak up and protest these mega news conglomerates owned by big corporations looking out for their own interests.

# Right to Love

Kim Clements '15

Imagine that you fell in love with the person of your dreams. Imagine the happy and blissful relationship that you would share with them. Now imagine planning to marry them, to settle down in happiness together and finally earn your 'happy ending'. However, one major obstacle hinders your path to happiness; the fact that your beloved is the same gender.

Imagine the hateful and resentful glares sent your way, simply because of your sexuality. Imagine being told that your love is 'wrong' and 'disgusting'. Despite living in America, the 'land of the free', imagine being told that you have no right to marry your beloved.

Love is not a choice. Falling in love is a magical, natural experience that nobody can control. As cheesy and cliché as it

*As cheesy and cliché as  
it sounds, our heart loves  
who it wants to love.*

sounds, our heart loves who it wants to love. So why couldn't we love somebody of the same gender?

The world won't end simply because two women or two men love one another. If you don't approve of gay rights, then that's your opinion. Why ruin other people's lives simply because of your preferences? What is there to gain from it? Will it help you sleep at night, knowing that gays cannot marry or love properly?

Just because something is considered different does not mean that it is wrong or disgusting. What is wrong and disgusting is the mindset that opponents

of gay rights choose to maintain. They believe that they have the right to control the lives of others, to deem others as outcasts or worthless just because they choose to love differently. Nobody has the right to judge others.

There should be no question regarding whether or not gays should be allowed to marry. As American citizens, they are entitled to rights and freedom. So why deny them the freedom to marry whom they choose to? They have the right to live their lives the way they want to. They have the right to love who they want to.

# Writing offers surprise benefits

Marissa LaSalle '17

One of the greatest feelings in the world is finishing a story that you know is brilliant. Whether other people agree with your ideas or not, knowing that you worked your hardest on a piece is a tremendous feeling. And when you write something great, you want other people to know about it too. That's why I joined newspaper club: to share my ideas and stories with the school.

While some people may think that joining *The Patriot* may require too much excess work and extra writing assignments, I disagree. In fact, I enjoy writing for the paper. It's a lot of fun when you get an assignment that you can throw your whole self into. For me, it's not a chore to write. It's a new opportunity to discover more about anything I want to write about.

Additionally, a big advantage for me for being a part of the school paper is getting the chance to interview people. Before joining the paper, I never really had to interview a person one-on-one, so the opportunity seemed a little scary at first. However, after facing my fears and conducting my first interview, I realized it's not nearly as bad as it seems. People want to tell you their stories, so you have to give them the chance to. I think it's interesting to learn about the lives of different people through a news story.

Furthermore, I love that the paper has so many different sections and diverse stories.

Overall, being a part of our school newspaper has made me realize that something is always going on. It has opened my eyes to the tons of activities and extracurricular activities our school has. I wouldn't have known about so many different clubs or organizations if I hadn't found out about them through stories for the paper. It makes you realize how much you're missing out on.



# Bieber failing as role model

Callie Meintel '17

On Thursday Jan. 24, nineteen year old pop singer Justin Bieber was arrested in Miami, Florida. He was pulled over at four o'clock in the morning when he was caught drag racing and was charged with DUI and resisting arrest. Not only was he drinking and driving, but Bieber was also on perscription drugs.

Bieber, who made five number one albums is very influential among his fans, but should he be considered a role model?

A week before he was arrested, Bieber was caught allegedly egging his neighbor's house with his friends. Not only that, but he has posted a questionable picture on the social media website, Instagram, holding what seems to be a cigarette.

Bieber is a questionable role model for many of his fans, and is leaving an impression on them like many other stars. Celebrities should be setting great examples for the children, teens, and even

adults that look up to them, but at times their lives may spin out of control.

Bieber has been in the musical industry since the age of fourteen, and made money fast. The ammount of wealth and fame that he has can be hard for a nineteen year old boy to handle all at once.

It is known that many celebrities who became famous in their younger years have fallen into the wrong hands. Bieber has been through many ups and downs in his life and music career, including his recent arrest.

Through this hard time in his life, Bieber's fans have supported him through it all. It's difficult to be a fan of someone famous and see their life go down hill, and still support them. He continues to be encouraged by the support of his loving fans.

It's so crushing to many fans when they realize that their idol has ben in trouble, but hopefully Bieber will be guided on the right path again.



AP IMAGES

**Pop Star Justin Bieber was arrested** for drag racing in Miami and charged with resist-ing arrest and DUI

## Smack cam videos go too far

Sruthi Srinivasan '17

When most viral trends first get their starts, the videos are funny, made to get a laugh out of the viewer. However, as time progresses, people tend to take the pranks too far in an effort to be recognized for their originality. The Internet is a marvelous resource, but sometimes it has a darker side.

Smack Cam is a prank video where people prank their friends or family by smacking them in the face, taking them by surprise. What started off as a bit of fun and games has now turned into a dangerous, life-threatening activity.

When Smack Cam first debuted, the videos were just of people sneaking up behind their friends and slapping them in the face without trying to hurt them. With time, some people took it a step further by putting shaving cream or whipped cream on a paper plate and slapping their friends with the plate. Now they have begun to cross the border between being funny and dangerous.

Lately, slightly more thrilling, yet dangerous, videos have been popping up left and right on Vine. There have been videos of people smacking cops, their grandparents, or even strangers they don't know on the streets.

**What started off as a bit of fun and games has now turned into a dangerous, life-threatening**

even worse is that these people have to endure further humiliation on the Internet when their friends post these types of videos.

In such a short time span, a funny, harmless internet trend that began on Vine has turned into a dangerous game of something very close to life and death. We shouldn't be promoting violent behavior by accessing such sites and sharing these types of videos. It is a shame that we live in a society where people are so quick to outdo one another with outrageous behavior. We can only hope that these people will calm down and stop hurting innocent people for another's sick pleasure.

When you're watching these Vine videos on the internet, you may think they are funny, but the people in the videos are actually being hurt. According to MSN News, people have been severely injured due to these pranks and soon, legal action may be taken against some of the offenders. What's

## The Patriot

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Washington Township High School,  
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# Features

## Smog seen from Space

### China's increasing pollution raises concerns for environment

Olivia Smithson '17

The Great Wall of China isn't the only man-made sight visible from space.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has reported an alarming amount of smog over China's mainland near Beijing and Shanghai. This massive cloud of airborne pollutants are visible from NASA's Terra satellite, which produced a colored image of the smog while orbiting Earth on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Shanghai's central authorities closed schools and even banned professional sporting events while deciding on what to do about the hazardous situation.

Measurements from China show that Beijing's Air Quality Index has risen to 487, while Shanghai's was at 404. The total scale of 500 demonstrates that any toxin levels over 300 are regarded as dangerous.

Washington Township High School's S.A.V.E. club advisor, Ms. Pancari, finds that the increased levels of smog in China are not necessarily surprising.

Pancari explains that China's increasing population and recent alterations to their economy may have contributed to the growing cloud of smog, and that China's dependence on fossil fuels is certainly a heavy factor. Pancari hopes that China will at least take a few steps to improve their current condition, and that they will be more wary of their resources in the future.

"Your daily quality of life is severely impacted," says Pancari. "And it certainly has global implications."

Pancari goes on to say that the heavy reliance on fossil fuels, which is a contributing factor to increased smog, can negatively affect overall climate change in the long run. These types of problems become a major concern for the United States as Americans look for more efficient ways to use energy and utilize renewable resources for the future. Currently, the methods of obtaining these resources is a hotly-debated issue, and Pancari does not hesitate to offer her thoughts about the most harmful tactic



AP IMAGES

**Uniformed officer in China wears face mask while directing traffic in heavy smog. Chinese pollution has global effects.**

of getting these nonrenewable resources.

"Fracking, fracking, fracking!" exclaims Pancari. "It's such a scary thing." Fracking is the process of extracting natural gas from shale rock layers deep within the Earth, and it leads to many other problems within nearby vicinities. Fracking is important to our region as Pennsylvania is a prime location and environmentalists are concerned it could pollute the Delaware watershed.

Pancari explains "people's water literally catches on fire [in fracking areas]" and that fracking is even connected to earthquakes. She elaborates on the fact that mountain top removal, or the act of blowing up a mountain and placing its debris in rivers, is an immense threat to the environment as well.

Pancari shares that government regulation is the easiest way to prevent drastic climbs in pollution or toxin levels. She firmly believes "subsidizing renewable resources to the degree of fossil fuels" would be of great use to the United States at this time.

S.A.V.E. member Louis Testa '17 agrees,

saying that "if anything, Beijing, or perhaps the entirety of China, should at least attempt to organize some regulations in their energy use." Testa explains one of the possible reasons as to why the smog even became such big problem was because of the substantial amount of vehicular exhaust and production in Chinese factories.

"Although most factory owners claim to use clean electricity that does not pollute the environment, the dark clouds seen from satellite imaging in space tell a different story," argues Testa.

Pancari adds to the conversation, saying that it is wrong to ignore problems with such a vast impact in so many other nations.

"I think that at one point we won't even be able to have this debate, because the damage will be so irreversible," she said.

China's blanket of smog is certainly raising a red flag not only in their country, but in numerous other countries as well. The pollution serves as a reminder that humans do have an impact on the planet, and that whether or not people know it, it can change their lives dramatically.

**Join S.A.V.E.!**

(Student Against Violations of  
the Earth)

For more information  
contact Mrs. Pancari in J-209.

**Join the newspaper club.**

Meetings are held every  
Tuesday in G208.

New members are always  
welcome.

# Snowy winter rough on new drivers



GOOGLE IMAGES

**Drivers drive slowly through harsh winter weather. Having your high beams on in snowy weather is definitely a must.**

*Marissa LaSalle '17*

According to researchers at Berkeley University, weather conditions attributed to 1.4 million fatal car crashes from the years 1975 to 2000.

Consequently, safety on the

road is important as ever. While we've faced several snowstorms and temperatures dropping below 10°F, there are still many battles we have yet to face.

Driving instructor Mr. James Hallinan shared some tips for new drivers in tough weather condi-

tions.

"You need to keep extra distance when driving in bad weather. The number one accident is a rear end collision and any bad weather makes it more difficult to stop."

Stopping your vehicle is a major issue during stormy weather.

"Assume you may skid," Hallinan advised. "It's better for that to occur well in advance when approaching a stop sign or red light, then to skid closer to the intersection and possibly skidding into the actual intersection."

Although Steve DiTullio '14 isn't afraid of driving in the ice or rain, he admits, "One just has to be mindful that the ice will cause you to slip rather easily. With that in mind, one will remember to drive a bit more slowly, stop or brake earlier, and be more aware. You never know what will happen."

It is important to have a few essential items in your vehicle like

a small shovel, gloves, and something to clean off your headlights with. Kitty litter is also important to keep on hand in tough conditions.

"Kitty litter helps to get out of snow if stuck – pour some in front of and behind each tire and attempt to pull out (repeat as necessary)" Hallinan advised.

As well as knowing what to keep in your car, it is also important to understand your car.

"Do you have anti-lock brakes? Do you have 4-wheel or all-wheel drive? If not, do you have front or rear wheel drive? Do you have AAA to get towed if needed? These are the important questions we need to ask," said Hallinan.

Although it may be exciting to be driving in the snow or on ice for the first time, you need to wait for the right time and place to do it.

"Overall, the best advice is to avoid these conditions if possible. If you took an unnecessary risk and got into an accident, you will quickly realize it wasn't worth it," said Hallinan.

## Students reflect on Mandela's life

*Brittany McVeigh '15*

A hero to many, Nelson Mandela will forever be known as the biggest apartheid crusader. As a well known public official that changed the lives of thousands of people both within his country and around the world, he still continues to impact the students within our school who live each day to fulfill the messages he spread across the world.

"I was inspired by Nelson Mandela because he fought for what he believed in, even through adversity," said Dami Fowora '15.

Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary that spent his whole life fighting against the apartheid. He was also a politician and philanthropist. Mandela served as the President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was imprisoned for fighting for what he believed in. He always went about his actions peacefully and never acted out negatively to the challenges he was faced with.

While he was facing the death penalty at the end of his famous speech, "Speech from the Dock" on April 20, 1964 he stated, "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs

be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." It was these qualities that made so many people look up to him.

Others admired that even though he went to jail for 27 years for fighting against apartheid when he came out he continued to peacefully protest for freedom and peace in his country.

"People should know that he suffered a lot to make change possible and that he helped bring change to a generation, if one man can do it we can all put our heads together and make change for our generation," said Fowora.

Although she has not done anything on a national scale or charity work, Mandela has inspired her to take a change in the way people treat others and try to help people be more accepting of others. "Whether it's in person or online I always try to make sure that people are treating each other respectfully. With all of the social media that we are exposed to it's easy for people to get caught up in the anonymity so I try my best to keep the negativity to a minimum."

Even after his passing, Nelson Mandela still inspires people and encourages them to make a change. He brought the world closer on the day of his passing. On social media people



Dennis Farrel / AP IMAGES

**Mandela at good friend George Bizos' 80th birthday party.**

from all around shared how he impacted them and many of his quotes floated around Twitter. People from all generations all came together to grieve, for that moment there was nothing but good will and peace spreading from person to person.

Taylor Fontana '15 who was on Twitter the day of his passing, "It was really nice to see everyone quoting Nelson Mandela and posting pictures of him. Everyone was bringing up all the positive things he did to impact the world. It was a connection between everyone of all ages; it was refreshing to see."

# Kotoricon Anime Convention



anime.gcc.nj

**Kotoricon participants** dance and take pictures before the anime convention.

Kim Clements '15

Born from a desire to share in Japanese culture, Kotori-con is an anime convention held yearly at Gloucester County College. Known as 'a little convention with a big heart', it was created by a campus club of student volunteers. Featuring panels, special guests and merchandise, the convention appeals to many fans of anime and proceeds benefit many charities, such as Liberty in North Korea and Direct Relief.

As many of the visitors cosplay, or dress up as their favorite character from a series, it is easy for strangers to quickly become friends based off of similar preferences. "I liked how everybody was nice to each other," said Jon Veale, one of the cosplayers. The friendly atmosphere made it easy to ask for pictures together with a cosplayer or simply to start a conversation. Some of the most common cosplay came from the series *Attack on Titan*, *Beyond the Boundary*, *Naruto* and *Adventure Time*.

There was also merchandise sold in an area filled with vendors, which was heavily crowded. "It was nice not having to worry about quality or shipping," commented an anonymous cosplayer. With figurines, plush toys, notebooks, accessories and more, there was a vast selection of merchandise. There was also an 'Artist's Alley', filled with original commissions and fanart created by freelance artists.

Another major attraction was the Ichigo Latte Maid Café, resembled after Japanese maid cafes in which the wait staff dressed as either maids or butlers to serve and pamper the guests. The Combat Simulation room was another crowded attraction, in which participants

would choose a setting and use a light-touch combat system against the 'enemies'. The settings varied from post-apocalyptic to steampunk, and the enemies would change accordingly, from aliens to zombies, etc.

Several voice actors were in attendance of the convention as well, holding panels and question-and-answer events. Other miscellaneous events, such as an anime Mad Libs and different anime screenings were also held de-

pending on the time.

Overall, Kotori-con is an opportunity for fans of anime and manga to come together, forming friendships and creating memories. Whether buying merchandise, attending panels or simply observing the cosplay, Kotori-con seemed to have something for everybody. While many travel miles to come to Kotori-con, it is interesting that something so coveted could occur right within our vicinity at GCC.

## Earn credits and work on *The Patriot*.

### Sign up for Journalism and Creative Writing

- **Contribute to the paper** even if you have a busy after school schedule.
- Writers have the chance to **earn credits** for work they enjoy.
- By covering the news you **meet people** throughout the school.
- Provides **hands-on practical experience** for students interested in careers in **broadcast or print journalism, communications or public relations.**



ALI ALTAMURO '15/*The Patriot*

All schedule changes need to be completed **before May 1**.  
Contact Mr. Evangelisti in G-208 for more information

# Lifestyles

## Perspective

# The “Ideal” is Unreal

Krissi Hazzan '15

Body image is one of those things that has always been a problem for teenagers all over the world. Both boys and girls are often pressured to have a “perfect” body.

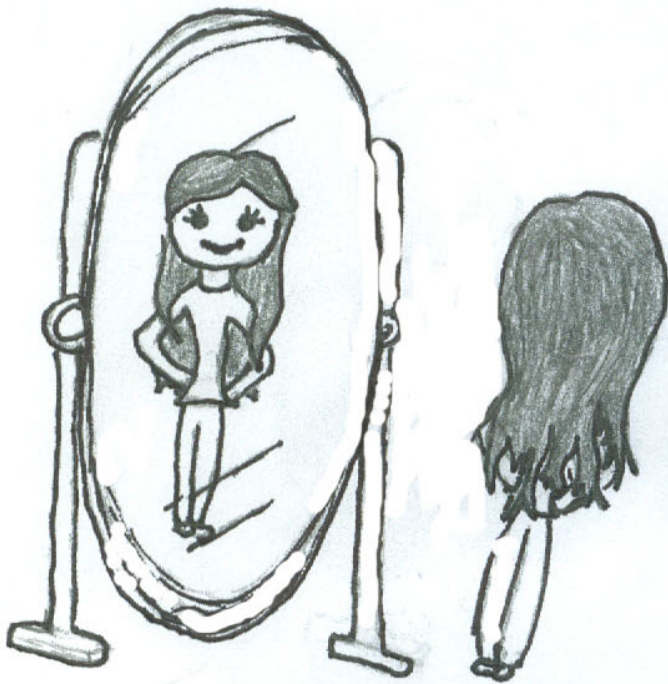
You can't go anywhere in public or online without seeing a picture of a half-clothed girl with a flat stomach and thin thighs, or a man with sculpted abs and ridiculously muscular arms.

Even though most of the pictures put out on the media are intricately staged and in some cases photoshopped, some teens still feel the need to look like these people, as if it's the way ordinary people should or have to look.

Appearance and body image has always been an important issue, especially for women. It is important to recognize that the image of a “perfect” body has changed over time. As early as the 1700's, the average woman was usually around 170 pounds. Anything under that was considered “too thin”.

Starting around the 1920's, the perfect hourglass figure was idolized. Around the 1950's, people like Marilyn Monroe were idolized for their voluptuous figures and it was considered desirable to be a perfect size 14 like Marilyn.

## Media images often discouraging



CELESTE SUBIDO '17 / The Patriot

However, from the 1960's and on, it became more popular to be skinny, and every girl's goal was to be as close to 100 pounds as possible.

The ideal girl of today is probably one that has a flat toned stomach, slim legs, and a “thigh gap” or visible space between the thighs

when standing. This has become a bigger issue than it should, and it is extremely misunderstood. Having that gap has nothing to do with a person's weight, but the shape and spacing of their actual hips.

Many girls feel the need to have this unrealistic body from the images they see on TV and online,

specifically from the social blogging site “Tumblr”.

A majority of this website consists of numerous pictures of random girls, who are mostly considered and accepted as being “perfect”. The thing is, these women are all different.

On Tumblr, it seems that everyone seems to have different opinions. Some people reblog pictures of really skinny, fair girls and consider them to be beautiful. Other girls reblog pictures of curvy girls covered with tattoos, while others reblog picture of those who are tan and very fit.

As much as Tumblr can kill a girl's self esteem, it also shows women everywhere that there are different types of beautiful.

Not everyone has to look a certain way, because as much as people feel pressured to look like the people on that site, there are also numerous people that promote the idea of loving your body, no matter what shape or size.

Sadly, regardless of how many times a person can tell someone that they are beautiful the way they are, often they'll still want to look different. Having a goal to be fit or healthy is fine, but there are more important things in life than having to worry about what your body looks like.

# Staying fit through rain or shine

Olivia Smithson '17

For some, motivating oneself to exercise is the greatest challenge to face when it comes to staying fit. Contrary to popular belief, staying in shape is not about perfecting your body image.

Being fit is all about wanting to be healthy, and maintaining good health has huge benefits for any individual in the long run. However, sometimes the way we exercise can be hindered by factors we cannot control, such as the weather. Thankfully, there are just as many exercises you can do indoors as you can outdoors.

For starters, it is recommended by multiple fitness organizations that teenagers should get at least 30 minutes of exercise per day. WTHS gym classes work toward fulfilling this recommended range, and after-school sports also serve as a great way to stay active all year.

Exercise equipment such as an elliptical, treadmill, or stationary bike, can be of great use when forced to stay indoors. For those who do not have this equipment, it is easy to gain access to tailored fitness programs on cable television.

There are many exercises people can do without technology. There is always room for the old-fashioned set of push-ups, crunches, sit-ups, lunges, and a handful of other resistance exercises that do not require weights.

Aside from these forms of exercise, gym memberships are always helpful when it comes to exercising. Gathering a group of friends to go to the gym is a great way to motivate yourself and others.

When people are working out, they should

keep in mind that they should alternate their workout plans. For example, switching between cardio workouts, resistance exercises, and weight training will make for a balanced workout. Continuously working on one aspect of the body could lead to muscle fatigue or injury.

## Gathering a group of friends to go to the gym is a great way to motivate yourself and others.

In conjunction with working out, it is always best to maintain a healthy, well-balanced diet. While the temptation of holiday

treats and delicious desserts may seem like a good reason to slack off, it is better to eat these foods in moderation after working out.

Being fit is a great goal to have all year-round. Once people find a workout plan that fits them, it becomes much easier to get into the habit of exercising any day of the year.

# The Arts

## Pops concert transforms

Olivia McGough '17

On Feb 26, the WTHS choral program, along with the eighth grade chorus students, performed their first ever collaborative pops concert, *The Pop Experience*.

Singing songs like "Some Nights" by Fun, "Jar of Hearts" by Christina Perri, "Fix You" by Coldplay, and "Gone, Gone, Gone" by Phillip Phillips, the concert proved to be varied. Several high school students performed additional solos as well, showcasing their individual talents for the audience.

The students this year were given the opportunity to work with a professional band, thanks to choral director Mr. Joseph Zachowski. A professional lighting company provided special effects, adding to the excitement.

"I thought the concert was amazing. The song choices were really cool, and everyone sounded awesome. I was thinking about joining chorus next year and that confirmed my decision. Everyone just had so much fun with it!" said audience member Elena LeVan '17.

The entire choral program in Washington Township practiced for the concert beginning several months beforehand.

"[The concert] was amazing to do with all of the high school and middle school students together, and I can't wait to do it again next year," said Women's Chorus and Vocal Jazz Pop Choir member Julia Greco '17.

Many of the past performers did not know



courtesy of MR. BOB FRAMPTION

**The Pop Experience finale included all of the high school choirs and the eighth graders. Multiple soloists from the high school were featured throughout the performance.**

what to expect of the night because the annual pops concert was being changed with professional musical and technical aspects.

"The whole idea [for *The Pop Experience*] was to give all of the students in the [choral] program a different opportunity. I wanted the eighth graders to get exposed to what we do here," explained Zachowski.

For many of the eighth grade students, *The Pop Experience* was their first time working with the high school choirs.

"I thought [the concert] was a great experience to see how the high school chorus per-

forms," said eighth-grader David McCahill.

At the concert, canned goods were collected which were later donated to a charity.

As for future events, Zachowski is unsure. Although he wants the pop concert to continue to be just as large as it was this year, he needs to decide what he wants to do.

"I just don't know yet," he said.

Overall, many of the audience members enjoyed the performance, with many significant people attending, such as the mayor. The students enjoyed themselves, and the entire night ran smoothly.



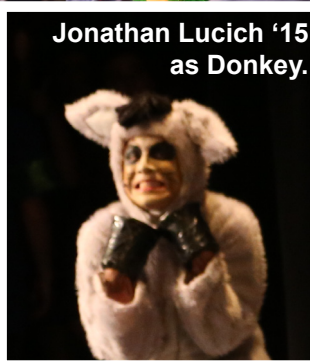
Dylan Lambe '14 in the title role.

## Shrek the Musical packs house

photos by JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ '14



Alessandra Roselli '14 as Dragon.



Jonathan Lucich '15 as Donkey.



Kayleigh Corn '14 as Princess

**Exhibit**

# Artifacts tell story of city's demise

Claudia Griffio '14

On Nov. 9, the Franklin Institute opened its *One Day in Pompeii* exhibit. Until April 27 visitors will have the opportunity to learn what life would have been like in Pompeii and to observe relics that have been preserved.

Filled with boundless information and ancient artifacts, *One Day in Pompeii* is a great way for people of all ages to gain an education on one of the most historic cities of the past.

Being a lover of history, I am partial to museums and exhibits where I can learn more about past eras and events.

As you enter into *One Day in Pompeii* it is as if you step into a courtyard, with wooden walls, giving you a very rustic feeling. You can watch a video and hear background sounds. As you walk through it is as if you are in an open agora or marketplace, hearing the sounds of merchants and animals. In display cases, you

can see old armor, vases, coins and much more. There are old tapestries and paintings that hang along the exhibit walls. They paint scenes of events or everyday actions that would have occurred in Pompeii.

In the last room there are replicated casts of the molten "bodies" that were uncovered at the site. Each one is an exact replica of one that is still at the site of the ruins. It gives you an eerie feeling as you observe the different positions of each "body".

Located in Philadelphia, the Franklin Institute's main attractions are geared more towards science. While being able to learn about electricity, space, planes, and much more, the museum is constantly featuring a specific exhibit for months at a time. In the past the museum has featured exhibits on mummies, the inside of the body, and even the Titanic. With each exhibit, information is presented in a way that is easily understandable for any age, and equally enjoyable



GABRIELLE DIEMMA '15/ The Patriot

**The destruction of a roman city is captured in *One day in Pompeii*. The Franklin Institute will host the exhibit through April 27.**

and entertaining.

Whether you have a free afternoon with friends or a rainy day with your family, *One Day in Pompeii* is worth visiting. It provides

interesting information about what life would have been like before the eruption. It is a way to witness and escape one of the world's most famous and historic tragedies.

**Theatre**

# Newsboys struggle as print empires battle

Bria Lamonica '17

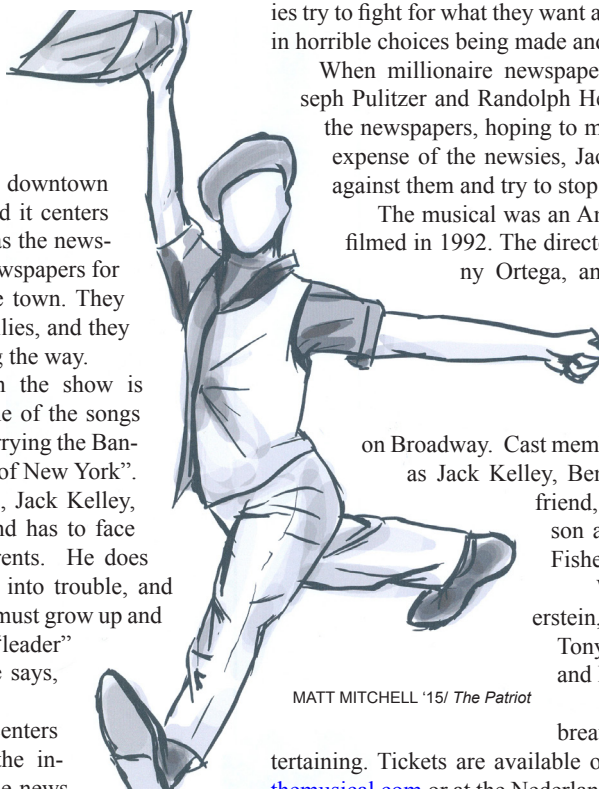
The original Broadway musical *Newsies* is an upbeat musical that's taking over the stage.

The show takes place in downtown New York in the late 1890's, and it centers around teenage boys who work as the newsies, making a living by selling newspapers for 1 cent each on the streets in the town. They struggle to provide for their families, and they often face many challenges along the way.

The music incorporated in the show is lively and "full of energy". Some of the songs include "Seize the Day" and "Carrying the Banner". Another fast song is "King of New York".

One of the main characters, Jack Kelley, takes a trip of self-discovery, and has to face life on his own without his parents. He does things that periodically get him into trouble, and along the way he realizes that he must grow up and face reality. Jack emerges as the "leader" of the newsies, and whatever he says, goes.

A large part of the musical centers on the newsies strike against the increasing prices of the papers. The news-



MATT MITCHELL '15/ The Patriot

ies try to fight for what they want and sometimes, it results in horrible choices being made and people getting hurt.

When millionaire newspaper publishing rivals Joseph Pulitzer and Randolph Hearst raise the prices of the newspapers, Jack and his friends rally against them and try to stop the increase in prices.

The musical was an American drama that was filmed in 1992. The director of the film was Kenny Ortega, and Christian Bale, also

known for his starring role in *Batman*, played Jack Kelley.

*Newsies* is currently appearing on Broadway. Cast members include Corey Cott as Jack Kelley, Ben Fankhauser as Jack's friend, Davey, Andy Richardson as Crutchie, and LaVon Fisher-Wilson as Medda.

Written by Harvey Fierstein, *Newsies* won the 2012 Tony Awards for Best Score and Best Choreography.

The musical is rather breathtaking and very entertaining. Tickets are available online at [www.newsies-themusical.com](http://www.newsies-themusical.com) or at the Nederlander Theatre Box Office.

Check out the latest edition of **Pieces, the WTHS online literary magazine.**

Go to the **Pieces eBoard** to access the most current and past issues.

Interested in submitting work for the next issue? Contact us at [pieces.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:pieces.magazine@gmail.com)

**Sign up for Creative Writing and Journalism.**

See Mr. Evangelisti in G-208 for details.

All schedule changes must be made by May 1

# Entertainment

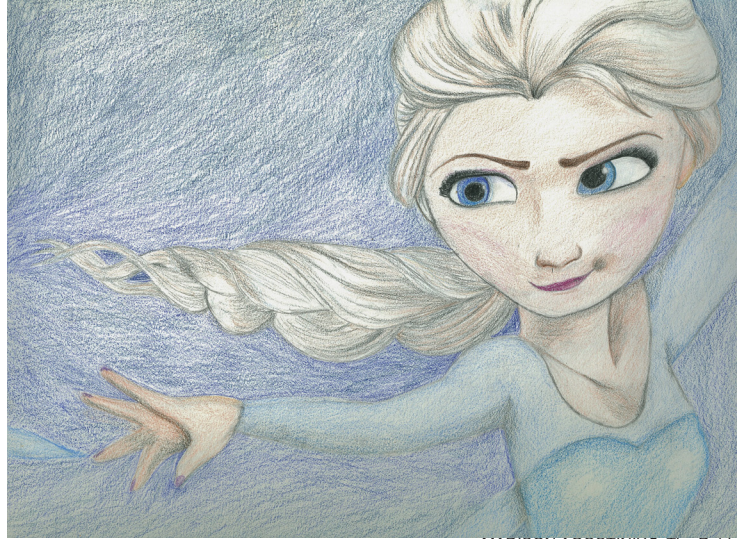
Film

## Do YOU wanna build a snowman?

Grier Conville '17

Just in time for winter, Disney released *Frozen*, a heartwarming tale to take the chill off the winter months. Released on Nov. 27, *Frozen* is directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee. It is Disney's fifty third animated movie. Based on the classic story "The Snow Queen" by Hans Christian Andersen, *Frozen* is definitely going to become an instant Disney classic.

*Frozen* tells the story of sisters, Anna and Elsa, the princesses of Arendelle. Elsa (Idina Menzel), who was born with a power to control ice and snow, must isolate herself from everyone after accidentally hurting Anna (Kristen Bell). Anna doesn't know why Elsa has pushed her away and grows up lonely. On the day of Elsa's coronation, she lets her powers get the best of her and flees the kingdom, creating an eternal winter. Anna must find her in order to bring summer back, but she enlists in the help of Kristoff the ice man (Jonathan Groff), Sven the reindeer, and Olaf the snowman (Josh



MADISON AGOSTINI '15 The Patriot

**Disney introduces two heroines, Queen Elsa and Princess Anna in their latest movie.**

Gad).

After seeing *Frozen* on opening night, I can honestly say that it lived up to my expectations. The score, composed by Christophe Beck, was amazing, the animations were fantastic, and the story was heartwarming and had a great

lesson.

*Frozen's* cast includes many vocalists who have been in Broadway shows, such as *Wicked*. Menzel and Bell's performances were worthy of a standing ovation. They are able to communicate the characters' feelings through their

performances. The soundtrack includes many songs that sound like they're right off of Broadway, such as "Let it Go" and "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?".

The plot of "Frozen" is very original, and like most Disney films, addresses universal themes that appeal to all age groups. The story has a little bit of action, a little bit of adventure, some romance, and has a good moral about family and the power of love. All of the characters are very well developed and have many special traits and qualities. Anna is adventurous and full of life whereas her older sister Elsa tries to conceal her feelings and tends to keep to herself. Overall, I would give *Frozen* a four out of five star rating. Everything was very well done, especially the character development, score and animations.

*Frozen* won the Golden Globe and Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film. It also won the Oscar for Best Original Song.

If you haven't seen it already, check out *Frozen*. You won't be disappointed.

Film

## Hungry For More

Michelle Salamoni '17

*The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, a novel by Suzanne Collins was an anticipated sequel to come to the theaters after the highly praised first movie and novel. The trilogy of books created by Collins was a hit all around the world which created "The Hunger Games Frenzy". People went crazy with "Team Katniss", "Team Peeta", and "Team Gale". Devoted fans set up outside the movie theaters for the first showings. There was no doubt that *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* would not be overlooked.

Many people thought the first movie was not as close to the novel as it could have been, but *Catching Fire* definitely is closer to the plot of the story. While watching *Catching Fire*, you can almost feel yourself in the tropical landscape with Katniss and Peeta of the 75th annual Hunger Games, The Quarter Quell. Many of the details in the movie, like the Victory Tour around all of the districts in Panem, the inter-

views with Caesar Flickerman, and even the games, are portrayed to an extent which almost seems real.

The movie begins in District 12, Katniss and Peeta's home district. This is after their victory from the last Hunger Games in the last movie. They have to embark in a victory tour to all the districts, for winning the 74th annual Hunger Games in an act of rebellion. When they go to the different districts, Katniss and Peeta both want to speak from the heart, but their mentor Effie has speeches to present to suppress outbursts that may occur because of the things they might say. When they try to put down the speeches, there is mass violence between the Peacekeepers and people of the districts. Katniss and Peeta then realized the face of the rebellion going on in their country: because of them.

The games start, and half of the tributes want to become allies with Katniss and Peeta. They eventually choose Finnick Odair, Mags, Wiress, Beetee Latier, and Johanna Mason. They

all work together, to stay alive, even though they lose two of their allies. They eventually find out "the twist" in the arena, and they strategize to kill the remaining tributes using the resources they have. In the twist of events, something goes terribly wrong and Katniss once again "ruins" The Hunger Games. Characters change and a shocking cliffhanger leaves you wanting more.

Main star, Jennifer Lawrence, plays Katniss in the movie. She was nominated for 58 different awards and won 51. She started her career at age of 14 when she spent the summer in New York and had a big break. Ever since she has been doing acting from comedy to dramas. Jennifer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> youngest to win "The Best Young Actress" Oscar award.

Supporting actor, Josh Hutcherson, plays Peeta Mellark in the movie. He made his first appearance in television and movies in 2002. From there on he went on to bigger movies such as *Kicking and Screaming*, *Zathura*, and eventually *The Hunger Games*.



**Film**

# Book Thief steals hearts

Sruthi Srinivasan '17

I've seen a great many movies in my day, and quite a few have been about the Holocaust, or World War II. I have not, however, seen a movie on the subject that is thrilling, joyful, and heart-breaking at the same time.

*The Book Thief*, a masterpiece directed by Brian Percival, perfectly captures the little joys in life, and the idea of acceptance amongst all people.

The touching tale tells the story of a young girl, Liesel Meminger, played by Sophie Nélisse, and her journey through the world of words. She discovers the joys of books with the help of her new foster parents, whom she calls Papa and Mama, (Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson). As her ache for knowledge grows, she begins to steal books wherever she can find them.

As Liesel settles into her new life, she befriends her neighbor Rudy (Nico Liersch), and Max (Ben Schnetzer), the Jewish man hiding out in her basement from the Nazis that patrol the streets.

This movie perfectly conveys Liesel's innocence, though the movie is ironically narrated by the Grim Reaper. Nélisse's acting was amazing in this movie, and the supporting cast really played their parts well. The facial expressions in this movie were very convincing, and I could



AP IMAGES

**Solid performances convey the emotional strain of living through wartime.**

feel myself on the verge of crying or smiling, depending on the characters' emotions.

I greatly appreciated the limited music in the movie; music isn't necessary at every new scene! Instead, the songs were tastefully included at the most worthy scenes, adding to the overall effect of the plot. The instrumental music was a welcome change to the over-produced music you hear in many movies today.

I also found the script very well-written. The humor was hard to pick up on, as it was

very subtle, but then again, the movie wasn't meant to be a comedy. The scripted lines for the heartbreaking scenes really added to the message. For example, when Liesel's Papa is beaten by the Nazi soldier for standing up for a Jewish person he knew, I could feel tiny pangs in my heart, just as Liesel's face showed anguish.

This film truly showed that sometimes, it is children who are ultimately more accepting. It showed Liesel in a strong, female role, which is different from many movies that you see in theaters nowadays, illustrating the idea of fighting for what you believe in, and protecting those who have done no wrong.

By the end of this movie, I felt a deep wrench in my heart. This film did a great job of portraying the grief that many people felt during World War II, and also showed the unique way that the characters found happiness in the toughest of times. It drives home the point that if Liesel Meminger could find even a tiny sliver of happiness in her life, anyone can.

I recommend this film as I think that it will stir up some feelings as it did for me, both happy and sad. It has been such a long time since I have seen a movie with a truly unique message, and "The Book Thief" has definitely changed my outlook on life and has moved onto my Top 10 list.

**Music**

## Midnight Memories

Pop goes rock

in One Direction's latest

Amrit Deo '17

*Up All Night, Take Me Home*, and now *Midnight Memories*. The world's biggest boy band One Direction released their 3<sup>rd</sup> album to go along with their other 2 chart toppers on Nov. 25.

The expectations for this album were big considering their first album *Up All Night* which went to number one in its first week of release and was the fastest selling album of 2011 according to Billboard and *Take Me Home*, their second album, which sold 4.4 million copies. More than 237,000 copies of *Midnight Memories* were sold in its debut week.

*Up All Night* their debut album was their unique spin on the classic catchy pop sound as *Take Me Home* more was their lead into the rock world. The boys amped up

on the guitar and percussion giving their sound a rock makeover for *Memories*.

The boys' pop sound took a turn for the better categorizing this album as "rock". The album's track list includes songs like "Midnight Memories", their spin on a classic rock anthem, "Little White Lies" which is heavy on the guitars and computerized percussion, and "Little Black Dress" which is also heavy on the guitar.

The common subject matter of the songs on the album consists of the bands' specialty, love songs talking about having a relationship that would last forever with that special someone. Songs also included are based on having a good time with friends. This album also takes a turn on the indie road with songs like "Happily" and "Through The Dark" both Mumford and



www.onedirectionmusic.com

**One Direction's new album introduces songs they wrote and broke their typical bubblegum pop image .**

Sons- sounding tunes. The boys wrote 12 of the 14 songs like "Better Than Words" and "Stronger" on the album instead of having a manufactured look with songs all written by song writers.

This album really raises the bar for the boys' next album many wondering if this is the new sound

for the band. It also raises the bar for many other boy bands trying to make it to the top showing that cookie-cutter pop music by a boy band won't cut it anymore. One Direction succeeds in showing how the boys have matured personally but most importantly musically with this hit album.

# Music ARCTIC MONKEYS

Priya Sharma '14

On Sept. 9, English indie rock quartet Arctic Monkeys released their highly anticipated fifth studio album *AM*. The slow churning and devious record is rightfully named *AM*. It is an after midnight nighttime stroll through the city; it is both dark and intimidating but wickedly thrilling.

Upon listening to the record I fell in love instantly. I would definitely categorize it as one of those albums where you love every single track. The album opens up with "Do I Wanna Know?" which captures a very James Bond theme song feel. It's essentially a cynical love song that explains the pain of unrequited feelings accompanied with a surging guitar riff and falsetto backing vocals from drummer Matt Helders. *AM* also features a reappearance of the single "R U Mine?" which released a little more than a year ago. Although all the tracks are phenomenal my favorites include "I Wanna Be Yours", "Knee Socks", "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?", and "Mad Sounds".

Notably, "I Wanna Be Yours" puts the lyrics of a romantic John Clarke Cooper poem from the '80s to an almost Dr. Dre-like beat. Alex Turner croons the lyrics of the ballad masterfully as Helders accompanies with R&B falsetto backing vocals. The drummer and lead singer duo create a '90s west coast hip-hop beat using a traditional drum set alongside Alex's soulful Stratocaster riffs.

I personally love the soft ballad "Mad

# New release best of career



www.arcticmonkeys.com

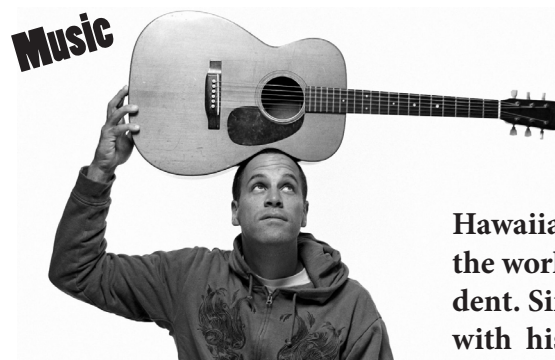
**The Arctic Monkeys formed in 2002 and produced 4 albums before *AM*, but *AM* has become the most popular album yet.**

Sounds" which is certainly a break from the R&B influenced record. The track is so heavily reminiscent of a Lou Reed/ Velvet Underground composition, especially with the soft strumming and gentle vocals.

However, one of the standout numbers on the record has to be "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?". This track radiates all the grittiness of the late night romantic desperation of the city; somewhat of a 3 A.M. afterhours anthem. In this song you hear an obvious Eminem, Dr. Dre, and Outkast influence. Moreover "Knee Socks" which is a very upbeat dance floor song has Queens of the Stone Age's Josh Homme crooning a Destiny Child's style howling breakdown in the background. It has a distinct 1990s style dance beat to it and is one of the most up-tempo songs on the record.

*AM* is hands down the best album of Arctic Monkeys' career. I even take the liberty to claim it might be the greatest record of the last decade. The beauty of the record lies in its polished production. It is apparent the band is growing up and taking a more professional approach and is letting go of their teenage angst and garage punk rock vibe of *Whatever People Say I Am That's What I'm Not* and producing much more lyrically and technically polished sounds. With this album you can definitely tell Arctic Monkeys are on their way to have their name ingrained amongst musical greats such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bowie, Bob Dylan, etc.

I rate the album a solid 10/10 and encourage everyone with all musical tastes to download it or buy it right away!



Jimmy Perry '15

On Sept. 17 Hawaiian musician Jack Johnson came out with his latest album, *From Here to Now to You*. This is his first album since *To the Sea* which came out in 2010. I found this album to be a lot more relaxed than a lot of his older stuff. Johnson employs diversity in instruments, from uku-

lele to the accordion. In songs like "I Got You" are indicative the laid back feeling of the album is really shown. This album really shows how much his music reflects his life. He has always been known for his original riffs and unusual chord progressions that really make him stand out.

"Shot, Reverse, Shot" is one of more upbeat songs on the

From Here

To Now

To You

**Hawaiian native Jack Johnson discovered the world of music after a surfing accident. Since then he's impressed his fans with his extraordinary talent.**

album. It helps to keep the songs different and not too slow to the point where it's boring; it's like how a good author writes a book. He does a really good job at keeping the listener interested, the songs aren't so different so it all stays in his genre but it isn't like listening to the same song over and over.

This album doesn't only

show his extraordinary talent in music but also shows his efforts to live a green life.. All of the CD's come in recycled cases. Unlike some bands and artists Jack Johnson does all of his tour on the ground in a bio diesel bus to prevent as much pollution as he can. Every one of the songs on this album were recorded using solar energy.

**Music**

Jessica Martinsen '14

After The Academy Is... disbanded in 2011, lead singer William Beckett embarked on a solo project. He released three EPs over the course of 2012. Fans waited with anticipation for his first full-length album without the backing of his old band.

*Genuine & Counterfeit* was released on August 20, 2013. The record is a mix of acoustic guitar with an electronic feel, with a couple of banjos thrown in. It is definitely an appropriate album for people with an eclectic taste.

"Pick Up the Phone" (Featuring Say Anything's Max Bemis) has an upbeat pop feel with catchy hooks and claps in place of any real percussion. It is half-spoken in a cadence similar to slam poetry, with accents on awkward syllables. The album's lead single, titled "Benny & Joon", chronicles the story of two young paramours at odds with the world. It opens with an optimistic sounding electric keyboard, which quickly softens into background noise as Beckett begins to sing. During the chorus, the narrator is very stand-offish and demands that the world leave them be. The song very heavily alludes to mental

**GENUINE  
AND  
COUNTERFEIT**



AP IMAGES

**Beckett has grown to be an amazing performer captivating fans on stage since The Academy Is...**

problems and serious issues, despite its bright and cheerful demeanor—"Now they got me strapped down in a chair, but as long as you're beside me, babe, I don't care."

Another track on the album that stood out to me particularly was "One in the Same". The song begins with just a guitar and a soft snare drum, later weaning away to just a guitar and a steady bass beat. The song has a very hopeful message that love can be saved if you give yourself a chance. Some of Beckett's best lyrics are featured on this song—"It's hard enough to shoulder the pain without hanging onto horrors of yesterday." "Cracks in the Ceiling" is the song that follows. The song is begins nearly acapella, with a very soft organ in the background. The song depicts a couple that lost their spark, and the narrator is not willing to give up on his partner. This track is a personal favorite of mine.

The album is very carefully crafted and personal. Two bonus tracks ("I Can't Make Me Love You" and "Just You Wait") feature on the Deluxe version. William Beckett has once again struck gold with this record. For me, it's an instant classic. I would highly recommend *Genuine & Counterfeit* to anyone looking for something, well, genuine.

**Music**

**British Artist an International Star**

Brandon Decker '15

Emeli Sandé made her mainstream music debut back in 2009, but the 26 year old didn't break out of the crowd until early last year when she released the album *Our Version of Events* which was the bestselling album in the United Kingdom for 2012. This is an impressive accolade as the album was a giant success. However, I wonder why this album did not gain as much prominence in the United States.

Sandé co-wrote the entire album with R&B recording artist Alicia Keys and singer-songwriter Professor Green. The three combined to create some fantastic songs. Some are catchy and upbeat and others are perfectly melodramatic songs that slow down the tempo. The album is constructed in a way that every song has a lasting impact.

Songs like "Next to Me" are produced in a much understated manner that let Sandé's vocals shine through the very basic piano



us.emelisan.de.com

**Sandé's next studio album is projected for release in fall 2014. She aspires for success with her album in the United States.**

rifts. Other songs such as "Suitcase" have the vocals build with the background music, slowly rising and then finally reaching a fever-pitch that makes it impossible not to feel the agony of the singer.

Songwriter Naughty Boy produced most of the tracks and

does a great job mixing the beats and building the music around Sandé's powerful vocals.

In each song, you can hear the emotion in Sandé's voice especially in the song "Clown" which is about accepting one's role in life and letting yourself

be hurt so others don't get hurt. It is romantic and heartbreaking. Another tune called "My Kind of Love" is about Sandé's struggle to show her love for her partner but a promise to him or her that she does love them.

My one critique of the album is that it does not paint a great picture of Sandé as a strong independent woman; it instead seems at sometimes like Sandé is just waiting for someone to come and save her from her miserable life. Songs like "Suitcase" where she is basically pleading for a man to stay in her life makes you pity her instead of root for her.

All in all, "Our Version of Events" is a well put together album, with simplistic tones and a straight forward message about heartbreak. Sandé does not reinvent the wheel when it comes to pop love songs, but she does a nice job working within an established genre. I would recommend Sandé's album as one of those rare soothing albums that is nice to listen to on a peaceful, quiet night.

# Books

## Biography

# Frontman of RHCP Reveals All

Taylor Ahl '15

The Red Hot Chili Peppers gained popularity in the 1980s and 90s, but have steadily crept back onto the scene over the years with recent releases like their "I'm With You" album from 2011. The band has won seven Grammy awards and sold over 80 million records worldwide. Lead singer, lyricist, and founding member Anthony Kiedis bares all in his memoir, *Scar Tissue*, released in 2004.

The frontman pens the book with the help of Larry Sloman, and is brutally open and honest with his readers. The book deeply explores Kiedis' drug addictions, his romantic and personal relationships, his love for California, and his spiritual journey to finding himself.

Spending his adolescent years engaging in drug use with his father, Kiedis developed severe drug addictions to cocaine, methamphetamine, various pills, and heroin.

In middle school, Kiedis meets his best friends and future fellow band members Michael

"Flea" Balzary and Hillel Slovak. He describes their adventures together, like jumping off of buildings into swimming pools. Kiedis writes, "Adolescence is such a fun time in your life, because you think you know it all, and you haven't gotten to the point where you realize that you know almost nothing."

Kiedis discusses the death of his lifelong friend and fellow Chili Peppers founding member, Hillel Slovak. Slovak played guitar in the early days of the Chili Peppers, before dying of a heroin overdose in 1988 and after recording two records with the band.

"It's a myth that something like that scares you into going straight. Even when your close friend dies, you maintain a false sense of invincibility. You don't want to deal with your own wreckage, you just want to keep getting high."

Also documented in the book is the history and success of the band. They started in small clubs and have worked their way up to earning Grammys and selling out arenas. He reveals their trials and



theguardian.com

**Kiedis continues to perform for his hundreds of fans, despite the many obstacles discussed in *Scar Tissue*.**

fight and how music and the Chili Peppers are what finally got him straight.

Kiedis finally overcame his drug addictions for good in 2002. He says "I'm still a little bent, a little crooked, but all things crooked, I can't complain. After all those

years of all kinds of abuse and crashing into trees at eighty miles an hour and jumping off buildings and living through overdoses and liver disease, I feel better now than I did ten years ago. I might have some scar tissue, but that's alright, I'm still making progress."

## Fiction

Jacqueline Simmons '17

*For One More Day* by Mitch Albom, written in 2006, is a beautiful story that talks about the relationships with the people we cherish but the opportunities we miss to spend with them. This magnificent story raises many questions about life and death. Such as, what would you do if you got a second chance to do well in your life. The type of chance to get to say good-bye, to say sorry, and to even live again. And what if that only chance was to happen in a near-death experience?

In the story for *For One More Day*, the plot centers on Chick Benetto, ex-pro baseball player, absentee father, ex-husband. When Chick jumps off the top of a water tower, he doesn't immediately die. In fact, he seems to encounter the spirit of his deceased mother. He ends up embarking on a strange journey that reminds him of his past and evaluates his relationships in life, including the spirit of his mother. But Chick, also known as Charley, wasn't always a broken man. In fact, his childhood was nearly perfect. That was until

# For One More Day

***"This is a story about a family, and as there is a ghost involved, you might call it a ghost story. But every family is a ghost story. The dead sit at our tables long after they have gone."* –For One More Day**

his father decides to get up and leave his family with no absolute reason known to Chick. Being raised by a single mother was hard enough as it is, and Chick certainly didn't help for blaming his mom about the divorce.

Decades later, Charley is a shattered man. His life has been completely torn and crumbled by alcohol and guilt. He loses his job, leaves his family, he hits bottom after discovering his only daughter has shut him out of her wedding. As a result, he decides to take his own life as

soon as possible. Chick decides to make a midnight ride to his small home-town and end the rest of his journey. But upon failing to do that, he stumbles back to his old house, only to make an astounding sighting. His mother- who died eight years earlier- right in front of him, and welcomes him home as if nothing had ever happened in those past years. Upon this journey with his mother, Chick gets insight into his mother's decisions and the sacrifices that she made for him to be happy. Even though she wasn't there physically, "Chick uses her tender guidance to help put the pieces back together in his life."

This heart-warming, twist and turn book will have you on the edge of your seat. It surprises you when you least expect it and makes you smile with joy. It even makes you think about what you would do if you got another chance. It talks about the relationships between people who need another opportunity to mend them and shows that our value in life is only as important as the people in it. So, what would you do if you got a second chance to do well in life?

## Fiction

# Harrowing story of anorexia battle

Grier Conville '17

People constantly say that the teenage years are some of the hardest you'll go through, and how high school is where you "find yourself." I, for one, think that this is a matter of opinion. Still, many teenagers like to romanticize the small everyday struggles they endure.

Maybe this is why some of the most popular books among teens are about death, dying, and the hardships of society and life. *The Fault in our Stars*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and *13 Reasons Why* are some of the most well known and celebrated books today, but there are hundreds of books similar to them that get little to no recognition.

One of these is *Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson, which revolves around eighteen year old Lia. Lia is a high school senior who is battling anorexia. The book is written in first person point of view, and it follows Lia as she struggles to not only fit in at school, but also keep her eating disorder in check.

Throughout the novel, you learn that her best friend since childhood, Cassie, has recently died. It is not known how she died,



The cover of *Wintergirls*

***Wintergirls* has managed to touch thousands of teens, allowing them to know that they're not alone in their struggles.**

but her death haunts Lia, who believes that it is her fault because the two had been fighting at the time of her death. Cassie's spirit follows Lia and haunts her at night, driving Lia to self harm and purge. Throughout the novel, Lia stumbles and falls repeatedly as she tries to stand back up. She is a very well developed protagonist, and you can really sympathize with her and her situation.

I think *Wintergirls* would appeal to anyone who was a fan of *13 Reasons Why*. Both Anderson and Jay Asher write with feeling and have a similar style, and the characters in both novels face similar situations. Not only that, but the themes of both stories are similar.

The mood created in both novels is very serious and is something that many people could relate to. Both protagonists are struggling and have become depressed. They have turned to hurting and blaming themselves in order to relieve the pain. Forgiveness and acceptance are both strong themes in the novels and I think the people of our generation could take a lot from reading these books.

*Wintergirls* is an underappreciated, yet realistically inspiring story of a girl trapped in her own body.

## Fiction

## Many reasons to read *Thirteen Reasons Why*

Jessica Santilli '17

Hannah Baker is dead, but why? In Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why*, secrets are unraveled and the truth of why Hannah Baker took her life is revealed. Asher's first novel is an extreme success.

*Thirteen Reasons Why* is an emotional rollercoaster. The ups and downs in each chapter keep readers turning the pages and craving more. Asher's ability to transfer readers into the thoughts of his characters is fantastic. While reading his novel, readers will not think that the story is made up. Asher writes very realistically, with a strong sense of human thought. He understands very well how young people think.

Asher's well developed characters, such as Hannah, become the people we root for and the people we hope lose. His characters teach us important lessons that apply to everyday life, such as, "Be careful what you say, because you can never know how it will affect a person." Fans of *Thirteen Reasons Why* will never forget the lessons and experiences provided throughout the novel.

*Thirteen Reasons Why* is about Hannah Baker a high school student who is always a target of ridicule. She is criticized and taken advantage of almost every day of her life. She soon gets tired and gives up on her future, deciding to take her life. But why would she do this?

Before she dies she sends out a series of tapes to the people who caused her to take her life. Clay Jensen finds these tapes on his front porch one day and can't help but wonder why she had selected him in the first place. He had a crush on her after all. He listens to the tapes and takes us on the journey he experiences while listening to Hannah's tragic tale.

This novel is the quintessence of a favorable teenage read. It keeps its readers interested and never gets boring at all. Asher is an astounding author and knows exactly how to squeeze the hearts of young readers everywhere. His book is a must read, and a must read again. It has claimed a spot on many teenage readers' top five list of books and leaves them begging for another creative novel.

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## Non-fiction

# Photographer captures New York life

Rocco Siravo '14

What started out as an internet blog has exploded into one of the most inspiring books this year. Brandon Stanton is a photographer who has managed to capture the lives of New Yorkers in captivating portraits. His new book, appropriately dubbed *Humans of New York*, sold 30,000 copies in preorders alone. On Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> the book reached the number one slot of the New York Times Bestsellers and still reigns as a top nonfiction bestseller.

According to Stanton, the goal of "Humans of New York" is to convey the citizens of New York not through words but through photos. I have been a fan of the "Humans of New York" blog for a while, so naturally I went out to get the book, and I have to say, it exceeded my expectations. The 400 colorful photos portray the New York that isn't on television. Each photo comes with a small caption, and some of people portrayed have the most inspiring stories.

One of the photos is of a janitor who worked at Harvard University, and through taking night classes at the college managed to receive a college degree.

Another inspiring story came from a man who had emigrated from Jamaica in search of a job to help support his family back home.

He discussed the idea other countries believe money is made easily in America, to which he states that reality is very different. A third photo encompasses the difficult life of a police officer, as it portrays several officers standing over a covered body.

In contrast, some photos are laugh-out-loud funny, such as a photo describing an argument between two siblings, or the one of a man dressed as a tree taken in Central Park.

One thing I love about all of these photos is that they are all impromptu. Photos were taken as Stanton just wandered around New York. Some of the shots were of people doing kind deeds, such as one woman who happened to give her blanket to a homeless man. Other photos may be of awesome outfits and hairstyles that people create or adapt.

The thing I have to enjoy most about this book is that the portraits are all so human. They portray everyday people, the old and the young, the sane and the crazy. The book is a great coffee-table kind of book and is perfect for any audience. While the four hundred photos are some of Stanton's best work, that number doesn't hold a candle to how many he has on his website. At [humansofnewyork.com](http://humansofnewyork.com) there are hundreds more photos to scroll through and he updates his blog daily. If you find the book enjoyable, you



From *Humans of New York*

**An example of the many kinds of unique people Stanton photographs in New York.**

can also follow him on social networks as well, all under the name "Humans of New York". The book itself you can find in [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) for \$17.41.

## *The Joys of Life* by Olivia McGough

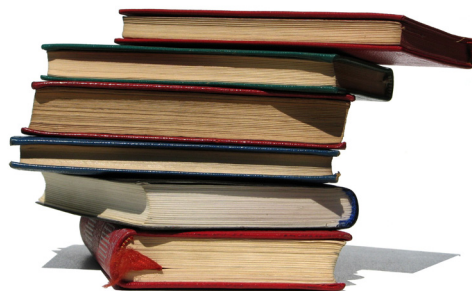
# Literature appreciation

Olivia McGough '17

Nowadays, it seems that everyone is living in the moment and choosing adventure over leisure. Many people have come to believe that reading is pointless when you can "just see the movie". However, reading is timeless, and people should learn to appreciate it more.

We all know that life can become extremely stressful, especially for high school students. Reading is a way for you to escape reality and live in the lives of others. All of your problems disappear for a short while. If you're having a dull day, you can easily jump into an action-packed, fast-moving, one-sit read. When glum or lonely, you can always return to your favorite characters to brighten your mood. Reading relieves stress, and when you lose yourself in a book that suits your interests, hours can fly by in what seems like minutes.

If your mind tends to wander before bed, and you spend hours staring at the ceiling, reading could become your best friend. Indulging in a bit of light reading before going to sleep could



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be a very beneficial way to relax. Reading a few pages directly before bed helps to ease the mind, unwinding you from the long, tiring day.

Even though reading can be extremely relaxing, it can also be anticipating and exciting. For many people, it can be difficult to take

a leave from their daily activities in order to travel. If an exploration does not work with your schedule, books could allow you to take an adventure to anywhere in the universe. You can travel to places that are not humanly possible, or you could take a trip to a distant country. Reading allows for many thrilling moments.

The trick to enjoying reading as much as I do is to find a topic that interests you. Whether it is romance, mystery, science fiction, or another genre, there are so many different storylines that you almost cannot help but find one enjoyable. If you read one book and despise it, you should not automatically assume that you loathe reading. You could choose another book that has a completely different plot, writing style, and difficulty.

Overall, reading is a classic activity that people have been doing for centuries. If it has stuck around this long, it may be worth a chance. The next time you are sitting around, bored out of your mind, consider picking up that book collecting dust on your shelf. It may become your preferred leisure activity.

Fiction

# Newest addition to *Divergent* trilogy promises danger and romance

Grier Conville '17

In a dystopian society in the distant future, Chicago has become home to five factions, each valuing a different trait. The Erudite value knowledge, the Amity, peace, the Dauntless, courage and bravery, the Candor, truth, and the Abnegation, selflessness.

After the Erudite's leader is brought down by the army of Factionless, the factions are disbanded and the city is thrown into chaos. Tris Prior and Tobias Eaton, along with friends as well as enemies, must travel beyond the fence that separates them from the outside world in order to search for answers.

*Allegiant* is the highly anticipated third installment in Veronica Roth's acclaimed *Divergent* trilogy. It follows Tobias, Tris, and their friends as they venture outside of the gate in order to find out who the mysterious Edith Prior is.

As a huge fan of the *Divergent*



GINA LEE '15 / The Patriot

trilogy, I had extremely high expectations for *Allegiant*, and overall, it was great. As always, Roth kept me on the edge of my seat with fast-paced action and adventure. There was also romance between Tris and Tobias to pull on every fan's heartstrings.

Throughout the novel, many relationships and lives are put on the line. Tris' relationships with her brother, her boyfriend, and her friends are constantly challenged because of the new society found outside of the fence.

A major theme in *Allegiant* is

family. I think this element made the book much more relatable. Forgiveness is also very important in the story. These two elements help give *Allegiant* a much darker mood than either of its prequels.

In *Divergent*, the first book in the series, Tris is faced with a choice after finding out she qualifies for more than one faction. She must choose where she will spend the rest of her life. In *Insurgent*, the city is in turmoil after a simulation controlled the Dauntless and made them dangerous killers. It's become clear that Tris is Divergent and many people want her dead.

Overall, I was very pleased with *Allegiant* and thought it was the best book out of the three. The whole book was filled with danger and plot twists. Roth did a fabulous job developing minor characters as well as giving more dimensions to the characters we already know and love. If you are a fan of the series, I would highly recommend reading *Allegiant* as soon as possible.

Fiction

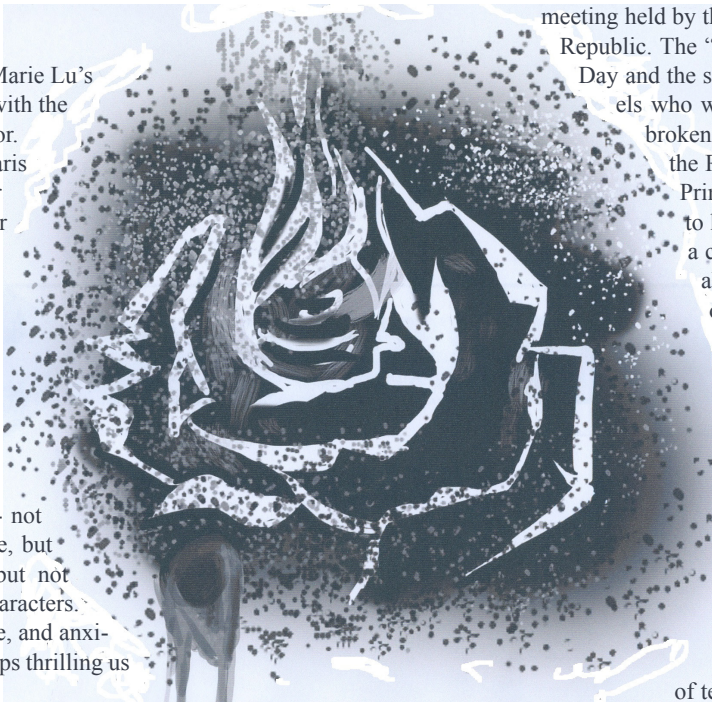
# *Champion* comes out on top

Jessica Santilli '17

In the third installment of Marie Lu's trilogy *Legend*, she enchants us with the finale we have all been waiting for. Day or Daniel Wing and June Iparis meet again, this time with danger and difficult decisions above their heads. In this book we really get an impression of who June and Day are; we discover their passions and their thoughts and truly understand them. Each main character has grown throughout the series and in *Champion* we see them at their weakest, and at their strongest.

The plot will intrigue you - not with plot twists every other page, but with suspension and feasible, but not considered, difficulties for the characters. Lu brings all aspects of love, awe, and anxiety throughout this novel and keeps thrilling us on every page.

Day and June meet again in an emergency



MATT MITCHELL '15 / The Patriot

meeting held by the "president" of the new nation called the Republic. The "president", or Elector Primo, warns June, Day and the senate of the threatening Colonies, the rebels who want the United States back. A plague has broken out in the Colonies and they believe that the Republic has started it. Though the Elector Primo tried to tell them otherwise, they refuse to listen and will break the agreed ceasefire if a cure is not given. With the Colonies' threat above their heads, the fragile Republic has only one choice: to try to form an alliance with Antarctica. But if Antarctica refuses, June, Day, and the entire Republic will fall.

Not only is the plot and characters amazing, but Lu's wording of this novel is astonishing. Quotes will be repeated and remembered by fans of this series time and time again. The thoughtful characters give each reader something to think about, reminding us to use our brains. Lu poured liters of intelligence into *Champion* and thousands of tea spoons of creativity. Through her words she portrays a world that one day could be our future.

# Tech Talk

## Game Reviews

# Bliss in “The Abyss”

## Eighth installment of popular RPG delivers

Kim Clements '15

Easily one of the most popular games in the series, *Tales of the Abyss* is the eighth title in the Tales series. Featuring an extensive plot and compelling characterization, the game was originally released for the PS2 but was recently made into a 3DS reboot.

The story follows Luke Fon Fabre who lives a sheltered and pampered life as he is confined to his manor for protection. As a result, he possesses an incredibly arrogant and immature mindset, making him a dislikable character. His character development is satisfying, as it is compelling, to watch the selfish, turn into the selfless.

The cast of characters in *Abyss* are interesting, as the character relationships and development make the plot more compelling. Fans of the Tales series are often familiar with the character setups in each game, though the cast of *Abyss* subvert the stereotypes. Instead of being brave and courageous, Luke is the complete opposite. Though Guy fulfills the role of the cheerful childhood friend, it is implied that a hidden resentment of Luke remains suppressed. Anise, instead

of being the innocent child character, is instead a self-proclaimed gold-digger and the sympathetic mole of the party.

Each character has connections to another, and thus the story has a sense of unity instead of characters being out-of-place and irrelevant. I found it interesting how it took time for the main cast to truly unite together, mainly due to their annoyance with Luke's immaturity. The relationships instill heart and emotion into the plot, with the romance between Luke and Tear being the most notable, as it is subtle yet ties into the plot wonderfully. Another engaging character dynamic was Luke and Asch, as Luke discovers a secret regarding the two of them which alters his life.

The plot of the story is unique though fairly depressing at some points, such as learning the truth behind Luke's existence along with a high death toll due to many characters dying for a variety of reasons, such as the destruction of a mining town and sacrificing themselves in battle. However, there is much comic relief in the game to keep from becoming too gloomy. One indisputably negative



**Gameplay screenshot of *Tales of the Abyss* for the Nintendo 3DS. Originally for the Playstation 2 This game was originally available for only the Playstation 2.**

factor of the game was that the plot seemed to move slowly at times, especially in the beginning, when mass amounts of information are provided then seemingly dropped.

I personally found the *Abyss* battle system to be another flaw. While the game introduces the 'free run' aspect of battle, which allows you to freely move your character instead of being confined to a 2D battlefield, I found the battles to be repetitive and bland. While most *Tales* games feature characters equipped with a variety

of weapons, ranging from simple swords to a pole-arm that shoots magic bullets, *Abyss* seemed to lack a creative variety. The game incorporates fonons, a major plot point, into the battle system, though I found it tedious to match the fonon circles upon the field and often ignored them.

Overall, *Tales of the Abyss* is definitely deserving of the popularity that it has garnered. While I wasn't a fan of the battle system, the engaging plot and realistic characters made up for it.

## *Skyrim* offers engaging gameplay

Nick Madden '14

*Skyrim* is an RPG for the Xbox 360, Play Station 3, and the PC. It was created by Bethesda Studios and was released in 2011 after a much anticipated wait. This game is highly customizable with realistic dialogue and outstanding cause and effect.

*Skyrim* is based around the character simply known as Dragonborn. In the beginning of the story the player will chose what race his character which includes nord, wood elves, and dark elves and so on. Your character becomes the

savior of *Skyrim* against a threat of resurrected dragons.

This game is very dramatic and intricate; there are hundreds of things to explore, thousands of people to meet and you can battle pretty much anything you want. You can choose a guild and become a skilled wizard, a feared warrior, or a stealthy thief. There is not a dull moment in *Skyrim*. Using a plethora of weapons, you can become skilled in many forms of combat whether you choose a battle axe or a dagger.

There is also an abundance of missions and adventures to engage

in. Many of them involve puzzles or riddles. You may even come across key items that you will use later in the game. These keys items could be weapons, keys, or pendants known as claws.

The music of this game is unique in its own nature. During the title screen you will begin to hear chants from songs of the ancient nords. This music is present through most of the game. During battle sequences the music picks up with a fast passed orchestra, giving a heart pounding feeling of excitement.

While *Skyrim* is an amazing

story with fantastic playing experience, there is no multi-player function. It is a single player game. While this feature has caused a little concern for the gamers Bethesda [creators of Elder Scrolls] have announced to release a version of *Skyrim* that is strictly multi-player.

*Skyrim* won game of the year in 2012 at GamesMaster Golden Joystick Awards. This game is one game I didn't mind spending 60 dollars on. I have put a lot of time and energy into this game and don't regret a single second of it. *Skyrim* is a game I strongly recommend playing.



## Opinion

# US recognizes eSports competitors as athletes

Nick Georgulianos '17

Over the past years, eSports have grown as a whole. For the people who don't know what this is, it is the idea of competitive gaming as a sport. The argument by many of whether or not eSport is a legitimate sport continues, and more people are beginning to voice their opinions on the controversial topic.

Years ago, many people had no clue what this was. Now, whether they support eSports or not, many more people know what they are, and the track that it is now taking, shows that there is no slowing down.

In the past, foreign competitors from around the world have had trouble entering the United States to play in different tournaments. According to [www.Forbes.com](http://www.Forbes.com) who interviewed Riot Games, eSports manager Nick Allen, the back and forth struggle with the government is over.

The U.S. now recognizes players as professional athletes. Visas will now be granted to foreign competitors coming to the U.S. to play in different tournaments.

This is a huge leap for eSports, as the U.S. now officially recognizes competitors as professional athletes.

Many facts support the fact that eSports is a real sport. First off, this is one of the most growing sports, statistically, ever since it's recognition by the U.S. as a legitimate sport.

It is also a multi-million dollar industry, and has millions of fans and supporters around the world. As recently mentioned in an article regarding *League of Legends* eSports by HBO, it is estimated that more people take part in eSports than Baseball (Little league through MLB). Broadcasts of *League of Legends* on the internet regularly draw four times as many viewers than an average NHL game. Not only that, the championship for League of Legends at the staple center in L.A. sold out in less than an hour!

At the last *League of Legends* event, a record was broken as 32 million viewers tuned in to watch. And that is just one event for a single game. Many other games are played competitively as eSports, some of them including *Call of Duty*, *Dota 2*, and many others.

At the last *Call of Duty* event, an all-star game was played, which featured NBA stars Dwight Howard, Ty Lawson, and DeJuan Blair, and NFL star Dez Bryant, obviously supporters of eSports. These NBA and NFL stars played in front of a tremendous live crowd, and view-

ers watching at home, and were not shy about showing their support for eSports.

If you are asking yourself "where is the physical effort that we see in basketball or football?" picture this situation.

It is down to 1 vs. 1. Thousands of dollars are on the line, and with an extremely overwhelming crowd watching, in the next 30 seconds, we will find out who the champion taking home the big prize is. The players must stay calm to keep their fast reaction time and concentration to outsmart their opponent.

Situations like that require a huge amount of physical and mental agility, and are the main reason that eSports are now recognized as a real sport. Even situations not as intense, such as just playing in front of thousands of viewers live and knowing that there are more people watching at home, have earned eSports the title as a legitimate sport.

In conclusion, as a competitor myself, I believe that eSports are real sports in a multi-million dollar industry, with millions of fans and supporters around the world.

If you are still saying, "There is no way this is a sport," or "Yeah, right," millions of supporters, including many NBA and NFL athletes would beg to differ.

## MOTO X competes with iPhone

Carley Kain '14

No one can ignore the amount of new cell phones that are being introduced each month. With all the options and new features it is almost impossible to find which one is the right fit for you. While Apple has the simplicity most buyers seek, Droid users can't stop raving over the cool new features their newest smartphone has that the iPhone is lacking.

If you're in the market for a new phone and are thinking about straying away from team iPhone, chances are you won't regret it.

If you're looking for something more lightweight and almost as user friendly as the iPhone, the Moto X is something you should try. It has the simple set up that most people desire while still having the ability to do new things like having a slow motion camera, active touch display, and the ability to find out the answer to every question just by starting it with the phrase "Ok, Google now" while talking to your phone.

If you like the way you can get a colored phone like the iPhone 5c, you're going to love the way you can order your Moto X online and fully customize it to be the exact phone that you were looking for. For example you can change the color of the back and even all of the buttons.

The best thing about the Moto X for most people is probably the battery life. It claims to have a 24-hour battery life, without turning on the power-saver option.

Another plus for most people out there is that this phone is even constructed in the US. Fully manufactured and designed here.

The Moto X was designed and created based on the common opinions of every person and designed to be the phone for the people. They've taken the newest software and coolest features and put them together with simplicity that most people are looking for when searching for a new phone. I can see this easily being one of the best phones of the year.

Wanna write  
for TECH TALK?

Contact Keith Cook in  
room G-208 after school  
on Tuesdays.

Or write him at  
[wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)

attn: Keith  
Accepting:

Video game reviews.  
Operating System Reviews.  
Cicada 3301 updates.\*  
New technology reviews.  
Anything in general that  
involves technology.

\*Just kidding about Cicada 3301

# Twp Sports

## Minutemaids Tear Up Hardwood

### Girls win conference, fall in state tournament



The team finished at 23-4 and made it to the South Jersey Group IV quarter final.

Left: Kelly Giedemann '14 threads the defense with a pass to sister, Kylie.  
Below: Kylie Giedemann '14 puts up a three.



Photos by JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ '14



Left: Brianna Cappacchione '16 shoots over a defender.  
Above: Ciara Keitt '15 takes it to the hoop.  
Right: Torie Eggers '16 fights for a loose ball.

# Young Squad Looks To Future

Jimmy Perry '15

The girls swim team is looking to the future after finishing the season with a 2 and 7 record.

Coach Jess Slates worked these girls hard all season. Although they only had two wins this season, their hours of practice earned them two wins of which she was very proud. The first was their win over Rancocas Valley with a score of 99 to 71 and the second win came on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> with a final score of 108 to 62 over Seneca. Sadly the girls finished their season with a loss to Cherokee.

Last season the team lost some great swimmers, and they were not easy to replace. "This was a difficult season with a lot of competition", said Slates. Slates believes the team has the potential to be very successful in the next couple seasons and the athletes agree.

This year all seven seniors shared the duties as captains. The teammates that were lost last season didn't only leave their mark in the pool, they taught this year's captains the right way to lead a team on and off the deck. With so many captains on the team, it really provides a sense of direction and motivation for the underclassmen. A handful of these girls have not swum before high school and having this much senior leadership benefitted them.

The girls will be letting seven seniors go after this season which is one of the larger classes Slates has graduated in her past few seasons.

"I'm going to miss these girls. The team



Courtesy of Mr. Finnigan

**Washington Township girls get ready to dive off the blocks in one of their regular season meets**

won't be the same without them" said Slates at this year's senior meet.

Slates described the season as a "catch up" season, what she meant by that was that this is a season to get things rolling again. For the most part the past few seasons were lead by the same group of swimmers and with the last of them

leaving last season, it is a different kind of team. Slates plans for the girls to make their way back to some winning seasons in the next couple of years but recognizes these kinds of things can take some time. The team is still young and has some time to work on rising up, and that's exactly what they plan to do.

## Boys Swim Team Finishes Strong

Jimmy Perry '15

Starting the season with a five meet losing streak is never a good thing especially after winning the division last year. The Minutemen had their first win this year against Camden Catholic with a final score of 113 to 57 and continued on to win two more in the season. The boys went on to finish the season with a 4-6 record. For the first time in 14 seasons the minutemen did not win the annual county meet this season. "We didn't get it this year but next year we are taking the trophy back" said Captain Brandon Seigel '15 after the meet.

After this season the Minutemen will be letting go 3 seniors; Alex Chalef '14, Ryan Hunsicker '14, and Jason D'Alessandro '14. These three guys have only been a part of the team for two years but have come a long way from last year. Although they do not plan on swimming in college, they have enjoyed their stay on the team and made a lot of memories.

Brandon Seigel '15 and Lenny Locavera '15 are this year's captains, they did a pretty good job for first year captains. It is rare for a team to have two juniors as captains but on



Courtesy of Mr. Finnigan

**Freshman Matt Mills swimming breaststroke in one Twp boys' meets. Matt Mills finished as one of the boys' top swimmers this season.**

when it comes down to it, these two have more experience swimming at the high school than anyone else on the team. Both Seigel'15 and Locavera'15 have been varsity swimmers

since freshman year and are still some of the top scorers on the team.

This is a young team, more than half the team is underclassmen. The top two point leaders are even underclassmen. Mat Mills'17 and Cj McAninley'16 lead the team in points and show a promising future for the team. The team has a lot of swimmers that can place second and third to pick up the extra points in races that they can't get first place. Jason Wahl'16 had his best season with the team this year and shows a lot of potential going into next season. Wahl'16 got many of the team's points in the 100 breaststroke and the 200 freestyle. Another promising new comer is freshman Perry Chui. Chui joined the team this year and picked up a lot of extra points for the team in a few different events.

With a season that wasn't too great the team has faith that next season will be better. Although they are losing some great teammates they are a young team and hope to use that to their advantage. Looking at their record you might not think it's too good but compared to last year they are improving. It takes time to get better and this team knows exactly what they need to do to make that time go faster.

# Award-filled season for soccer

Olivia Smithson '17

If one thing has made headlines across all of South Jersey, it is the Washington Township High School Boys' Soccer team. With multiple team awards given out at the recent Olympic Conference as well as prestigious individual awards, WTHS's 2013 season was certainly one for the books.

The WTHS Boys' Soccer team played their last few games of the season dominantly with their win in the South Jersey Coaches Tournament against Timber Creek in November. Their 3-1 victory over Timber Creek led to the team's first in school history.

"It was really exciting," says Coach Snyder. "It was just a proud

moment for all of us."

Many other achievements were recognized for the team's successful year. The WTHS Boys' Soccer team was named the Courier Post Team of the Year, the South Jersey Times Team of the Year, and 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the state. Star players such as Derek MacKinnon and Lou Vilotti were awarded numerous titles for their outstanding year.

WTHS junior MacKinnon '15 was selected as a National All-American player by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), was named 2013 Courier-Post Boys' Soccer Player of the Year, and was titled as a Regional All-American player by the NSCAA. Vilotti '15 was also selected as a Regional All-Ameri-

can player, as well as a South Jersey Times All-Star for 2013.

As if that were not enough, Coach Shane Snyder was named 2013 Coach of the Year for his instruction during the fall soccer season. Snyder credits his father for getting him into both soccer and coaching while he was growing up.

Snyder has also had a history of soccer success, starting with his career in high school and college. Snyder attended Saint Joseph's University and played soccer there for all four years, eventually winning the Father Emery Ross Award for Loyalty and Dedication along with other honorable titles. His soccer background was certainly a strong contributor to the boy's success since his takeover in 2010.

The WTHS boys had a record of 25-1 this year, topping the charts of last year's 20-4-1 season. Despite this major improvement, Snyder admits that the team did not do anything differently from last season.

"We just took the momentum from last year, and we played hard," says Snyder. The head coach says that the boys simply had a lot of talent and good chemistry while playing their 2013 season.

As for next year, Snyder has made no plans for the 2014 season. Soccer fans at Washington Township High School await an upcoming season of excitement, and hope that next Fall brings in even more accomplishments for the WTHS Boys' Soccer team.

## Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, Dodge!



Three photos  
JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ '14/The Patriot



Two photos  
CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ '15/The Patriot



On March 12, WTHS DECA hosted its anual dodgeball tournament.

At right: The winners.

(back) Mike Regalbuto '15, Tom Seagraves'15, Nick Evangelista'16 and Ben Dwyer'16.

(front) Ryan DeJoseph'16, Dom Devito'15, Robert Nuzzi'15, Nick McGough'16.

