

# THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXII No. 6 February 2012



## The First Day of Senior Experience



**The Vow**  
-A&E-



**Super Bowl Coverage**  
-Sports-

**Vassar College Recall**  
-Opinions-  
**Talent Show**  
-News-



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Senior Ashley Oelbaum took this photograph of a flower in her yard for a breadth composition. The assignment for her AP Photography class was to capture figure-ground relation.

# NEWS BRIEFS

### Tri-M Concert

As part of an ongoing initiative to support student musicians and music programs, the Tri-M Music Honor Society recently held a charity concert in the choir room. The Jan. 19 event featured student musicians.

The purpose of the concert was to raise funds for a NYSSMA solo music library, which would provide young musicians with a necessary second copy of sheet music. The society did not charge ticket fees; they raised over \$300 solely from donations from the audience.

Student members of Tri-M organized the entire concert.

"It was a great success in both raising money and support for Tri-M as well as providing for opportunities for students to perform and share their passion for music with other members of the community," said sophomore Annie Kim.

While they were planning the concert, the student leaders of the society decided to include all musicians who wanted to perform. They did this to provide a better range of music genres in an attempt to speak to multiple different audiences.

"My feelings as the advisor of the honor society are that I be exactly that, an advisor," said music teacher Mr.

Anthony Pinelli. "Thus any event run by Tri-M should be organized and run by the students because it is a student organization."

The music at the concert ranged from a string quartet playing classical music to soloists playing improvised jazz.

"The benefit concert was a great way to raise money for the music library. The performers were terrific, and we raised a lot of money," said senior Jennifer Kim. "Although we didn't have as many people in the audience as we hoped there would be, we will have another benefit concert in the spring, so we hope many people sign up to perform and many people attend it."

This cause is an ongoing process, and as the membership grows and more money is raised, the Tri M solo library will expand.

~Harry Paul

### Campus Closing

After notification from the police, the central office relayed a message to the administration to close Schreiber's campus. On Jan. 31, in the middle of second period, students heard an announcement restricting them from leaving the campus until further notice.

Administrators received a call

around 9:30 a.m. informing them that multiple bomb threats were reported to Astoria Federal Savings on Main Street, prompting the police and fire department to take action.

The police requested that the school close its campus to limit traffic, since many students congregate on Main Street. Although the school was never directly threatened, administrators and faculty acted to keep students out of a potentially dangerous situation.

"I was curious what was going on after hearing the announcement of the activities going on on Main Street. It was annoying that I couldn't go off campus during my off period," said senior Gabriele Davidoff.

The police contacted the school after they swept the bank, which was eventually declared safe. After the superintendent and administrators reevaluated the situation, students were permitted to leave campus at 11:45 a.m.

"Even though this did not turn out to be a real threat, the school, teachers, and administration worked well following emergency procedures, so we know in the event of a real emergency, we would be safe," said Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss.

~Minah Kim

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# New York Board of Regents changes exam dates

## June Regents Exams will be a week earlier than usual next year

BY **Hannah Fagen**  
News Editor

The New York State Board of Regents recently decided to move the end-of-year Regents examinations one week earlier than their usual dates during the last week in June. Although the board's motives for this date change remain unclear, it may affect students' scheduling for the 2012-2013 school year.

"It's confusing because the State Education Department and Board of Regents have issued a number of testing changes that have changed almost like quicksand," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon.

**"Similar to what we've done with the APs, we're going to ask our students and staff to develop something that's going to be a meaningful type of program," said Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Gordon.**

In order to comply with the state-mandated 180 day school year, school usually opens right after Labor Day and closes at the end of the last full week of June, right after Regents exams, with a few vacations spread throughout.

School districts throughout New York State are now faced with developing a plan that includes this early testing week. Some districts may choose to begin the school year in the last week of August so that students and staff may be prepared for examinations early. Other schools may decide to eliminate or shorten existing vacations.

"We are looking at as much stability for families in our community as possible, so we are not looking at changing vacations, we are not looking at changing the days of the school calendar," said Dr. Gordon.

At the Board of Education meeting on Feb. 7, the Board approved a new calendar with no major changes for next year.

"I always believe that students should have stability and not be pulled and pushed around based on whims that are coming out of Albany," said Dr. Gordon. "We are going to make it work within the framework of our goals."

Students and teachers will be returning one day earlier than usual, with teachers arriving on Aug. 30, immediately before Labor Day weekend, and students returning on the Tuesday afterwards, as opposed to the usual Wednesday. The plan does not sacrifice vacations.

"Our kids work really hard, and research shows that if you give students breaks every six to eight weeks, and a chance to recharge their engines, that that is the way to maximize efficiency for them," said Dr. Gordon.

This new schedule will create a one-week "limbo time," in between the end of testing (which usually signifies the end of the quarter), and the end of the school year.

"Similar to what we have done with the APs, we are going to ask our students and staff to develop something that's going to be a meaningful type of program," said Dr. Gordon.

During this week of time, Dr. Gordon proposes that students and teachers develop a variety of options, such as field trips, outdoor physical activities, student empowerment workshops, and classroom lessons.

"It really is somewhat unfair to our teachers, because our teachers have a mandated core curriculum in the state, and now they are going to have to compress, at least by several weeks, their mandated core curriculum, and then come up with something after the fact. I do not think it is particularly well thought out," said Dr. Gordon.

Although this date change will not have a significant impact on the school year calendar, it will decrease the amount of classroom time that students and teachers will have to prepare for year-end

examinations.

"I am more interested in quality versus quantity. I never really thought that if you added more of something that you automatically get a better product," said principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

While the Board of Regents has given no official word as to the reason for this date change, speculation leans towards the new Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) legislation. Under this new set of laws, teachers in New York are evaluated in part by their students' standardized test scores. By pushing the tests one week earlier, school districts will have extra time to analyze testing results as part of the year-end evaluation process.

"They need more time to be able to get scores back to schools before the end of the school year," said Mr. Pernick.

This new evaluation process has caused controversy among educators statewide, and approximately one third of NYS principals, including Mr. Pernick, have signed a petition against it. The opposition is based not only upon the large weight that it places on standardized test scores in teacher evaluations, but also upon the amount of funds that the process will require the districts to spend on it.

"When the exams are created on a statewide level, you can get a good read

PORT WASHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2012-2013  
SCHOOL CALENDAR

August/September

|    |    |    |    |    |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|--|
|    |    |    |    |    |  |
|    |    |    |    | 20 |  |
|    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |  |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |  |

October

|    |    |    |    |    |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|--|
|    |    |    |    |    |  |
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |  |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |  |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |  |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |  |

November

|    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |    |    |   |
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| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |   |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |   |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |   |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |   |

December

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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |  |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |  |
| 31 |    |    |    |    |  |

January

|    |    |    |    |    |  |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |  |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |  |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |  |

February

|    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1 |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |   |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |   |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |   |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |   |

March

|    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1 |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |   |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |   |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |   |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |   |

April

|    |    |    |    |    |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|--|
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| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |  |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |  |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |  |
| 29 | 30 |    |    |    |  |

May

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| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |  |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |  |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |  |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |

June

|    |    |    |    |    |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|--|
|    |    |    |    |    |  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |  |

August 30, 2012 Orientation/Teachers Report

September 3, 2012 Labor Day

September 4, 2012 Schools Open/Students Report

September 17-18, 2012 Recess

September 26, 2012 Recess

October 8, 2012 Columbus Day

November 6, 2012 Election Day/ Supt's Conference Day

November 12, 2012 Veteran's Day

November 22-23, 2012 Thanksgiving Recess

Dec 24-Jan 1, 2013 Recess

January 21, 2013 Martin Luther King Day

February 18-22, 2013 Winter Recess

March 25-29, 2013 Spring Recess

May 24, 2013 Supt's Conference Day

May 27, 2013 Memorial Day

June 21, 2013 Last Day of School/ High School Graduation

DAYS IN ATTENDANCE EACH MONTH

|           |    |          |    |
|-----------|----|----------|----|
| August    | 1  | February | 15 |
| September | 16 | March    | 16 |
| October   | 22 | April    | 22 |
| November  | 19 | May      | 22 |
| December  | 15 | June     | 15 |
| January   | 21 |          |    |

TOTAL 184 Days

☐ Recess

☐ All Staff Report - No Students

The calendar for 2012-2013, above, was finalized at the Feb. 7 Board of Education meeting. The calendar does not feature any major changes from those of past years, although the Regents exams will no longer be during the last week of June.

on the test itself, on the quality of the students, and on the teachers who teach the classes," said Mr. Pernick. "This is good as part of an evaluation, not as a sole evaluative process."

These date changes will not only affect high school students, but will also affect students at Weber, where a record number of eight graders are taking Regents Examinations in Integrated Algebra and Earth Science.

"This date change presents the same dilemma for having the APs completed in May, which is what do we do to help our students so that the curriculum can be a meaningful curriculum, which includes the time period after the tests are given," said Dr. Gordon.

# Students eat a vegetarian meal to support the environment

BY **Matt Heiden**  
Copy Editor

"Why did the tofu cross the road? To prove he wasn't chicken."

So joked Treehuggers Environmental club co-presidents seniors Renee Cohen and Alison Peraza at the Feb. 2 Vegetarian Dinner.

By providing a variety of dishes, the club intended to prove that it is not such a great burden to live with less meat consumption.

"I think we would all benefit a lot from thinking about what we eat as something which was once alive rather than treating it just like another manufactured good," said senior Emily Sanders.

After advertising and selling tickets during lunch in the lobby, they drew about 45 guests, 25 of whom were non-club members.

"It's a great opportunity to educate people about what they buy at the supermarket and how it impacts the

environment," said club advisor Ms. Julie Barbieri. So, this is not about vegetarianism per se, but eating in a way that's responsible to the earth."

In addition to the jokes, seniors Brian Aronow, Caleb Jenkinson, and Jesse Weil played saxophone, guitar and bass, and sang, respectively. They provided entertainment for much of the event.

One of the main purposes of the Vegetarian Dinner was to prove to people that they can choose to consume less meat, such as having weekly "Meatless Mondays," without becoming a vegetarian and giving up meat entirely.

"It shows people that there are many more options besides eating salads and pasta. There are other ways to get vital nutrients," said sophomore Sarah Pinkus.


The dinner did include salads and pasta, but some of these other dishes included different sorts of rice, a tofu and broccoli dish, tempeh paninis, pizza, and a broccoli and cheese quiche. Brownies, Munchkins, and several types of pies were served afterwards.

The Treehuggers, in accord with tradition, also showed "The Meatrix," a satire of the movie "The Matrix," to raise awareness about inhumane conditions and supergerms at factory farms, which make many of the animals malnourished and sick. To compensate for this, workers on many of these large farms provide their animals, such as pigs and chickens, with feed that is filled with antibiotics to kill off bacteria.

However, with this increasing use of antibiotics, humans are promoting the growth of resistant-strain bacteria, which can lead to widespread illnesses. The film also highlighted major issues in the food industry, such as the rising amount of family farms that are being replaced with large manufacturing companies.

"Factory farms produce more greenhouse gases than planes, trains, cars, and buses, so instead of biking or carpooling, you can just eat a meatless meal," said Peraza. "We're trying to raise awareness to set people to cut down on meat because most people don't realize the

environmental impact that meat has."



Harry Paul

**Co-Presidents of the Treehuggers' Environmental Club seniors Renee Cohen and Alison Peraza share a few laughs with the crowd by telling vegetarian-related jokes.**



# Talent Show supports Project Common Bond

## *Student Council and Photo Club join forces to aid terrorism victims*

BY Rachel Cho, Ana Espinoza, and  
Minah Kim

Staff Writers and Assistant News Editor

Singers, dancers, and other performers graced the stage to support Project Common Bond as part of the first student talent show in 10 years.

The Student Council teamed up with Photo Club to host the event.

Juniors Evan Kerr and Deborah Oyarzun hosted the Feb 10. show, which featured 15 performances. Student acts included singing, steel pan and electric violin playing, and tap dancing.

"I loved that there was a variation of people with different talents and different instruments," said sophomore Sydney Ronis, who sang and played guitar in the talent show.

Before the performances began, a representative from Project Common Bond spoke to the audience about the charity, which brings together teenagers who have lost a family member to acts of terrorism.

Afterwards, senior Sara Rodrigues, who has attended Project Common Bond's programs in previous years, shared her experience.

"Our goal isn't revenge," said Rodrigues. "Our goal is to spread happiness and to spread a message of happiness all over the world."

Many people sang while playing the guitar, including original songs and covers of Jason Mraz, Adele, Katy Perry, Maroon 5, and Taio Cruz. Additionally, senior Kamarah Rice sang parts of Taio Cruz's "Dynamite" while playing the music on the steelpan, a percussion instrument. She harmonized her vocals by hitting the instrument with two wooden dowels to produce different tones and frequencies.

A field trip to the 9/11 memorial in New York City this fall inspired the Photo Club to help Project Common Bond. The group made posters, held auditions, met with performers, and sold tickets both at school and immediately before the concert began.

"I just think it's a way to get involved with the school, get involved with friends, and have fun," said freshman Naomi Boico, who played guitar and sang an original song.

Students and teachers attended the talent show, keeping the charitable cause in mind.

"I think it's a wonderful, well-needed organization. It's a great opportunity for Schreiber students to show off their talent," said French teacher Ms. Jeannine Reed.

"There are so many talented kids—this is an opportunity for them to share their talent and help another teenager," said photography teacher Ms. Kris Murphy.

As a part of Project Common Bond, youth from different countries spend a week together participating in recreational activities, which help them form bonds and connect with others in similar situations. They gain awareness of other cultures as well as attend peace negotiation workshops.

Project Common Bond, founded in 2008, has, so far, brought together 143 teenagers from nine countries and territories to share their experiences with each other. The motto of this program is, "Let Our Past Change the Future."

Ms. Murphy came up with the idea to



Harry Paul

**Senior Kamarah Rice sings and plays Taio Cruz's "Dynamite" on the steelpan. Hers was one of 15 acts at the first student talent show in more than 10 years. The student talent show raised over \$1,000 for Project Common Bond's youth programs.**



Harry Paul

**Freshman Nina Grauer sings a song entitled "Diva's Lament" from the musical *Spamalot*. Grauer was among several student performers at the talent show on Feb. 10. Other singers included junior Laura deBruin, who sang Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain."**

support this organization through various events, including the talent show and sale of handcrafted items.

"I was at a funeral when one of the spectators stood up and made all the fathers promise to support families without mothers," said Ms. Murphy. "That was the start of Tuesday's Children."

Tuesday's Children is an organization dedicated to supporting families who lost a member in the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. Project Common Bond, an organization comprised of first responders, is an extension of Tuesday's Children.

Young people from the United States, Palestine, Israel, Russia, Ireland, Sri Lanka and other countries convene to overcome differences and discuss ways to address world problems peacefully. Tuesday's Children sponsors the American participants, and Project Common Bond sponsors those from other countries.

On Jan. 10, the Photo Club, with

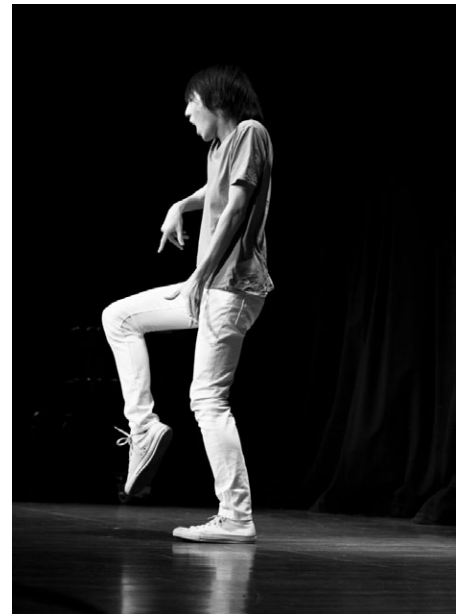
help from retired art teacher Ms. Mary Lynn Conte-Lawe, started their project to mass produce white clay flowers to represent flowers from the callery pear tree that survived the 9/11 terrorist attack. Firemen transported the badly burned and damaged tree, which represents hope and a new birth, to Van Cortlandt Park.

The clay flowers which Photo Club made will be used in decorative objects, hairbands, and jewelry, which they will sell to raise money for Project Common Bond.

"This is important because we don't often get to hear about people affected globally. It is a way to communicate a message of peace and break the cycle of violence," said Rodrigues.

In all, the talent show raised over \$1,000 in profits for Project Common Bond.

"It was a wonderful, amazing night," said student council advisor Ms. Trish Burr. "I am so impressed with the talent here. Schreiber has talent!"



Harry Paul

**Senior Will Zhou performs a freestyle dance, of a style called popping. He improvised the dance during the show.**



Elana Galassi

**Retired art teacher Ms. Mary Lynn Conte-Law demonstrates how to make clay flowers to Photo Club members. These students sold the flowers to provide additional funds for Project Common Bond, in combination with ticket sales from the talent show.**



# Lunchtime crowding reaches boiling point

## Students respond with “Occupy Atrium” protest

BY Celine Sze  
Assistant News Editor

With the possibility of the administration closing their seating area in the music hallway, students responded in protest.

On Jan. 23, an event called “Occupy Atrium,” organized by senior Emily Chadwell, allowed students to voice their views on the situation by filling the atrium during a lunch period.

In doing so, they sought to emphasize to the administration that if students are banned from the atrium and music hallway, students would be forced to search for other places to eat.

“I feel that we just need to have people pass the budget plans and then we as a community in the school can get more chairs for the spaces in which we are allowed to congregate,” said Chadwell. “I made the event more to bring awareness to the issue as a whole rather than just our side. I want to try to work with the administration to fix the problem that we face.”

Recently, conflicts arose in the music hallway between teachers whose classes were in session and students who were eating and talking in the atrium. Because sounds tend to resonate in the atrium,



Harry Paul

**Junior Delia Van Praag expresses frustration in front of the newly constructed “quiet area” sign in the atrium. After deliberations, the administration posted signs throughout the atrium designating it as a “quiet area.” Despite the closing of the music hallway to students, the atrium continues to serve as a dining area.**

some music and technology teachers have expressed their concern that students eating are disrupting classes with noisy commotion.

Teachers from the aforementioned departments were more vocal with their discontent about students eating in the atrium and music hallway in past weeks.

Some teachers interrupted their classes in order to directly approach these students and request that they lower their voices.

“We always want areas where there are classrooms to be as quiet as possible while classes are in session. The orchestra hallway had become somewhat unruly and loud, thereby making it difficult to conduct classes,” said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. “Our goal is to provide a space for students to congregate while not disrupting teachers.”

Students have struggled with finding spaces to eat lunch for the past several years. When the weather is particularly bad and eating outside or going off campus is out of the question, the cafeteria and Student Commons are overcrowded. As a result, many students have taken to eating on the floor in hallways, stairwells, and the atrium near the choir room.

School administrators recognized the seating problem and decided to address it. This action provoked many students towards action, which culminated in “Occupy Atrium.”

After deliberation, the administration announced that the orchestra hallway would be closed for students to sit in, regardless of the time of day, but the atrium would remain open as a “quiet area” during the lunch periods. Students are permitted to sit and eat lunch in the “quiet area,” but they are expected to maintain a quiet environment for the classes in session.

“I was able to talk with Dr. Fitzgerald and he was very open about everything with seating issues from the past years and how it has actually gotten a whole ton better than you would think,” said Chadwell.

Several years ago, the school district expanded the cafeteria to account for a growing student population. The student body has since grown out of the cafeteria. However, due to fire codes, the district may not purchase additional chairs for the cafeteria.

Although there are several options for eating spaces in addition to the cafeteria, students continue to face overcrowding and the difficulty of finding places to eat.

“We are well aware of the seating problems, and we are looking at ways to rectify it,” said Mr. Pernick.

# School offers new classes next year

BY Amelia Pacht  
Contributing Writer

While students are now in the midst of building their schedules for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year, they have the opportunity to choose from several new classes. Freshman, sophomore, and junior students received brief previews of courses open to them at the electives fair on Feb. 3. Representatives from various departments presented information about the courses that their departments offer, and guidance counselors at the assembly clarified information about graduation requirements.

Woodworking II is a new class for next year that will allow students with prior woodworking experience to further their knowledge of and skills in this field. The prerequisite or co-requisite of this course is Woodworking I and is offered to students in grades 10 to 12.

**“One of the great aspects of Schreiber is its wide variety of course options,” said English teacher Ms. Danielle Liss.**

AP Psychology is not new but has changed as it is now available to students as a full year course instead of only a semester. Previously, the AP Psychology teachers had to fit a whole year’s curriculum into one semester. Now that the class is a full year course, students will have the chance to learn the material at a slower pace and in more depth.

Since the class was only offered first semester, students used to be responsible for studying on their own for the AP Exam in May, although psychology teachers Mr. Larry Schultz and Ms. Sara Byrne held several review sessions weeks before the exam. The course will now also be available to juniors.

“Most other high schools on Long Island have AP Psychology as a full year course, and we here at Schreiber are following suit as it makes most sense for the students,” said Social Studies Department Chair Mr. Bryan Frank.

Architectural Drawing 3 will be an Honors class with the added opportunity to apply for college credit at Nassau Community College. This allows students interested in this field of study to learn about the subject while receiving extra points on their weighted GPAs.

The Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Plus class for students struggling in these areas will become a class that meets six days in the cycle, as opposed to the current class which only meets four days in the cycle.

Another new class is Chinese II, a follow-up course for the Chinese I class that was added to the curriculum last year. This is a class that dives further into the study of the Mandarin dialect of the Chinese language and China’s culture and history.

“One of the great aspects of Schreiber is its wide variety of course options,” said English teacher Ms. Danielle Liss. “Taking AP or college credit courses in high school not only prepares students for college-level material but also allows students more freedom in their schedules once they get to college.”

# Art Honor Society continues its Viking-inspired mural in the cafeteria



Courtesy of Ms. Miranda Best

**Seniors Dan Preston and Elyse Belarge paint a mural in the cafeteria. Members of the club have been finishing a mural that they started last year. Preston organized the sketches, materials, and supplies, while also recruiting club members to work on the mural during midterm week. The completed mural spans the width of the cafeteria.**







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### STUDENT-TEACHER SPECIAL

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# Point Counterpoint

## Does group work result in more productive learning?

By Minah Kim

Assistant News Editor

Our generation has been branded as one that suffers from decreased direct communication and group work skills. People often blame social networking and other technological innovations for this situation. However, group work has continued to play an important role in school and work environments.

Although some people are losing sight of the merits of group work, collaboration with others increases efficiency and productivity.

When tackling large projects, groups enjoy proportionately more time, skills, and productivity as the number of people in the group increases.

For example, in a science project, one person may be knowledgeable in statistics, while a partner is adept with laboratory techniques. By delegating specific duties to specific people, students will be able to complete work

who are really enthusiastic and focused, I find myself more motivated to work and contribute," said junior Dana Mirro.

Groups also offer students the opportunity to express themselves more freely. Students are not as pressured to say the "right" answer. They have the freedom to bounce ideas off of each other without the pressure of having everyone in the class listening.

The small and personal aspect of groups forces each student to assume a more active role, especially those quieter students who may feel more comfortable sharing their thoughts in a smaller group than in front of the whole class.

"Working in a group allows students who feel intimidated about talking in front of a full class to share their opinions and gain confidence in their opinions. It also allows students to hear other opinions and revisit their own to modify and expand upon them," said English department chair Ms. Joan Lisecki.

Working in groups teaches students

By Natasha Talukdar

Staff Writer

Group work is a common practice implemented in institutions such as schools and companies. Although working with others and having other sources of input may be beneficial in some ways, individual work produces better results, as there is more freedom and no interruption.

Working individually increases entrepreneurial ability and teaches independence. It is also more efficient and focuses on the worker's self-motivation to improve.

"I think working independently is more effective because you are forced to do the work by yourself, and you actually learn something. In a group, usually one person does all the work, and the others mess around," said junior Sofiya Semenova.

Working with others may be exciting and motivating, but in most cases the opposite is true. Little gets done when working in a group, especially with the distractions of working with friends. It is easy to get distracted and end up talking about unnecessary and irrelevant topics.

"If you're in a group with friends, you spend the group time socializing and don't do as well on the activity as you would have if you were doing it alone and focusing all your energy on it. Also, if you're in a group with people you don't know, it's awkward and nobody talks to each other, resulting in no work getting done as well," said Semenova.

Another issue with group work is when one person ends up taking command and doing all the work, and that person still must share credit with all the other group members. This is unfair to the hard worker and usually allows some members to slack off at the expense of the rest of the group. In some cases, the person doing all the work may be producing incorrect



Chris Goh

more efficiently.

In addition, collaborating with peers allows students to cement their knowledge by explaining concepts to others.

In a group, students are required to support the points they make in order to provide sustenance to an argument, resulting in more comprehensive analyses and elimination of flawed plans of action.

Because people have different ideas, opening topics to debate in groups allows students to think critically, thus increasing the pool of ideas for innovative solutions.

"Group work is one method in education that helps students work off of each others' strengths, learn to work cooperatively, and develop enhanced skills," said band director Mr. Mark Brenner.

The influx of ideas as well as the debates that arise increase student enthusiasm and interest, keeping students motivated to learn and share their thoughts.

Other students' ideas may trigger students to respond with interpretations that they may not have considered before.

"When I'm in a group with people

lessons that they would not have learned on their own and gives them experience with group dynamics.

Despite the pleas for more independence in the work area, many colleges and graduate programs conduct group interviews to observe an interviewee's ability to interact and work well with others.

Working well with a group is undoubtedly a challenge, especially when working with strangers. Group work requires efforts to foster a sense of unity, but once the students surmount this obstacle, working towards the same goal becomes much easier.

Once the group becomes organized and cohesive, groups have the capacity to generate products that are superior compared to the amount and quality of work that an individual can do. They provide experiences that require leadership, cooperation, and organizational skills.

Privacy makes us productive and prevents distraction from others. One is more likely to be focused when alone rather than when accompanied by a friend. Without anyone to talk to, an individual must find a better use of his or her time, which usually results in a productive work period.

When given an independent, classwork assignment, students often find themselves surrounded by quiet. This solitude results in individual innovation, which generates better performance in the classroom. On the other hand, group work introduces great disadvantages.

"There is usually a reliance on one or two people to do all of the work, and it is hard to divide up the work equally without someone taking control," said junior Leah Weingast. "More is usually expected from groups when they work together, which puts more pressure on the group."

information, since no one is monitoring him or her. The other people in the group assume what he or she gives is right and blame that person when faced with unsatisfactory results.

Group work can also result in ugly disputes between the group members. There are always differences in opinion; if people within the group start arguing, stress levels increase, teamwork deteriorates, and time is wasted.

Organization is also a big issue. When people are not willing to cooperate, it becomes nearly impossible to get work done.

Working individually helps us learn and flourish in a way that working in a group does not. We are able to become better students and more efficient individuals by working alone and knowing what is best for ourselves.



# Vassar College recalls electronic admissions

BY Hallie Whitman  
Contributing Writer

Imagine the excitement of sitting down at your computer and finding an acceptance email from your first choice college. You celebrate, call all of your relatives, and even order sweatshirts

Students who did not earn admission through their own merit should not be accepted just as an apology for what happened. While the situation is incredibly devastating for these students, there is nothing more Vassar should have done to compensate for its mistake.

with the college logo. Now imagine that after one hour of celebration, you receive another email from the same institution. The college informs you that it has made a terrible mistake: you aren't actually an accepted student. For 76 disappointed students, this was the case on Jan. 27, when Vassar College sent out a total of 122 acceptance emails to prospective students. Only 46 of these students were

actually intended to be accepted. One hour later, Vassar notified those students that were erroneously informed of the actual admissions decisions. The college issued an official apology and promised to refund the application fees. Some believe that even if they were meant to be rejected, those students who were incorrectly informed by Vassar should have been able to keep their acceptances. "Initially, the feeling is that the college should honor the original decision, even if it was in error," said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. "However, if the college did that, the number of students who received this correspondence and subsequent denial would create a problem for those other students who may have stronger credentials and would receive acceptance but did not apply under the binding agreement. These students would then be unfairly treated." If they were accepted, it would seriously compromise the integrity of the admissions process. Students who did not earn admission through their own merit should not be accepted just as an apology for what happened. While the situation is incredibly devastating for these students, there is nothing more Vassar should have done to compensate

for its mistake. "It is Vassar's duty as an institution to stand by its initial assessments of each student," said senior Noah Reisman. "It is a disappointing situation to be in, especially for those who considered Vassar a first choice school. There is nothing more for Vassar to do to make up for the students' heartache, although they should remove the people who caused the error." Vassar College's mistake could be attributed to the increased laziness on the part of people as they rely more and more on technology. Although an electronic system would greatly reduce the probability of error in terms of delivery and infrastructure management, people often become lax when depending on such systems and can forget to check for human errors. If we are going to rely on the Internet for such an important process as college applications, schools and their employees need to be more vigilant in order to ensure that these mistakes do not happen again. "The school needs to be better organized," said senior Hana Seligman. Mistakes do happen. Still, top institutions like Vassar need to safeguard their systems and ensure careful management of information to cause no further distress.

# Students flock to gyms to become better, faster, and stronger

BY Erin Choe  
Staff Writer

Even though Schreiber opens the weight room after school for any student eager to work out, it is definitely worth it for serious athletes to join a local gym. After all, the weight room is only open three days a week after school for a limited number of hours. With such little time and space, it is definitely a better choice to join a local gym where athletes can exercise on their own time, and there are plenty of machines to go around. It has become a large fad among Schreiber seniors. "Because seniors have more time during second semester and can drive, the gym has become a great place to work out with friends," said senior Nina Devas. The biggest problem with Schreiber's weight room is the time. It is only open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after school each week for a couple of hours. Sure the gym is well equipped, and Ms. Nancy Klotz, the instructor of Schreiber's after school program in the weight room, is doing a fantastic job in balancing exercise and fun for students. But if hard core athletes are really looking for a serious work out, they should definitely join a local gym. The Schreiber weight room is not easily acceptable to students on sports teams because it coincides with practice time. Therefore, the solution is a local gym that is open most nights till late and also on the weekends. And if an athlete wants an instructor to challenge them and push them in the right direction, most gyms also offer classes that help build basic fitness knowledge. Even for students who are not on a sports team, they should still consider joining local gyms to supplement the few hours that Schreiber offers the gym. Another issue with Schreiber's after school program is that even though it is a friendly environment, if kids want a serious workout, it is much more efficient to exercise alone. A local gym places athletes in an environment that truly motivates them to burn calories and build stamina. "I definitely think it is worth it to join a gym because at home you're just surrounded with distractions and junk food. At a gym, you can just focus on working out," said junior Chloe Klug. However, if it is difficult to pay the monthly cost of a gym, people can always just work out at home. Ms. Klotz recommends cardio running or core exercises with dumbbells. Overall though, if someone really wants to get a serious work out, they should join a gym after school because it is a more accessible place where hard-core athletes can just focus on exercising. Plus the equipment of a local gym is newer and more diverse, and there is much more room. So, if a student has the money and wants an intense workout, it is definitely worth it to invest in a local gym.

# Quarter system puts too much weight on students

BY Aaron Bialer  
Staff Writer

In the beginning of the school year, many out of school activities have not begun. You have loads of time to do work and study, and your grades reflect it. Throughout the year, as your clubs, sports, and activities pile on, you fall behind in your schoolwork. Despite your fantastic first and second quarter grades, your final grades are a disappointment. The weighted quarter system at Schreiber is often unfair, giving advantages to some and disadvantages to others. Much of it depends on each individual's schedule, so it would be hard to adjust it fairly. For all seniors, college applications are due in December. For many procrastinators, this can cause December to be a very stressful month. Although the second quarter is the second lowest weighted quarter, many seniors would argue that the fact that it counts more than first quarter is unfair. AP exams occur during May, during the fourth and highest weighted quarter. For those in AP classes, the tests cause stress and, although the exams count for AP credit, have no effect when it comes to grades. Due to the stress, many AP students often put aside their schoolwork to review in preparation for the tests. With the weight of the fourth quarter, slightly worse grades could have a large effect on the final grade. It is understandable that the first quarter has a relatively low weight in the final grade calculation because many students need time to get used to being

back in school. "I play field hockey in the fall, and it is nice knowing that my grades count for less while I am adjusting to my hectic schedule at the start of the year," said sophomore Deirdre Labartino. For semester courses without finals, the weighted quarter system does not work very well. As long as both quarter grades are within a half grade of each other, the second grade comes out to be the final grade. Additionally, each quarter is equal length and, therefore, is a similar amount of work. Why should equal amounts of work have different weights in the long run? There is no simple way to better this system, but it is undeniable that it can be a great annoyance.





# Editorials

## Susan G. Komen values questioned after retracting Planned Parenthood support

It was just a few weeks ago that Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure, the leading supporter of breast cancer research in the country, retracted support from Planned Parenthood, a women's health clinic, causing a stir among pro-choice supporters across the country.

Planned Parenthood is one of the few places in the country devoted to protecting women's health needs by allowing them the privacy and financial aid necessary to maintain their health.

Komen's decision was certainly a scandal. Planned Parenthood does perform abortions, but it also offers a variety of other health benefits for women, including free breast health screenings, which is something that Susan G. Komen supported for quite some time.

Ironically, Susan G. Komen had denounced one of the leading providers of these exams in the country, taking a stance against what their organization supposedly supports.

The Susan G. Komen Foundation initially meant for this gesture to portray its pro-life political position. Critics suspect that politicians on the board and within the organization may have created some of the controversy surrounding their position.

Many believed that the decision would allow them to "quietly distance themselves from a politically controversial organization that they feared was costing them support and donations," said an anonymous board member in a recent article in the *New York Times*.

Their board had drastically underestimated the response to their own "quiet distancing," which likely will end up costing them more in donations and support. One of the organizations' board members resigned over the issue.

Nancy Brinker, Susan G. Komen's chief executive officer (and a sister of Susan G. Komen) says that the criticism is "distracting" from Susan G. Komen's mission, according to an article in the *Huffington Post*.

But this brings about an important question, what is Susan G. Komen's mission anyway?

According to the foundation's website, Nancy Brinker founded the organization after watching her sister fight a brutal battle with breast cancer. She made it her mission to do everything in her power to raise awareness and most importantly help future breast cancer victims.

However, it was also recently discovered that, in another political anomaly, Susan G. Komen opposes stem cell research, one of the forerunners in cancer research at the moment.

Susan G. Komen's political positions have become more and more apparent in these past few years and appear to have infringed upon their values as an organization devoted to supporting breast cancer research, victims, and survivors.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has renounced his support of the breast cancer organization, has decided to donate the money that Susan G. Komen has withdrawn from Planned Parenthood in its place.

"Politics have no place in health care," he said in a statement. "Breast cancer screening saves lives and hundreds of

thousands of women rely on Planned Parenthood for access to care. We should be helping women access that care, not placing barriers in their way."

These were likely the concerns that festered at the heart of founder Nancy Brinker and caused her to reverse Komen's course of action, renewing their support for the controversial agency. Planned Parenthood has used the Komen money to provide breast cancer screening and education to thousands of low-income women.

*The Schreiber Times* supports Susan G. Komen's decision to renew support for Planned Parenthood with the hope that this continued alliance will help to achieve Komen's initial goal of helping to identify, treat and raise awareness about breast cancer.

## It pays off to vote yes for the budget

Each year as winter fades and spring approaches, all eyes in the district fall upon the budget. Parents, students, and teachers alike flock to Board of Education meetings to put in their two cents about how our limited funds should be spent.

This year, the budget issue is especially concerning.

A recent New York State law has imposed a two percent tax cap on all school districts throughout the state.

In order to keep up with rising maintenance costs and mandated teacher raises, our district would need a budgetary increase of about 3.8 percent.

This monetary deficit requires that the district save about \$1.6 million by cutting and consolidating programs and positions within the schools.

At the Feb. 7 Board meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon proposed a series of reductions to help balance the budget.

These proposed cuts included \$132,000 in high school supplies, reductions in security aids and substitutes, cuts in clubs and sports teams, losses of AV and clerical staff, and the elimination

of four full time teaching positions at Schreiber.

Additionally, widespread cuts will take place in the elementary and middle schools. These cuts will affect all students and teachers in the district both next year and beyond.

The district will implement the proposed budget if it passes the public vote this spring. If the budget fails, far more cuts in both academic and extracurricular areas will be necessary.

*The Schreiber Times* recognizes the importance of economic stability in schools as well as maintaining adequate levels of school supplies and amounts of teaching staff.

It is of utmost importance that all eligible community members, parents, and students make it a point to vote yes for the district budget. Our school's future depends upon it.

*Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on March 1. All new writers are welcome!*

## Times Policy Statement

The Schreiber Times' primary purpose is to inform its readers of events, issues, and ideas affecting Schreiber High School. The Times also serves as an open forum in which members of the Schreiber community may express their ideas and opinions.

The Times will report all news accurately, honestly, and fairly. We will not give preference to any group or individual. We will respect the rights of all information sources and any errors will be corrected promptly.

We will print submitted materials on the basis of their quality and significance as determined by the editors of this publication. The editors reserve the right to print, refuse to print, or return any submitted materials. The editors also reserve the right to edit any submitted articles.

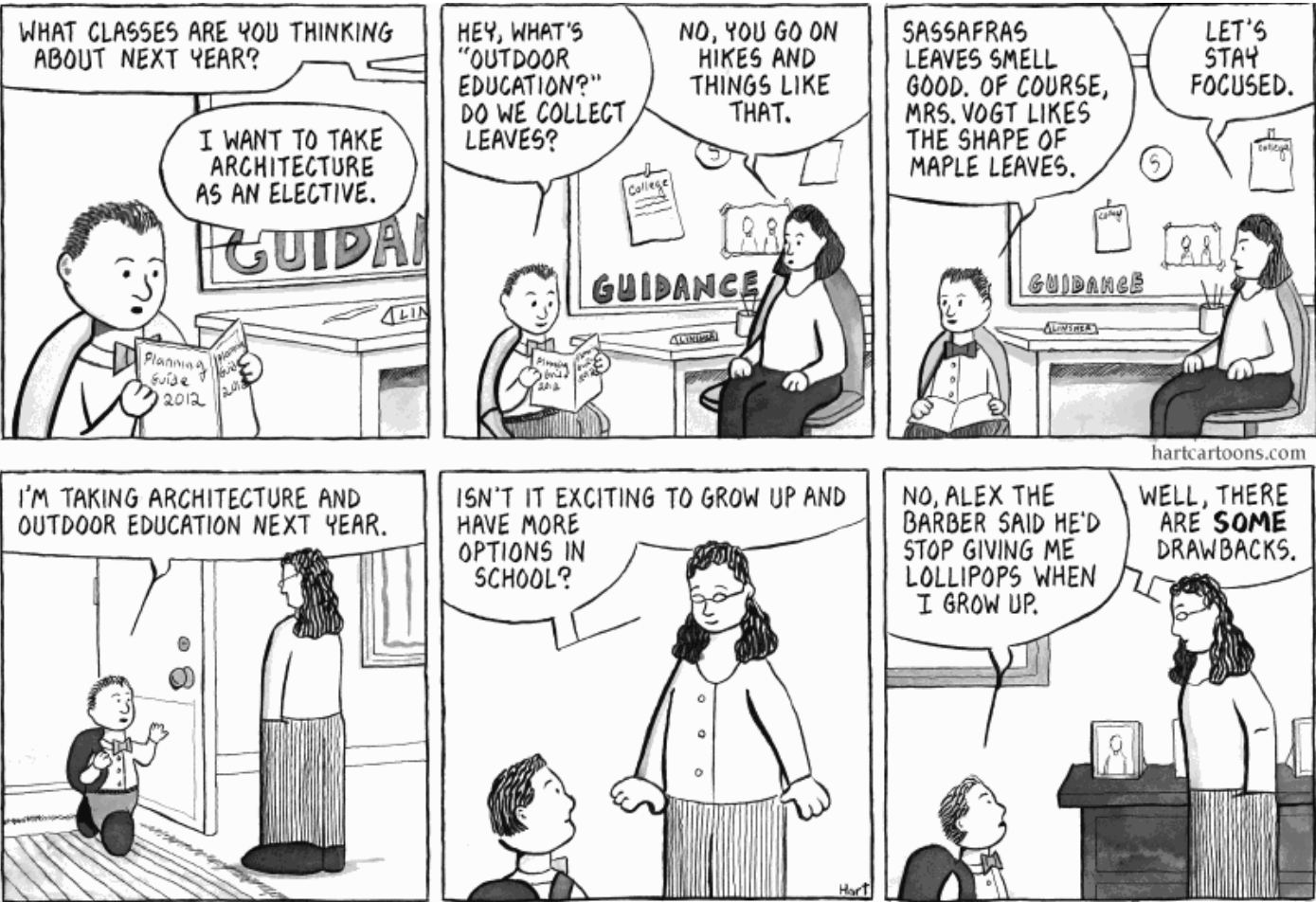
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose a representative letter from a group of related ones. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. We will not print any anonymous letters.

Editorials printed in this publication reflect the opinion of the majority of the editors. If the situation warrants, minority editorials will be published. Editorials do not represent the views of the Port Washington Union Free School District.

We will not publish advertisements if they are deemed libelous, obscene or likely to incite criminal activity. Prices of advertisements are standard and price schedules are available upon request. Advertisements do not necessarily represent the views of The Times.

We will establish new policies if the need arises. Until such a point occurs, The Times will follow the policy described in this space as well as the guidelines of common sense and reason.

## The Hart Knock Life





# Paula Deen’s recent announcement cooks up controversy

## Food Network star reveals her secrets and struggles with diabetes

by **Makenzie Drukker**  
*Staff Writer*

Whether or not you’re familiar with any of celebrity chef Paula Deen’s three Food Network shows, chances are you have heard of her.

Deen is famous—or rather infamous—for her Southern cooking, and particularly for her prodigious use of butter.

On Jan.17, during an interview on NBC’s *Today*, Paula Deen announced that she has been living with Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease, for three years.

Few people, especially those most familiar with her recipes, were surprised that her excesses had finally caught up with her.

However, since the announcement, there has been a significant backlash against Paula Deen.

Following the interview, diabetics berated the chef, and denounced her duplicity in promoting sugary and fatty foods on her shows, while keeping her diagnosis a secret.

She has now become the face of a drug company which makes products for diabetics.

The American Diabetes Association maintains that the onset of Type 2 diabetes, a chronic disease with serious and deadly consequences, can be delayed or even prevented by eating well, exercising regularly, and maintaining a healthy weight.

Paula Deen is visibly overweight,

and through her shows she advocates a decidedly unhealthy diet, with dishes such as “Not Your Momma’s Banana Pudding Ice Cream,” “Southern Fried Chicken,” and “Creamy Cheddar Soup.”

It would be impossible for diabetics to actually consume many, if any, of the high-calorie, high-fat, high-carb dishes that Paula Deen regularly prepares.

In fact, these are exactly the kinds of foods which contribute to diabetes, and which diabetics should avoid. Many fans feel duped by Deen, claiming that by hiding her diabetes, she was ignoring the consequences of her cooking.

“As a prime time Food Network star, I think she had an opportunity here for truly educating her viewers about a serious disease, and she failed. Given her diagnosis almost three years ago, it seems as the general population feels betrayed. Although not everyone feels comfortable about being open and honest about their personal health struggles, it seems as if Paula Deen took it a step further,” said Ms. Janine Kalinowski.

However, other shows have premiered on The Food Network which are geared toward a healthier diet, including *Healthy Appetite* with Ellie Kreiger.

Even Paula Deen’s son, Bobby, has landed a show on The Cooking Channel called *Not My Momma’s Meals*, in which he reworks some of his mother’s recipes to make them lighter and healthier.

Like Deen, several other celebrity chefs freely advertise fatty or sugary foods without regard for moderation.

Patrick and Gina Neely’s *Down Home*



Although delicious, Paula Deen’s buttery food has been receiving media attention after the announcement about her health.

with the Neelys often features Southern-style cooking similar to Paula Deen’s, and Duff Goldman’s *Sugar High* is an entire show dedicated to desserts.

Most recently, a show boldly entitled *Fat Chef* premiered on The Food Network, featuring a pastry chef from Port Washington’s own Main Street Bakery.

On the show, morbidly obese chefs have 16 weeks to work with therapists, nutritionists and trainers to improve their lives.

Paula Deen’s diabetes announcement was a wake-up call to many Americans.

Having kept her disease a secret for the past three years, Deen continued to promote her unhealthy cooking, without her fans knowledge.

“The Food Network celebrity continued coasting along, carrying her viewers while promoting her fattening and sugar-heavy recipes. All the while, she could have been promoting healthier recipes or options of ingredient placements to show viewers how to prevent or manage a disease like diabetes,” said Kalinowski.

However, her diagnosis is only one of millions.

Each year, nearly 2 million people over the age of 20 are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes.

While Paula Deen was unable to prevent the onset of her own disease, hopefully shows geared toward healthier eating and lifestyles will encourage Americans to change their own lives.

# Students use funny websites to foster their procrastination

by **Kelly To**  
*Staff Writer*

Today’s latest iPhones, Androids, and computers have made procrastinating easier than ever. With just a few taps on the phone, people have access to millions of online websites filled with funny jokes, meme cartoons, cat photos, and more.

Websites like Fatpita, Imgur, and 9gag have made procrastinating utterly irresistible to the average high school student.

This new trend has students online all day.

“The first thing I do when I get home is sit in front of the computer. I sleep with my eyes open for the next 10 hours procrastinating. I no eat. I no drink. I just lol at lolcats,” said sophomore Rachel Johnson.

The internet provides the world at your fingertips, allowing students to look at almost anything in order to avoid doing homework.

Pictures of cats have become a popular subjects of procrastination, whether it be searching cat videos on YouTube or embracing one’s sensitive side and searching kittens online.

“The Internet is really useful for reminding people how cute cats are,” said sophomore Dan Bidikov.

(Full disclosure: Bidikov is a staff member of *The Schreiber Times* who occasionally lols at lolcats on newspaper time.)

Imgur, like many other trendy websites, is a place where people can share and look at photos.



These photos range from animals with creepy facial expressions to amusingly captioned screen shots from TV shows.

This site also allows people to like and comment on pictures.

9gag is similar to Imgur as it also allows users to post various hilarious pictures.

One can almost always find a picture that captures his or her interest.

“When you are extremely stressed out, almost anything is funny and it definitely promotes procrastination,” said senior Jennifer Kim, a user of Fatpita.

Clearly, students feel a strong attachment to these websites.

Fatpita, Imgur, and 9gag have the same

effect as popular social networks such as Facebook.

Students tell themselves they will only go on for a minute, but, of course, that never happens.

Many people end up on these websites for hours and find themselves cramming all their homework in at the last minute.

“Procrastinating is as hard to resist as chocolate fudge sundae on a hot summer’s day,” said sophomore Bomin Choi.

Scientific studies have proven that people tend to deliberately delay tasks that they do not want to do.

Nowadays, procrastinating has been made so simple.

Students spend a large portion of their free time on their cell phones or computers, two devices that have efficient internet access.

While doing homework, many teenagers use their computers and the temptation of checking out one of these websites is just too hard to resist.

“You’ve been working all day and there’s only one more page you have to write for your essay, so what other logical action would there be to take besides go on the internet and look at funny pictures?” said Choi.





# Counting Sheep

## Why is sleep important in our lives?

Each night, people plop their head on the pillow, close their eyes, and drift off to their own private world for (ideally) about seven to eight hours every night. Since it is instinctual, sleep does not strike us as strange, but with a fresh perspective, the whole thing is quite astounding.

Just think: our mental health and physical immune system depend on shutting down our brains every day for a set amount of time, during which our core body temperature lowers by 1 to 1.5 degrees Celsius, our heart rate slows, and we may hallucinate. When you stop to think about it, sleep really does affect our lives.

### A Wink of Sleep

Whether they're dozing off in a library cubicle, waiting in line for a cup of coffee, or out cold in class, sleep-deprived students are not hard to find.

Eight seems to be the magic number when it comes to how many hours of sleep you should get each night, but some research suggests that teenagers should shoot for at least nine. For many students, this is taken about as seriously as your dentist's insistence that you floss your teeth every day.

Homework is the most obvious obstacle standing between you and a good night's sleep. Many students agree that they would get more sleep if they had less homework, but what about the few who say that their homework does not affect when they go to bed?

"Given the choice between getting sleep and doing a set of math or physics problems, I will pick sleep," said junior Robert Gray. "When a swim meet or a club or some other activity keeps me up late, I will only do the homework if it is substantially important to my grade."

"I don't go to bed late because I have too much homework," said sophomore Noah White. "I go to bed late because I start my homework too late."

When it comes to homework, proper time management might net you another hour or two of sleep. Odds are against your hopes of slipping into bed by midnight if you're starting a research paper at ten. If it is homework that is keeping you up until three in the morning each night, you might want to reassess your work habits.

School hours have a detrimental effect on students' sleep as well. Students are up at the crack of dawn five days out of the week, but you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who does the same on weekends. This irregularity in sleep patterns results in generally lower sleep quality and more drowsiness throughout the day.

"Don't have two sleep clocks," said health teacher Ms. Pat Kosiba. "Not one for the weekend and one for the week. Try not to go to bed or wake up two hours later than normal."



Harry Paul

**Students can frequently be found sleeping in the library cubicles, as it is one of the quietest places in the school. Some find that they need a mid-day power nap to make it through the day after a late night.**

For many students, sleep is secondary to homework and late-night studying. This is not only detrimental to your health, but chances are your lack of sleep is hurting your grades, too.

"Sleep is a necessity, not a luxury," said Ms. Kosiba. "To get your As and Bs, you need your Zs."

### To Nap or Not to Nap

For many students napping is a convenient way to alleviate drowsiness from a late night spent studying—or video chatting. Schreiber students are accustomed to seeing their peers dozing off in the middle of a lecture, movie or even group work.

"There's a kid that falls asleep two minutes into one of my classes, as soon as my teacher starts lecturing. It's like clockwork," said sophomore Philip Sorenson.

If you are a napper and ever feel like you are among the minority in Schreiber (though 58 of 192 students polled said they napped either "all the time" or "often"), it might please you to know that you are in good company among some of the world's greatest thinkers. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Presidents Ronald Reagan and John Kennedy, Albert Einstein, and Thomas Edison are all known to have valued the afternoon nap.

Many, however, foolishly dismiss daily respites for their associations with infants and the elderly. Others envy those who possess this napping skill.

"I'm jealous of those who can take naps throughout the day," said physics teacher Mr. John Schineller. "From a scientific perspective we should all try to be more successful at speed sleep. However, those who choose to nap in class should

probably try to figure out somewhere else to nap more effectively."

Some scientists, believe that humans were meant to take advantage of these short sleeping periods throughout the day, especially because 85 percent of our mammalian counterparts do.

Many cultures have the afternoon siesta as a key component. In Serbia and Slovenia, it is customary not to call a house between the hours of two and five in the afternoon so as not to disturb those who are resting. Some southern German regions still readily observe a Mittagspause, a time in which shops close and children are expected to play quietly indoors. A variety of Japanese offices have rooms specifically devoted to napping, granting workers the privilege of dozing off during lunch breaks and after over-time work.

Even American summer camps have come to observe the daily "rest hour," allowing campers and counselors a short rest time after lunch before returning to activities.

It is no wonder that so many have incorporated napping into their daily routine. Naps have been proven incredibly beneficial for mental, social, and physical health. They have been shown to restore alertness, enhance performance, and reduce mistakes and accidents.

A recent study at NASA discovered that among pilots and astronauts, a short power nap improved performance by 34 percent and increased alertness by 54 percent.

The alertness gained from a nap can keep you going for a few more hours each day, meaning you can finish your procrastinated English paper after midnight in a better state than you might otherwise.

Naps can be emotionally rejuvenating as well, sparking creativity and encouraging more attentive learning. The power nap has even been known to enhance one's mood and reduce stress, something that, as a high school student, it might be beneficial to note.

While naps have many benefits, if not utilized correctly they can actually have negative effects. It is best to nap either for less than 45 minutes or more than an hour and a half.

Your sleep cycle is very delicate, and resting between 45 and 90 minutes can cause you to awaken in the middle of a sleep cycle. This results in sleep inertia, which can make you feel more tired and is characterized by grogginess and disorientation. Also, napping too late in the afternoon can make it difficult to fall asleep in the evening.

Scheduling a daily napping period is best because it maintains your circadian rhythm. If you are an early bird, rising at the wee hours of six and falling asleep before ten, then it might be beneficial to nap around one or two in the afternoon.

Unfortunately, this time may be inconvenient as many students might still be in class, and while some do feel napping at this time is a viable option, it is neither preferable nor beneficial for a variety of other reasons.

"After years of napping in class, I have determined that the only way to successfully sleep is to start taking notes with your head down; have a neighbor who knows when to wake you up when the teacher walks by," said senior Nina Devas.

The majority of us are forced into a later sleep cycle by hormones, age, and other variable factors that would have us napping at three instead. As many students have also found, the cubicles in the library during an off period also work nicely.

### Perchance to Dream

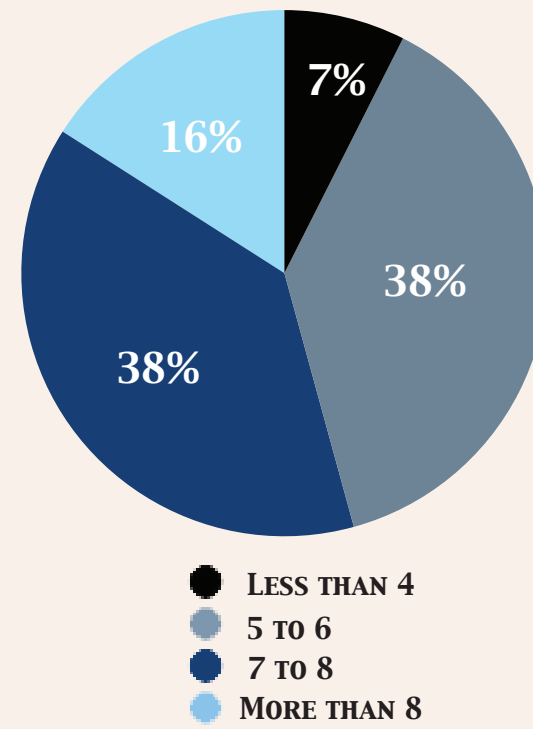
It's a chilly night, maybe in December or January; it's hard to tell. You think that there might be snow on the ground, but it's too dark to make anything out clearly. You are with your best friend from sixth grade who moved to Tennessee, and you tell him how much everything has changed. He opens his mouth to reply, but all you hear is classical music...

Oh, that's just your radio alarm, rudely jolting you to reality, at 7:00 on a Wednesday morning. Does this sound familiar? If you dream regularly, this situation is probably a fairly common one for you.

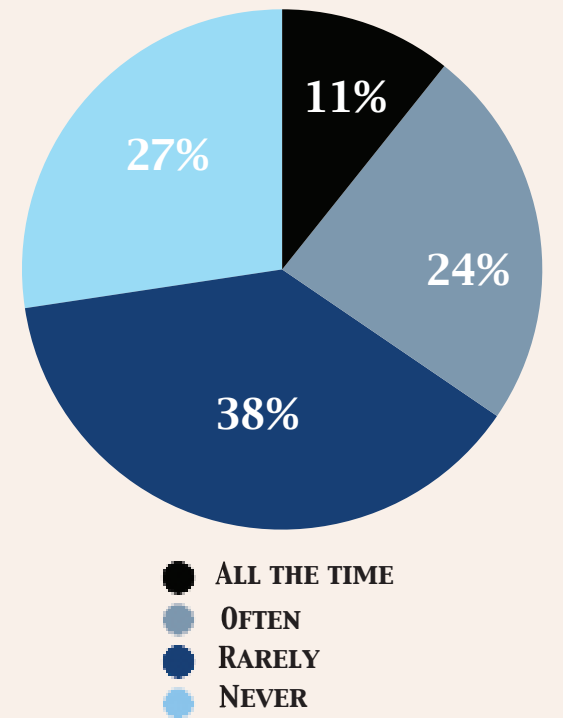
First, how many dreams do people remember? The amount ranges from almost daily to just about never. Most students surveyed either remembered them often (a few times a week) or rarely (once a month).

Dreaming takes place most often during Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, which we cycle through about five to six

## HOW MANY HOURS OF SLEEP DO YOU GET ON A TYPICAL SCHOOL NIGHT?



## HOW OFTEN DO YOU TAKE NAPS?



times per night.

If you want to remember more of your dreams, you may want to keep pen and paper at your bedside and start scribbling as soon as you wake up.

So, why do we dream, and why is it important?

Well, the jury's still out on that question, with psychologists, neurologists, biologists, anthropologists, and all manner of religious thinkers offering their own theories of these surreal nighttime visions. Fortunately, students here have their own opinions, too.

"Some of my dreams give me the best ideas," said senior Genevieve Bellon.

Although many cultures are full of stories about dreams that are predictions or divinely inspired prophesies (in the West for example, we have the story of Jacob's ladder or Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue), it is doubtful that we can ever study that scientifically.

Sigmund Freud posited one of themore popular

views that dreams are a window into our vast unconscious. Our conscious minds are very good at burying unwanted or unnoticed information, argues the Freudian school, but in the looser realm of dreams, those images and events float to the surface.

"Are dreams just projections of your unconscious mind accessing the conscious mind? Yes," said senior Jack Sempliner. "I like them better than being awake; it's awesome."

Not all of Freud's ideas have held up to scrutiny, however. Current theories about dreams are more diverse.

Dreaming is variously considered to be a way of consolidating memories and learning,

an amusing by-product of random neural activity or a way to harmlessly simulate the real world.

"Dreams? My theory is that they don't mean all that much," said social studies teacher Dr. David O'Connor. "I'm not a Freudian, I'll put it that way. You pretty much just dream about the things you were thinking of during the day."

Either way, except for the occasional

nightmare, most people are thankful for dreams, which let us escape our heads for a few minutes every night and drift off into enchanted castles, idyllic beaches, or even just to your ditzzy aunt's house for the fourth time in two weeks.

*By Matt Heiden, Kerim Kivrak, and Hannah Zweig*

## HOW TO STAY AWAKE AROUND THE CLOCK

Thus far, in the year and a half that I have spent in high school, I have had to pull many all night-ers. I often have homework to complete in every subject every night. And then, to top it all off, those are the nights that I usually have a test for the next day, too. Consequently, the only logical answer to completing all of the tasks at hand is studying all night long.

The job at hand seems impossible. I am easily distracted, especially while doing my homework. In this day of technology, with phones, computers, and televisions accessible at the push of a button, it is difficult not to become preoccupied. Here are some pointers that I have found to improve productivity.

The first recommendation for doing a huge load of work is to not do it on your bed. Eventually you will get so comfortable that it is almost certain you will fall asleep. Also, try to eat nourishing food beforehand or when you are just beginning; that way you will not have to stop right in the middle of your work. And definitely get rid of your phone. If you keep your phone near you, you will feel inclined to look at it sporadically throughout the time you are working. You may even find that playing music in the background actually helps you complete your task.

Even if you are exceptionally tired, do not take a power nap. If you take a power nap, most of the time you will never wake up when you say you will. Instead, eat something that will wake you up, like a sugar-filled treat. Perhaps you may want to drink a cup of coffee or even soda. It keeps you alert without having to worry about wasting too much time. The most important thing about all nighters or just lots of homework in general is to use motivating techniques.

"I reward myself after completing a certain section of whatever it is I am studying or completing a part of my work without distractions," said sophomore Chloe Margulis.

Set limits for yourself. If you like going on the computer, allow yourself to go on the computer and look at your Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr, but set time limits to go online and talk to friends in between your work. By doing this you do not feel as stressed and are able to not get as distracted as you would normally get. I tend to do the hardest pieces of homework that I have first and then go onto the subjects that I know are simpler, and require less brain power to complete. The last work I always do is study. This way the information is fresh in my mind for the next day.

So, the next time you have lots of work to do, do not stress, stay calm, and reward yourself for all the hard work you accomplish.

~Shari Meltzer



# A translating tool for the modern “convo”

BY **Matt Heiden**  
*Copy Editor*

Listening in on an average high school in Suburbia, one may hear conversations that are unintelligible to the uninitiated. What does it mean when the new “fro-yo” place is “mad chill” for instance? Here is a short guide to some of the more unique features of this language:

**ROFLCOPTER** (noun)

A rarely seen, but commonly reported, circumstance in which one spasmodically convulses with laughter. If you receive a text containing ROFLCOPTER, it is a sign that your correspondent enjoys your humor (perhaps too much).

**snowday** (as one word)

A recent Facebook-driven contraction. Note that in the suburbs, especially in digital communication, any words that can be joined, will (see also “wannabe”).

**Starbucks language**

That cute girl ordering a “venti mocha-frappuccino” is not doing her best impression of Italian. She is speaking in the unintelligible code of Starbucks. If you ever want to aggravate the barista of a coffee shop that isn't Starbucks, use this code when ordering.

**shiz** (noun)

An expletive. Though “shiz” is not a powerful term, for unknown reasons it has powers of obnoxiousness that will lower your English grade the instant you say it in public.

**convo** (noun)

A conversation, generally one which is not of a serious nature, as in: *Dude, the other day I had a convo with James about how we can, like, never get into a book if it doesn't have pictures.*

**Fro-yo** (noun)

Abbreviation of “frozen yogurt.” Due to suburbanites’ love of anything sugary that can be disguised as “low fat,” fro-yo is increasingly competing with established ice cream vendors.

**e-ify** (verb, language of origin: Ms. Carsten’s brain)  
Another term for “exponentiate.” Though high school students adopted the term from the math department, the term inspires controversy in science classrooms.

**cool beans** (AKA kewl beans or kewlbeans)  
An expression to end a conversation, similar to a bit more relaxed version of **good bye**. Also used to express agreement.

**mad** (adj.)  
Synonymous with “much” or “a lot,” as in, (*That was mad cool, dude!*)

**chill** (adj.)  
A term denoting that a person is relaxed, easygoing, or lenient. If a suburbanite describes you as “chill,” it is a high praise, especially if you are a teacher.

**sketchy** (adj.)  
Used to describe someone who inspires a vaguely defined, but pervasive, feeling of creepiness, awkwardness, or dread. A person described as sketchy might be seen living in an abandoned house, mingling

with shady characters, or staring at you menacingly or perhaps lovingly. Right now. Run.

**Suburban Interpretations:**  
Most words have a precise meaning which eventually gets diluted. This seems to happen often in the suburbs. Here’s a sampling of many endearingly misused words:

**ironic** (adj.)  
Although irony has a very specific meaning, in the suburbs it may simply mean “unexpected” or “somewhat strange.” As in: *The other day I lost my backpack, and I looked and saw that my friend had lost his too! How ironic was that!*

**awkward** (adj. abbreviation: awk or awks)  
Typically used to describe a person or a social situation. If someone is awkward, he may spend parties dreading talking to Geena, because the last time he talked to her, it was about “you know, the government, and all that.” It didn’t help that he got nervous, panicked, and then tripped as he gracelessly departed mid-sentence, thus spreading his awkwardness to the whole group.

**literally** (adv.)  
A term of emphasis, even if a thing or event is actually figurative. As in: *I was literally up to my eyeballs in work or my short friend is literally a dwarf.*

**Inappropriate** (also known as **inappro** or **inappropro**)  
If something is vaguely sexual, it is “inappropro.” Never mind if you’re in a public bathroom, sleazy barroom, or any

place where people won’t bat an eye at your crudest limericks. It is inappropriate, because it wouldn’t be appropriate in a 4th grade classroom.

**The city** (noun)  
The nearest city. On Long Island, this invariably means New York City.

**Inception** (also, the -ception suffix)  
Since the movie *Inception*, this term refers to something within something within something, etc. Almost always said with hands shaking in a mystical fashion. As in: *You know those Russian dolls, within a Russian doll, within a Russian doll. It’s Doll-ception, man!*

**beast** (noun)  
The term “beast” denotes one who is good at a task, usually in sports or philandering. As in: *I can’t believe you made that half-court shot, you beast!*

**legit** (adj.)  
Synonymous with the more loose definition of “kosher,” meaning acceptable or by-the-rules.

**muggle** (noun)  
An outsider or contemptible person, especially regarding an inside joke or in-group. As in: *Whoa man, that guy was totally confused when we were talking. What a muggle.*

**dubstep** (noun)  
A style of music (with the term “music” employed as loosely as possible), with repetitive electronic beats and heavy bass. Often accompanied by paroxysms of freakish dancing.

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Schreiber  
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BY **Hannah Fagen**  
*News Editor*

While professional scientists toil away in labs across the country, students right here are studying cutting-edge science in AP science classes throughout the school. AP Environmental Science students recently completed a unit on water supply use and management. The class recently did a laboratory experiment to analyze the effects of temperature on dissolved oxygen levels in water. They found that heated water had lower levels of dissolved oxygen, and this oxygen deficiency can affect organisms living in the water. If oxygen levels drop as a result of heating from power plants, aquatic organisms can die. In the course, students explore the consequences of human interactions with the environment and the ways in which human actions can mitigate these effects. “I think it’s probably the most relevant AP science because we go through, issue by issue, the effects of the decisions that we all make as humans,” said Ms. Brandt. In Ms. Marla Ezratty’s AP Biology class, students explore living organisms and their environment. The class just completed a unit on ecology and is now partaking in an introduction to the systems and animal physiology. The physiology unit is note-intensive and includes learning the four main tissue types: epithelial, connective, muscle, and nerve. “The biggest challenge is keeping them engaged,” said Ms. Ezratty. The class recently conducted a lab to test the differences in taught versus innate responses of pill bugs to different stimuli, such as temperature, light and pH. When the class reaches the digestive system, students will keep a seven day dietary journal to assess their nutritional habits. Schreiber offers two AP physics courses, AP Physics B and AP Physics C. Science teacher Mr. Don Fish teaches the first and science teacher Mr. Thom Johnson teaches the latter. AP Physics B students are finishing a unit on geometric optics, which includes images formed by multiple lenses and curved mirrors. The Physics B curriculum is non-calculus based and closely matches the physics courses that premedical students take in college. In AP Chemistry, students can explore chemistry in very hands-on ways. According to AP Chemistry teacher Mr. Scott Carmody, the class is 40 percent lecture and 60 percent lab. “In most science classes, we don’t have the amount of time to get in quite the amount of labs as colleges would expect students to do,” said Mr. Carmody. For their current equilibrium unit, AP Chemistry students are studying how and why reactions go back and forth. Some of the labs that they’re doing include adding different chemicals to reactions and observing color changes, testing the effects of outside influences on solubility, and using a spectrophotometer to determine the exact equilibrium point of an iron mixture. “The AP science classes introduce you to a level of work and responsibility that is really helpful in becoming a better student,” said senior Kevin Roberts.

## Staff Bloggers

**DAVY JONES’ LOCKER ROOM:**

DJLR has anything and everything you could ever want in a blog (as long as anything is sports and everything is laughing). Soon to be seen on ESPN, DJLR is the biased opinion of Assistant Features Editor David Katz, a die-hard New York sports fan and world-renowned bloggery genius. For his work on DJLR, Katz has been nominated for 3 Bloggy’s, an ESPY, a Golden Globe, and was last seen defending homeless kittens from the cold using only his blog. DJLR is a must read for any sports fan, or any person who wants to laugh in general. Stay classy. #DJLR

www.davyjoneslockerroom.blogspot.com

**WEINTRAUB’S WORDS TO EAT BY:**

Weintraub’s Words to Eat By is a blog for all students who want to learn how to cook. For all of you amateur chefs out there looking for easy recipes to do, check this out! Opinions Editor Brendan Weintraub comes out with new recipes every Monday and mixes savory and sweet in the best possible way. Remember, ramen noodles isn’t a meal. Let’s cook up the real deal.

www.weintraubswordstoeatby.blogspot.com

**KNICKS VISION:**

Knicks Vision is a website devoted to coverage of the New York Knicks. Begun in June 2010, the site has followed Amar’e Stoudemire’s, Carmelo Anthony’s, and Jeremy Lin’s path to fame. The site has been featured by the *New York Daily News* in September of last year.

www.knicksvision.com



**Fashion**

Trends show a bright side to dull denim  
*Colors abound in this season's jean collection*

by **Caroline Ogulnick**  
*Contributing Writer*

Tired of your washed out skinny jeans? Looking for a new pair to spice up an everyday outfit? Bold colors have officially taken over the denim kingdom for this upcoming spring season.

If you've worn your blue jeans to shreds and are searching for some flavor to add to your spring wardrobe, this is one trend you may not want to miss out on.

This year, it's all about ditching the



www.tobi.com

Colored jeans add a dramatic flair to any spring outfit.

gloomy shades of your winter wardrobe and stocking up on vivid hues.

Ranging from neon to pastel, this spring's color choices have a lot to offer. Colored denim not only gives an edgy look to an everyday outfit, but it gives the typical blue jean buyer a chance to jump into a whirlpool of wild colors.

Since this past fall, colored denim has been on the rise. Parting from the navy blues and charcoal grays of last year's denim, new shades have popped up on the runway, creating a color craving like never before.

Store windows began to display a rainbow of denim for the local buyer. Many raved about this trend for fall and collected their favorite colors of the season.

Fortunately, the colored denim trend has survived throughout winter, and will be making a big statement this spring. Popular colors vary from hot pinks and tangerines, to minty greens and pale yellows. The options are nearly infinite, allowing buyers to pick any color they wish to flaunt.

"Colored denim is a trend that everyone should experiment with. Not only do they go with countless numbers of outfits, but wearing colors is a great way to stand out in the spring," said sophomore Lael Franco.

There are many ways to style colored denim. If you're on the more exotic side, you may want to pair your jeans with a printed button down and eye-catching jewelry.

If you are looking for a more basic style, you can easily pair them with a white tank and simple black flats. Pick



www.joesjeans.com

Denim brand Joe's Jeans created a line of 55 colors for this spring season.

the colors you feel most comfortable in and that you believe you will get the most wear.

No need to worry about deciding what colored denim to purchase this spring. When it comes to cost, colored jeans have a great range.

Though there are many high-end brands, such as J Brand, Joe's Jeans, and Current/Elliott, there is no need to spend hundreds of dollars on the perfect pair of jeans.

There are numerous others brands that will provide you with equally dazzling colors at less than half the price. Brands like Flying Monkey, Bullhead, and Gabriella Rocha, and stores including

Topshop, Free People, and Forever 21 are selling countless hues of colored denim at more than reasonable prices.

Not just the local fashionistas have caught up on the colored denim trend. Even stars such as the Kardashian sisters, Cameron Diaz, Katy Perry, and Rihanna have been seen showing off their colored denim this season.

This trend has been reported all over the latest fashion magazines and blogs. New spring hues will be entering stores soon, so be sure to keep your eyes open for a pair that will brighten up even the gloomiest days!

# THE WRITING CENTER

*"The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe."*  
—David Hare

## WHAT IS THE WRITING CENTER?

*A place where any student can go for help with any writing assignment*

## WHERE IS THE WRITING CENTER?

*Room 212*

## WHEN IS IT OPEN?

*Every day during 4-1/4-2*

## HOW DO I USE THE WRITING CENTER?

*Come in during 4-1/4-2 to meet with Dr. Sachs or a Peer Responder, or make an appointment for another time.*

Writing Center - Paul D. Schreiber High School - 101 Campus Drive - Room 212 - mail to: hsachs@portnet.k12.ny.us



# Aki and Aiko face off in Japanese cuisine

## Two similar-sounding restaurants open on the streets of Port

by Daniela Philipson and Alexa Pinto  
Staff Writers

Among the plethora of Japanese restaurants in town, two new eateries opened, Aki and Aiko. Both restaurants are located on Main Street; Aki is located next to Gino's, the afterschool hotspot, and Aiko is located on the same block as Starbucks and Bonsai.

Aki is a Japanese cuisine chain with three other locations on Long Island and New York City. It offers a variety of rolls, giving hungry customers almost 100 different choices of sushi rolls. (Believe us when we say nearly 100. We counted.)

"Aki's special rolls make it unique from Port Washington's other sushi restaurants," said senior Ashley O'Reilly. "They have a huge selection to choose from. Plus, they can do other meals besides sushi, like hibachi, and it is all fresh, which is great."

In addition to the variety of sushi choices, Aki also offers meat dishes,



Ashley Berliner

Aki offers a variety of delectable dishes, including this chicken plate.

soups, and tofu for the vegetarians, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$30.

However, the typically popular steak teriyaki was slightly disappointing. While the taste was above average, it was not excellent. The meal proved to be filling, and its flavor was not masked by the grease that usually covers Chinese and Japanese foods. The vegetable fried rice's flavor, created by the mix of carrots, cucumbers, peppers, broccoli, and eggs, was high quality. Aki's rolls prove to be quite the attraction.

"I had a lot of rolls, from salmon to eel. The rolls were full of flavor and originality," said senior Daniel Preston. "The atmosphere was pretty great too. They also had exceptional service, in addition to a very nice presentation."

Aki also delivered our order very quickly, a task that took competitor Aiko significantly longer to complete.

Although sushi is the main focus of Aki's menu, there are other delicious meals, such as Pizza Aiko style, which is prepared with raw fish, avocado, and thin Japanese bread. The use of such ingredients gives the restaurant a unique flavor.

Located only a few blocks down from Aki and replacing Rock-N-Sake, Aiko opened in October and has since offered its customers dozens of different types of sushi and Japanese fusion meals. Although sushi is the main focus on their



Harry Paul

Aiko's bar emits a night-club feel. With a tiled backbar and fogged-glass cabinets, this chic new restaurant brings a piece of New York City to Port.

menu, there are other delicious meals, such as Pizza Aiko Style, which is prepared with raw fish, avocado, and thin Japanese bread. The use of such ingredients gives the restaurant a unique flavor.

Other meals include the Mango Hawaii Roll, which consists of salmon, avocado, mango, wasabi, caviar, and spicy mango sauce, as well as the geisha roll made with crispy shrimp tempura and fresh mango topped with blue fin toro and avocado for \$13.

Although Aiko doesn't have as extensive a list of sushi as Aki, the restaurant offers cheaper options for food staples such as chicken, steak, beef, salmon, and shrimp teriyaki for only \$10 each, and chicken, shrimp, and vegetable tempura also for \$10 each.

A special Bento Lunch is also served, which includes the standard miso soup or salad, California rolls, shumai, or potato cake with a personal choice of different

kinds of teriyaki, steamed vegetables, or tempura. Three Rolls Lunch also allows customers to choose from any three rolls for \$12, and choices include California, Alaskan, salmon, avocado, fried sweet potato, tuna, Boston, eel evocative, and spicy tuna rolls. Desserts include green tea, red bean, vanilla, fried banana, or mocha ice cream, as well as fried cheesecake with prices that range from \$3 to \$6.

Although the dishes may not be cheap, their quality is on par with the food at other Asian restaurants, such as Green Leaf, New Garden, and Yamaguchi.

"Aiko's food is really good and the sauce is amazing. The waiter always made sure we were satisfied," said junior Carly Grieco.

Aki and Aiko provides a vast, delicious range of Asian dishes and desserts that offer customers many selections sure to please.

# iPhones assume the position of most popular smartphone

by Danielle Ostrove  
Staff Writer

Just one year ago it wouldn't have been so unusual to find a group of students gathered around a crowded lunch table knees up, texting—I mean BBM-ing (Blackberry messaging) their best friend across the table. Perhaps this situation hasn't changed all that much since the beginning of 2012; however, one thing is definitely different. Instead of seeing pin numbers posted as Facebook statuses and peers judging status by the number of BBM contacts in their phone, iPhones have replaced what once seemed the omnipresent Blackberry.

It would seem that such a drastic change couldn't possibly infiltrate the student body within one year, but we have seen incontrovertible evidence: the growing number of Instagram (a popular photoshopping application) accounts and, of course, the iPhone messenger that easily surpasses the inferior BBM.

Since its release in October 2011, the



iPhone 4S has gained popularity and positive feedback among users.

The iPhone 4S comes with a multitude of amazing capabilities that are all accessible with a simple tap of the index finger.

One can see many students using the iPhone 4S's personal assistant "Siri" for answers to the seven wonders of the world or putting the submissive robot through random, entertaining interrogation. One major feature that makes the iPhone popular is its numerous apps, which are a

trend of their own, including the very popular Words with Friends.

This phone includes music via iTunes, an entire world of games and tools aptly named the "App World" where one can purchase games and gizmos galore.

Additionally, the iPhone's communication abilities are amped up by the advent of video chatting on the go, called FaceTime, and, of course, easy and

fast connection to the Internet, surpassing the old Blackberry's ability in almost every dimension.

This is one of the many reasons that the iPhone 4S has outsold many other smartphones for the coveted title of most desirable among customers.

However, the iPhone has not pleased everyone similarly with its sleek boxy figure and its large touch screen. The iPhone phenomenon has also created a technology rivalry between those who endorse many Apple products and those would insist upon buying alternate smartphones.

Regardless of the controversial nature of this new phone it has indisputably altered the way mobile phone companies and consumers think about communication.

With the fast paced world of technology encroaching on each of our lives, it is no wonder that students have been clutching this new piece of technology that provides a status symbol to sport around the corridors.



arts & entertainment

# The Vow becomes the movie to see for Valentine’s Day

BY Lauren Whitman  
Staff Writer

All married couples make vows at their wedding, but they can never predict what is ahead. This problem is the premise of the new hit movie *The Vow*. The film is a story about Paige (Rachel McAdams) and Leo (Channing Tatum), an adorable newly-married couple, whose lives take a tragic turn when they are driving home one snowy night and get into a car accident. The scene intensifies when the audience witnesses Paige flying through the windshield head first because she was not wearing a seatbelt, unlike Leo who was left unhurt.

After some time in a coma, Paige wakes up in the hospital with Leo and a nurse hovering over her. Leo realizes that she does not remember anything about their relationship.

The film changes its timeframe at this point. The director, Michael Sucsy, takes us back four years earlier when the couple first met. Through this flashback, the audience sees the couple’s earliest years together, including their wedding at the Chicago Art Institute.

After the series of flashbacks, the movie cuts back to the present. Leo convinces Paige to go back to their apartment and resume living together, figuring out the complications as they go.

Although Paige has no recognition of Leo, she still remembers her parents and her childhood. After some time living with Leo, she decides to go back to her parents’ house and live there until her sister’s wedding. Rita (Jessica Lange) and Bill (Sam Neill) play the parts of Paige’s parents who have a negative opinion of Leo. Even though she had not spoken to her family in years prior to the accident, they are all that she can remember.

The audience shares Leo’s frustration as he devotes himself to helping Paige recover her memory. Tatum is so convincing in this role that viewers want Paige to regain her memory back just as much as Leo does.

By looking at old pictures and putting them in chronological order, Paige attempts to make a timeline of her life. She also tries to get back into her old routines and asks Leo everyday to help her remember what she is supposed to do and where she works.

The movie is based on true events experienced by married couple Kim and Krickitt Carpenter. After suffering a horrible car accident, Krickitt lost all



Leo (Channing Tatum) has to make his wife, Paige (Rachel McAdams), fall in love with him again after a car accident wipes out her memory. The movie follows the elements of a classic romantic drama.

memory of her husband Kim and had to figure out her life all over again. The movie reflects their story well, but it does dramatize the story for Hollywood purposes.

*The Vow* is also similar to the 2004 movie *50 First Dates*, in which Henry (Adam Sandler) meets Lucy (Drew Barrymore) and forms a relationship with her, only to learn that Lucy’s memory erases every night. This theme of memory loss has been a part of many movies and novels, including *The Notebook*, over the years because it is an intriguing theme that captures the audience’s imagination.

There is definitely an element of suspense, since it is unclear how things will turn out in the end.

The film is beautifully shot and displays scenic views of Chicago. It captures the city in all four seasons and realistically shows Chicago in all its glory.

If you love a good romantic drama, as many do, *The Vow* will not disappoint.



Leo and Paige go on their first date, where they instantly fall in love. The movie shows the couple’s memories before their marriage. *The Vow* was inspired by true events; however, the producers made the story almost too corny.



# Chronicle unable to live up to sky-high expectations

BY Dan Bidikov  
Staff Writer

*Chronicle*, a science fiction tragedy, is director Josh Trank's debut film. It follows bitter, friendless teenager Andrew Detmer (Dane DeHaan) and presents itself in Blair Witch Project style "found footage." Detmer stumbles upon a mysterious alien entity that gives him and his friends a unique adventure—coming of age with a supernatural spin.

The best thing about *Chronicle* is its risk-taking in terms of camerawork. The film is shown through the personal video cameras of different characters, as well as security cameras and the cell phones of bystanders.

While it doesn't work perfectly, especially in the fast-paced, action-packed final scenes of the film, it is remarkably fresh. Many other aspects of *Chronicle* are shallow and conventional, but the fact that it is able to bring something new to the table in its cinematography speaks for Trank's skill as a director. Hopefully, he will bring this kind of creative thinking to his future films.

Unfortunately, the extraterrestrial element of the plot is almost completely forgotten after the first fifteen minutes. Instead, viewers see a familiar tale: an angsty weakling with an incredible opportunity tossed into his lap is too dimwitted to make good use of its potential, which he eventually proves he did not deserve.

The story is played out and dull, overusing all of its weakest attributes and shelving its high points.

Instead of crafting an engaging, inventive plot rife with high fantasy and conspiracy, the script spoon-feeds viewers tired material. Perhaps *Chronicle*'s biggest problem is its inability to find an audience. Moviegoers may enter

expecting explosive action, or maybe a parable with well-written characters, or even a clever science fiction romp. All these camps will find that the finished product is a half-baked mishmash of all three with little to offer in each category.

Even more frustrating than the lack of focus in the story is *Chronicle*'s desire to wave metaphors around as bluntly as possible. Ill-delivered and misinterpreted quotations from a variety of intellectuals are thrown into dialogue at awkward and inopportune moments. Characters bring up parallels to concepts in evolution and social philosophy that are supposed to encourage viewers to find deeper meaning as Detmer uses telekinesis to rip the legs off of a spider (which, admittedly, was extremely cool).

The cast is composed of unknowns (star DeHaan makes his big screen debut in *Chronicle*), who have no trouble fitting into the uninspired roles laid out for them.

Clichés abound in writer Max Landis's pathetically generic high school setting. Alex Russell plays the protagonist's cousin Matt, a boring, likable dope who swears to use his powers for good, not evil. Michael B. Jordan, known by some for his work on *The Wire*, plays Steve Montgomery, the popular, amicable jock who has everything going for him and whose desire to master his wizard-like abilities cuts into time with his girlfriend.

Andrew's deadbeat father Richard is portrayed by Alex Russell. His screen



Andrew (Dane Dehaan) sets out on his path of destruction as a superpowered teenager in *Chronicle*. The movie, despite its hype, was lackluster, and it suffered from poor pacing.

time is unfortunately limited and viewers are shortchanged of the poignant father-son interactions that include blame and repeated beatings.

DeHaan does a solid job as Detmer himself, although his character was disappointingly unoriginal. None of the female characters are worth mentioning, as they are ripped directly out of the teen movie cookbook.

While the simple character design might make the cast seem worldlier, it is difficult to relate to a crazed sociopath who moves things with his mind.

A simple solution to many of the film's script problems would be to ditch the desire to create superhuman beings with whom the average audience member can identify and take a few more liberties at

the character creation stage.

From a technical perspective, *Chronicle* does a lot well. Refined special effects allow action scenes to shine as characters zoom through the air and hurl massive objects.

Meanwhile, professional sound work and good lighting choices allow *Chronicle* to build the perfect atmosphere for the protagonist's descent into madness. Stunning makeup work shows the protagonist's complexion reflecting the alien power consuming his brain.

While breaking new ground in the field of cinematography, *Chronicle*'s lack of focus and inability to take risks ultimately keep it from being a sharp cinematic experience.

# The Woman in Black stays away from modern horror clichés

BY Gabriel Lyons  
Staff Writer

In this day and age, when one thinks of a mainstream film listed under the horror genre, one expects ninety minutes of blood, gore, and chopped organs. Rarely does a mainstream horror come out of the blue and surprise the viewer. *The Woman*

*in Black*, a low budget horror import from the UK, accomplished this feat.

The film stars Daniel Radcliffe in his first non-*Harry Potter* film appearance. *The Woman in Black*, based on Susan Hill's 1982 novel of the same name, tells the tale of young, widowed lawyer Arthur Kipps (Radcliffe). He pays a visit to a small village in Edwardian-era England to finalize the financial business of Mrs.

Drablow, a local who recently passed away.

Although the townspeople try to shoo him away, Kipps manages to befriend Simon (Ciarán Hinds), the only man in the village with a car. Simon entraps him in a web of unexplainable secrets: Kipps witnesses the random deaths of the village youth and sees the ghost of the Woman in Black, who haunts the townspeople as an act of vengeance for the drowning of her young child.

Unlike many modern horror films such as *My Bloody Valentine* and *Fright Night*, *The Woman in Black* does not rely on excessive violence and gore to convey its message, nor does it abuse 3D technology.

Instead, it uses the old fashioned means of hair-rising spooks and momentary shocks.

It almost pays homage to vintage cinema, a now trending theme (similar to that of Scorsese's *Hugo* and indie silent film *The Artist*).

It is also structured like an old-fashioned ghost story, taking notes from early twentieth century films. It holds true to its interesting plot and sends chills down viewers' spines.

The movie concludes in an ambiguous fashion, not expressing a particular emotion, but instead leaving itself open to interpretation.

The best feature of *The Woman in Black* is its masterful art direction and set

decoration. The house where about half of the film takes place is old, creaky, and gray, which sets an ominous tone for the film as a whole. The mysterious village is monotonous and dark with little to no color to disrupt the spooky atmosphere.

Highly detailed set design creates the atmosphere in the house. Cobwebs, mildew, and countless demonic knickknacks (including a cymbal-smashing primate) inhabit the mansion and add to the realism, immersing viewers in the film's more terrifying moments.

Unfortunately, the film lacks flow. Frights occur in clusters, creating a less steady feeling of horror. The film also shortchanges viewers in emotion from the actors.

Even though Radcliffe proves himself as a legitimate, versatile actor in this film, he has proven himself incapable of shaking the issue he faced while playing Harry Potter. Even if he is trying to convey feeling, his lack of expression is evident.

Overall, *The Woman in Black* is a good film. The story is fascinating and complemented by chills and frights, capped off with an ending that other ghost stories should strive for.

Daniel Radcliffe shows his maturity as a screen actor, as well as widens his acting repertoire by playing a fiery young professional.

Because of its pure scare factor, *The Woman in Black* is not for the squeamish. Viewers are not advised to see it alone.



Arthur Kipps (Daniel Radcliffe) attempts to escape the ghost of the "woman in black." The movie does not depend on pornographic gore and uses the plot instead to instill fear.



# The Voice outshines American Idol

by Penina Remler  
Staff Writer

Over 11 seasons ago, the music and television phenomenon *American Idol* premiered, winning attention all over the world. Seasons flew by and *American Idol* quickly became America's hit singing competition on television. However, just a year ago, NBC premiered *The Voice*, and it appeared as if *American Idol* finally had its first major competitor. Both networks hope its show will ultimately be able to outshine the other on air. But for the viewers at home, the biggest decision is choosing between channel four or five. Between the two shows, my vote goes for *The Voice*.

The two popular reality shows each share the same basic concept. In order for *The Voice* to successfully interrupt *American Idol*'s streak, it was time for a network to throw in some favorable changes that bring out the original successful themes.

First, *The Voice* is known for its outrageously famous and relevant panel of judges. The celebrity judges are Christina Aguilera, Adam Levine, Cee Lo Green, and Blake Shelton.

While *American Idol* was always recognized for its winning combination of Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul, and Simon Cowell, the typical commentary and banter started to get stale. To keep up with *The Voice*, *American Idol* updated their judges in recent seasons as well. This new panel includes Kara DioGuardi, Jennifer Lopez, and Steven Tyler. However, for the majority of viewers, *The Voice*'s selection for judges seems to outweigh that of *American Idol*. Also, the judges from *The Voice* have an opportunity to mentor contestants on the show based on



Left: photos.nj.com Right: tvguide.com

While some complain that *American Idol* has become stale, *The Voice* has set itself apart with its blind auditions and one-on-one celebrity coach mentorship.

their vocals. Many fans are fascinated by following the process of famous artists interacting on screen as they help talented singers at the same time.

Reminiscing back to the years of *American Idol*'s early seasons, watching the auditions was always a crowd favorite. There were always the pleasantly shocking singers with amazing stories as well as the clueless contestants. Viewers found it very entertaining to watch tone deaf people embarrass themselves on television, deluding themselves into thinking they really had a chance of making it to Hollywood. Eleven seasons later, the typical auditions started to get old, which makes *The Voice*'s strategy seem more appealing.

NBC's *The Voice* skips the preliminary auditions and goes directly into the competition, unlike Fox's *American Idol* which does not truly get competitive until the second half of its season. By altering *Idol*'s strategy, many viewers are more

likely to get hooked on *The Voice*, since each episode is much more eventful and significant. The creative and new factors introduced on *The Voice* have me more likely to turn to channel four rather than channel five, where I know what to expect from *American Idol*.

Choosing between the two shows is based solely on personal opinion. Are you more a fan of following the lives of unheard inspired musicians on the pursuit of Hollywood, or would you rather sit down and watch hand-picked artists excel through the coaching of famous celebrities? As for me, the new release of an updated, more modern music competition has definitely replaced the old *American Idol*, making *The Voice* one of my favorite television shows. Ultimately, the differences between the two shows have created a strong competition themselves, but its in America's hands to determine which network will win our votes.

## QUACKING UP WITH KWAK



by Bethia Kwak  
A&E Editor

Unbelievable. I expected my attention span for the Super Bowl to be very limited as it featured neither the greatest team in the world, the Minnesota Vikings, nor the worst team in the world, the Green Bay Packers. (Yes, I am aware of the paradox within that statement).

However, the entirety of the game had me glued to the television, which was extremely unfortunate because as of the second quarter, I really had to go to the bathroom. The one downside to the Super Bowl is that it does not allow for bathroom breaks, because no one wants to miss the commercials.

My bladder is still in pain. The commercials this year were way over the top, with a deformed head growing out of a shoulder and a car bungee-diving into a kiddie pool. However, I was delightfully surprised to see my favorite band, OK Go, featured in a commercial with a preview of their new video for "Needing/Getting" (which is fantastic, by the way. And no, I'm not shamelessly promoting them...) and my future husband, Jared Allen, singing in an NFL commercial.

But let's forget about the game and the commercials for a second. Check out fellow *Schreiber Times*-ian David Katz's blog (pg. 14) for hilarious and quality post-coverage of the game.

Let's focus on "the original Lady Gaga" Madonna. Honestly, I could have used the half-time show as my bathroom break, because it was anything but an entertaining show.

It was so boring that I thought Kelly Clarkson singing the National Anthem was more riveting.

Everyone talks about how Madonna has already done everything Lady Gaga has done, except 20 years ago.

And boy, did those 20 years show. I was afraid she was going to collapse at any moment during the half-time show. Sweat was pouring down her face, and she looked exhausted.

When she started singing, "I close my eyes, oh God I think I'm falling," during her song, "Like a Prayer," I was concerned for her safety. Those sounded like last words to me.

Listen, I understand that these networks are paranoid after what happened eight years ago with Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson, but that doesn't mean they have to put the viewers to sleep.

Congratulations M.I.A, for at least making the show somewhat interesting with your stunt, even though Madonna called it a "teenager move" (I guess when you're that old, even a 36 year old seems like a teenager).

But I guess the alternative was shown to us last year with the Black Eyed Peas, when our ears were bleeding by the end, begging for the noise to stop, even though that show was at least moderately entertaining.

#halftimeshowproblems

## New Girl provides fresh new comedy for viewers

by Lily Weisberg  
Staff Writer

The hit sitcom *New Girl* has been a steady source of fun, lighthearted entertainment. Only halfway through its recently aired first season, millions of people have become obsessed.

The main character, Jess Day (Zooey Deschanel), is a young, offbeat, and adorable girl in her late twenties who, after a bad breakup, moves in with three random single guys. Jess is a positive and goofy friend who has almost too much faith in people, even when at times she probably should not. Although

Deschanel's character is dorky and awkward, she gives off a believable air of self confidence, encouraging viewers to think outside of the box. Jess does not bother masking her naivete, which provides fuel for funny conflicts involving her and her three roommates that often reach into uncomfortable and awkward areas of discussion. More prone to friendships with women, her inexperience in hanging with the male crowd around the house is visible and is a good source of laughs.

Of the three male roommates, Nick (Jake Johnson) seems to have the closest relationship with Jess. He is the most grounded and prepared for the future.

Nick is usually the one providing the common sense in the absurd conversations between everyone in the apartment. Schmidt (Max Greenfield) is the hustling, wannabe heartthrob of the bunch. He is always trying to find a way to get ahead on the social ladder by doing ridiculous things. Her third roommate, Winston (Lamorne Morris), is a former athlete who has little to contribute to the social discussions that

the group faces. His competitive nature makes for good comedy. The three are clearly different, but have great chemistry and are very relatable. Their close relationships provide a lovable family-like dynamic among the characters. They care for her like old best friends and are always there for each other, which is heartwarming.

Rounding out the group is Jess' childhood best friend, Cece (Hannah Simone). Cece has the street smarts that Jess lacks. She focuses on her modeling career as well as caring for her best friend. She spends much time sharing her no-nonsense relationship advice that only a character with her confidence could give. She and Jess balance each other out perfectly and accept each other's faults, thus making Cece the voice of reason and the perfect complement to Jess and the other characters on the show.

Since its premiere in September, *New Girl* has proven very funny and consistently entertaining. It is hilarious, lighthearted, and original. *New Girl* has become the next "it" show. The jokes are creative, witty, and always smart.

The fact that the characters are so relatable is really what makes it the perfect mix of comedy and real-life situations. Yes, Jess can be over the top in many situations, but that is why the audience has grown to love her. Zooey Deschanel gives viewers the perfect combination of a humorous, carefree, and unique girl that is refreshing to watch.



www.tvguide.com

Jess (Zooey Deschanel) enjoys TV as "one of the guys" with her roommates. The show features Deschanel as an awkward, off-beat character who provides light humor.



# Scars & Stories uses personal lyrics to impact listeners



BY Jessica Commisso  
Contributing Writer

The Fray’s new album, *Scars & Stories*, shows a common theme throughout each of its songs. After the release of their second album, titled *The Fray*, the band was on the verge of splitting up. However, the lead singer/pianist Isaac Slade and bassist Joe King were put in one room in Las Vegas to record a cover of the classic Muppets song “Mahna Mahna” for *Muppets: The Green Album*. They then remembered what passion they had for the music they had always been making. “The second record was wounds, they were still bleeding,” said Slade to *The Chicago Tribune*. “With scars, they’re permanent and they often remind us of the worst times of our life, but they’re healed.”

## Classic Album: Mothers of Invention: *Freak Out!*



BY Kerim Kivrak  
A&E Assistant Editor

*Freak Out!*, the first album from the Mothers of Invention, is one of the most ambitious debut albums in history. After being rejected by Dot Records for having no commercial potential, frontman Frank Zappa revealed that “no commercial potential” was exactly what he was going for. After a brush with the law that resulted in ten days in jail for “conspiracy to commit pornography,” Zappa adopted a clear anti-authoritarian philosophy that he did not hesitate to insert into his music. “Hungry Freaks Daddy,” the first track on the album, condemns American public schools “that do not teach” and the “great mid-Western hardware store philosophy” that alienates “those who aren’t afraid to say what’s on their minds.” Three minutes into their debut album, the Mothers of Invention had already polarized their audience. Zappa was equally disenchanted with the American people and American

*Scars & Stories* is mainly comprised of songs that are definitely more outgoing and upbeat than most of The Fray’s past albums. “Heartbeat” is a song that has been getting the most attention so far. It is ranked top 30 on iTunes this week and has been getting increasingly popular over time. The song was inspired by many of Slade’s traveling experiences abroad. “The Fighter” is a track that really makes you think. It poses a question that people do not usually talk about or even have the answer to. The chorus sings about the feeling of being lonely, “maybe we were meant to be alone, maybe we were meant to be on our own.” The musicians are able to tell a full story just in one song and can express their thoughts through their music. “Run for Your Life” was a third song that really stood out. It is a very inspiring song, especially if you are going through a rough time in your life. It mentions how you need to move on even if you have lost something that was extremely close to you. It explains that no matter what you lose, you can not lose who you are. You have no choice but to move on and looking back to the past cannot change anything in your present. *Scars & Stories* is an album that focuses on each member’s personal life. With the new album, they are able to move past their differences and find a new sense of confidence that they were previously lacking.

culture in general. In “Trouble Every Day,” a song written in response to the Watts riots in Los Angeles, Zappa manages to condemn the news media, “mass stupidity” and racism from both black and white Americans and the Nixon administration. Zappa was certainly not preaching, though, and *Freak Out!* was not devoid of the tongue-in-cheek humor that would become the Mothers’ trademark. For unseasoned Zappa listeners, songs like “You Didn’t Try to Call Me” might seem like cookie-cutter teen-romance songs when, in fact, they are masterful satire. Ironically, the Mothers of Invention gained a small following among the children of record company executives with the cheery, light-hearted “Wowie Zowie” which made use of a xylophone and Zappa’s characteristically silly vocals to create a track that was, in Zappa’s words, “harmless.” If you’re looking for Zappa’s virtuosity on the guitar, you might want to pick up a later album. Most of his technical prowess is concentrated behind the scenes through a plethora of groundbreaking recording techniques. Behind the satire and social commentary lies a serious musician struggling to balance the avant-garde with humor. *Freak Out!* and, indeed, Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention in general, are certainly not for everyone. Even among Zappa’s discography, it is particularly abstract and probably not the best introduction to his music. Nevertheless, *Freak Out!* is a true classic, and few debut albums can parallel its audacity.



The Fray performs their album at a small concert venue. The album was very personal, and the songs connected to the listeners.

## New show stuns Broadway with edgy humor

BY Lylia Li  
Staff Writer

Written by Trey Parker, Matt Stone, and Robert Lopez, *The Book of Mormon* may as well be, as its slogan playfully claims, God’s favorite musical. It sure is one of the funniest to have ever been on Broadway. As expected from the creators of *South Park* and *Avenue Q*, *The Book of Mormon* is in turns vulgar, extremely inappropriate, and hilarious. The plot revolves around an unlikely pair of Mormon missionaries, Elder Kevin Price and Elder Arnold Cunningham, who travel to Uganda to spread the Mormon faith. Price is the ideal poster-boy Mormon, eager to spread the word of God. Cunningham is the complete opposite: a clingy, annoying loser with an obnoxious personality and an enthusiasm for *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*. At first, the Africans they encounter are less than enthusiastic about the missionaries. Yet, Elder Cunningham manages to persuade them by adding some of his own personal embellishments to the Mormon scripture, which he has never actually read. One of the best aspects of the show is its catchy and enjoyable score, complete with throwbacks to classic musicals like *The Lion King*, *Wicked*, and *The Music*

*Man*, among others. One of the show’s anthems, “I Believe,” mimics “I Have Confidence” from *The Sound of Music*. The songs are witty, memorable, and do not disappoint in their humor. They will have you humming them long after you walk out of the theater. *The Book of Mormon* is also blessed with a talented cast. Not only are the two leads, Andrew Rannells (Price) and Josh Gad (Cunningham) outstanding, but the minor roles are also equal in their impact and level of humor. Rory O’Malley, who plays a repressed, in-the-closet Mormon, leads one of the most memorable numbers in the musical. In addition, Nikki M. James, who plays the sweet and naïve Nabalungi, brings a Disney-like warm and heartfelt quality to the show. One question people who are deciding whether or not to see the show often ask is if it will offend them. Contrary to popular belief, *The Book of Mormon* is not two hours of the crude, blatantly offensive humor you may expect from the people that brought *South Park* into the world. Although it uses Mormonism as a starting point, the show goes on to satirize organized religion in general. Although it is definitely not for the faint of heart (or those sensitive to swearing), *The Book of Mormon* is a musical that can be enjoyed by people of all races and religions.



Elder Price (Andrew Rannells) tries to convince the people of Uganda to convert to Mormonism. The play was hilarious throughout and poked fun at religion.





# Athletes



# of the



# Month



## Ryan Schwartz

BY **Chad Edelblum**

Staff Writer

Ryan Schwartz has shown his phenomenal leadership at Schreiber as one of the schools only six-season captains.

As captain of cross country, winter track and field, and spring track and field since his junior year, it is no wonder where these teams get their hard work and determination from.

"Ryan's leadership is tremendous. He constantly pushes us in practice and at meets to make us the best that we can be. As an athlete Ryan always focuses on victory, however he also enjoys himself and socializes with the team," said sophomore distance runner Leo Potters.

In cross-country, he runs the 5 km (3.1 miles). He earned the spot of fifth in the conference and tenth in the county by running this event in 16:44. Schwartz also earned himself All Division, All Conference, All County, and earned himself a spot in the State Championships this year in Cross Country.

"Ryan is a very mature leader, who has the respect of our athletes, and others in Nassau County. When he's leading stretches, it's as if there's another coach on the field. Ryan has come a long way here at Schreiber. He was a member of our Cross Country team way back in 2007 when he was an 8th grader. Since that time, he has transformed from a wide-eyed kid nervous about competing, to a veteran All-County talent," said Cross Country Coach Mr. Klaff.

Ryan also earned the honor of getting the MVP of the cross-country team award from Coach Klaff. In winter track, Schwartz's focus is on the 1600m run.

His personal best time in this event is 4:33 and he recently came in second at the conference meet earning him an All-Conference award.

At the county tournament, Ryan placed fourth in the 1600 meters and also medaled as a relay runner in the 4x800.

"I am looking to qualify at states in both the 1600 and the 4x800. We have great coaches here including coach Klaff, Faraday, and Schmitz, all of whom help the athletes get into the best possible shape for these races," said Schwartz. "We have practice six out of the seven days a week where we really work on every part of running, from sprints to endurance, to good form and building up core strength and muscles. What's most important about these workouts though and what I think has led me to succeed is to give it my all no matter what the work out is."

Schwartz looks to run in college if he attends one of these schools: Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, Amherst College, University of Chicago, and Washington University in St. Louis.



Courtesy of Ryan Schwartz

**Senior Ryan Schwartz has served his team as a major leader and contributor throughout the season.**

## Kathleen Devine

BY **Jack Simon**

Staff Writer

Senior sprinter Kathleen Devine is bringing fire and intensity to the track team. Devine ran track in middle school but didn't run in her freshman year at Schreiber.

Sophomore year she returned for winter and spring track and has been dedicated ever since.

She even plans on running at the college level.

"Next year I'll be running for Washington and Lee University, a division III school in Virginia," said Devine.

While she is still in Schreiber, Devine has some unfinished business against her rivals Uniondale and Hempstead.

She will have plenty of chances to beat them in the upcoming seasons.

In the winter, she runs the 55 meter hurdles, the 300 meter race, and the 4x2 meter relay.

In the spring, she runs the 100 meter hurdles, the 100 meter dash, and the 4x1 relay. Out of all of these events her favorite is the 4x1 meter relay.

"It's great to be on a relay because you form really good connections with the other girls on the team, especially whoever you receive the baton from and whoever you're passing off to," said Devine. "During a relay, you're not just running for yourself, but you have people depending on you to do well. It's great motivation to race as hard as you can."

Last year in relay races, Devine and her partners saw their hard work pay off, winning the division title, plac-

ing second in the county meet, and coming in fifth at the state finals.

This season, she is looking to duplicate and improve upon the success she had last year.

"It was a really competitive race, but we had solid hand-offs which helped our anchor, junior Laura Brooks, finish in first place with only a few meters to go. It was great to see our hard work pay off," said Devine.

Her success, of course, did not come without extremely hard work and determination.

When it comes to her sport and training she is blunt.

She notes the sheer importance of the effort that needs to be put in, in order to succeed.

"In track you have to be your own inspiration. If you aren't self-motivated to do your best and improve at every practice, you're not going to have a good season. You have to be able to push yourself in order to get through the hard workouts," said Devine. "I would advise anyone interested in running track to make sure they really love to run. Because that's all we do."



Courtesy of Kathleen Devine

**Senior Kathleen Devine has been a solid member of the track team since her sophomore year. She plans to continue her running career next year while she studies at Washington and Lee University.**

## Girls gymnastics achieves preseason goal; finish top five in conference

BY **Dan Miranda**

Assistant Sports Editor

In high school gymnastics on Long Island, the procedure for determining a winner in each head-to-head matchup is as follows: six girls are slotted into the team's lineup.

One girl competes in an exhibition match that does not count towards the team's score but does help to develop that gymnast in a "game situation." The top five scores of those six girls are counted toward the team's score in bar, floor, beam, and vault events. The scores are then added up, and the team with the most points wins.

"This is my third season working with the Port Washington varsity team and we have maintained a very reputable place in our conference," said Coach Havern.

The girls varsity gymnastics squad set out to accomplish a goal before the season started: they needed to stay in the top half of Conference II for the season.

The team accomplished that objective with Coach Havern at the helm of it all.

Coach Havern has many accolades and achievements of her own, including 13 seasons of coaching gymnastics under her belt on Long Island. The collegiate gymnast also doubles as a coach in Suffolk County.

One of the team's most skilled beam and floor competitors was junior Carly Greico, whom Coach Havern has noted as one of the team's top scorers.

"We had a really great season and ended up placing high in our conference. Everyone performed well at each meet, which contributed to the overall

success of the team. I can't say that I've had one great moment because there has been a lot, but every practice is always interesting, to say the least," said Grieco.

Fellow gymnasts in the gym also had high praise for their coach and teammates.

"My favorite moment this season was when Jessica achieved her goal of her whole life by going to states, and every year her average in her scores were never high enough, but finally this year she scored a 7.1 on bars and made it to states," said junior Ashley Berliner. "Everyone was so proud of her, and it was truly the best feeling."

"Coach Havern is really nice and definitely lenient when it comes to rules. She is a good coach who was a gymnast herself when she was younger so she has some great pointers."

The team has relied on strong performances from not just veteran competi-

tors in seniors, but also in underclassmen in sophomore Allison Stewart (beam) and freshman Samantha Hoffman (vault, bars, and floor).

"We have several top scorers on each event," said Coach Havern.

Senior Jessica Medaglia qualified for states due to her ability to meet the average on her bar and vault scores.

"I was very happy and especially since it was my senior year and the last chance for me to make it," said Medaglia.

The team finished in top five of Conference II in the winter season.

"We had a good season and we won a lot of meets," said Medaglia.

And after two months in competitions, contests, and matches, the Port varsity gymnastics squad came together as one unit.

"Overall, we had an amazing season," said Berliner.



## Calling the Shots

BY Brett Fishbin

Senior Sports Editor

The day before he squared off against the NBA's flavor of the month Jeremy Lin, Kobe Bryant was asked if the Lakers were ready to deal with the emerging guard.

"What?... I know who he is, but I don't really know what's going on too much with them... I don't even know what he's done. Like, I have no idea what you guys are talking about," said Bryant to ESPN.

24 hours later, he was asked a similar question, but in the past tense.

"I think it's a great story," said Bryant, also to ESPN. "I think it's a testament to perseverance and hard work. Good example for kids everywhere."

The sudden change in sentiment of the NBA history's fifth leading points scorer could only be caused by Jeremy Lin, or as Knicks fans have begun to call him, "Lin-sanity."

Jeremy Lin started his professional career in Oakland, California, playing approximately 30 games for the struggling Golden State Warriors of 2010-2011.

While most of his playing time came during the waning moments of blowouts (mostly blowout losses), Lin played respectable ball.

However, during the offseason, The Warriors waived Lin to make room for a player they were in pursuit of (DeAndre Jordan). After a cup of coffee in Houston, he was once again waived, and in search of an NBA job.

That's when the New York Knicks came calling. Looking for a last man on the bench who would be good for practice, and not harm team chemistry, the Knicks

picked up the 6'3" Harvard grad.

He spent the first 23 games of the season fulfilling the role he imagined... sitting on the bench, high-fiving teammates, and playing about four minutes during garbage time.

Then *it* happened.

Over the next four games, Lin recorded totals of 23, 28, 25, and 38 points respectively, while chipping in with an average of eight assists per game. Additionally, Lin has come away with two steals in three of the four games.

The casual sports fan might look at the situation and admit that his steak has been impressive, yet struggle to imagine that an Asian-American point guard could go from bench-warmer to superstar. However, that casual sports fan clearly had not watched "LINcredible" play.

The reason why Jeremy Lin is not a one-week wonder is the style in which he plays, and how it fits with the Knicks. He is not on a hot shooting streak, nor has he had lucky match-ups.

Rather, he has shown a staggering ability to get to the basket, and has done it against the likes of Deron Williams, Devin Harris, John Wall, and most recently a combination of Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher.

Jeremy Lin is the epitome of a real life Rudy (I know Rudy was real also, but Hollywood dramatized two impressive plays into a movie).

After becoming Harvard's leader in games played (and receiving his degree in economics), Jeremy Lin was shown little interest in the draft. After going un-drafted, he impressed many with a 13 point performance against first pick John Wall in Summer League. However, this was his



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**Jeremy Lin (#17) goes up for a fast break finger-roll layup after a steal against the Lakers. In his third career start, he touched up the Lakers for 38 pointsw and 7 as-**

**sists. Additionally, he played solid defense on PG Derek Fisher.**

peak for about 18 months.

The barriers and odds that he has overcome, is the reason why the people at ESPN are going "LINsane" about Lin, and the very reason why Knicks fans have adopted Lin as their new favorite player.

New York respects the underdog, and loves the humble hero who comes out of nowhere.

After pouring in his career high 38 points, Jeremy Lin could only think about one thing, the team.

"The only thing we established tonight is four in a row. Now we try to go for five tomorrow," said Lin to ESPN. "I'm not too worried about proving anything to anybody. As a team we're growing and trying to build on the momentum."

Most recently, the sports world has

adopted Jeremy Lin as the NBA's Tim Tebow.

But there is a huge difference between the two. Lin has the ability to truly succeed in this league based upon his skill, and skill alone. Everything else is just icing on the cake.

As the Knicks await the return of Amar'e Stoudemire (personal reasons) and Carmelo Anthony (groin injury), they have adopted a completely new identity.

Assuming Lin is able to maintain even 50% of his current output, the three headed monster of Stoudemire, Anthony, and Chandler will adopt a fourth member the Asian-American, Harvard-educated benchwarmer Jeremy Lin.

## Captains Corner: Wrestler Mikey Froccaro

BY Drew Friedman

Senior Sports Editor

**Drew Friedman:** Hey Mikey, how goes it?

**Mikey Froccaro:** Big Drewski, just hanging loosey goosey.

**DF:** Can you categorize the hierarchy of wrestling for me? I mean it is so confusing with the WWE and UFC.

**MF:** That's easy, Drew. High school wrestling is what we call "real wraslin." WWE is all acting, and UFC is a fighting sport with some wrestling techniques thrown into the mix.

**DF:** Oh, I see. So you're stating that real wrestling is the one you partake in?

**MF:** Absolutely. I do not mess around with fake wraslin.

**DF:** So how is the team doing this season?

**MF:** As of today, the season has ended. We had five wrestlers go to the county tournament which is always a good thing. Junior captain Chris Castillo went to All County, something that has not been done since 2008.

**DF:** Wow, pretty impressive. Being that it is your last season on the team, what do you have to say to your fellow wrestlers?

**MF:** Study hard guys—trust me. You can not be a master of the sport without being a student first.

**DF:** That is a really creative quote you got there. By any chance did you get that off of Google?

**MF:** Well the quote is from Steve Holt, but the rest is free-styled from my brain. Didn't think wrestlers were inspirational, did you?

**DF:** Yeah I just thought you guys were all muscle. So how did you fare this season?

**MF:** Underachieving was the name of the game this season for myself.

**DF:** Why would you say that?

**MF:** I have been to three county qualifying tournaments in my high school career. Sophomore and junior year, I placed fourth and qualified. This year, I placed sixth and did not. So it was a major disappointment for me.

**DF:** Don't put yourself down. Your wrestling résumé seems impressive if I say so myself. What makes your team's chemistry so successful?

**MF:** I like to think our captains really helped the team gel and become a family. Even when they were really, really annoying teammates, we looked past that and took care of business.

**DF:** Good to hear. Do you hope to

continue on the mat in college?

**MF:** High school wrestling was plenty for me, but we will see what happens next year.

**DF:** Seems like you're staying optimistic. Please describe for me the view of a wrestler as he prepares for the match.

**MF:** It varies from person to person and the opponent. For me personally, when I wrestle someone who I have lost to, I normally blast Adele on junior Ian Gatehouse's beats and throw stuff around.

**DF:** Sounds like a pretty standard warm-up. I think I have covered it all. Anything

else to say to your hundreds of wrestling fans out there?

**MF:** I would like to quote 50 Tyson when I ask all my fellow wrestlers out there, "can I be the one that holds you down doe?"

**DF:** Okay. This one you definitely got off of Google.

**MF:** Nope. That was all 50 T.

**DF:** Okay. I will trust you this time. From all of Schreiber and I, I would like to sign off. Stay classy, Miguel.



www.reddirtpictures.com

**Senior Mikey Froccaro takes down an opponent during the Section 8 divisional qualifiers. Froccaro has been to three county qualifiers in his high school career.**



# Super Bowl deja blue; Giants claim the title over the same opponent

## New England Patriots denied championship for the second time in four years

by **Jake Eisenberg**  
*Assistant Opinions Editor*

Throughout the media week leading up to the Super Bowl, it seemed as though the same questions were being asked over and over again: How effective will Rob Gronkowski be after sustaining a high ankle sprain? Is Eli Manning really an elite quarterback? If Brady and Belichick fail to win another big one, does Spygate taint their legacies? Can the Giants thwart the Patriots in the Super Bowl once again?

In just 60 minutes of play in the overwhelming atmosphere at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, all of these questions were answered.

With their thrilling 21-17 win over the New England Patriots, the New York Giants became the first 9-7 regular season team to win the Super Bowl. The Giants rode a major hot streak to reach the Super Bowl with consecutive victories over the Jets, Cowboys, Falcons, Packers, and 49ers to qualify, and opened the game in seemingly impervious fashion.

In the first 11 and a half minutes of the game, the Giants ran 19 plays for 113 yards, compared to the Patriots' one play, for no yards.

The first touchdown of the game came from a two-yard pass to Victor Cruz, who immediately leapt into his popular salsa dance touchdown celebration. On the Patriots' first play of the game and only one of the first quarter, after a Steve Weatherford punt, Brady dropped back into the end zone under duress from his six-yard line. He then threw the ball away downfield, but to no conceivable receiver, and was called for intentional grounding, which gave the Giants two points and the ball.

From there, Brady settled in and was able to lead the Patriots to a 10-9 lead before halftime, practically ending the half by throwing a touchdown pass to Danny Woodhead with eight seconds left.

The halftime show featured a performance by Madonna, with appearances by Cee Lo Green, LMFAO, M.I.A., Nicki Minaj, and a guy dancing on a tight-rope. She performed her hit songs, "Vogue," "Music," "Like a Prayer," "Open Your Heart," and a new single, "Give Me All your Luvin,'" with covers of LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" and "I'm Sexy and I Know It." M.I.A. caused controversy when she was spotted raising her middle finger while rapping her lyrics. Overall, the show received mixed reviews, with some loving the performance and others muting the television and covering their ears.

"I appreciate that Madonna was trying to put on a spectacle grand enough to fit in with the rest of the day's events," said junior Benny Scheckner. "What I did not appreciate was how horrible it was."

Finally, after all of the media hype, drama, and music, the athletes took to the gridiron once again. To open the second half of the game, Brady and the Patriots continued firing on all cylinders, ending their opening drive with a 12-yard reception by Aaron Hernandez to claim a 17-9 lead. The Giants clawed their way back with two consecutive field goals by Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes, the first from 38 yards, the second from 33, bringing the score to 17-15, in favor of the Patriots.

Then, after a Chase Blackburn interception on a deep pass intended for Gronkowski, the two teams traded drives and punts. The turning point of the game came on a crucial dropped pass by Wes Welker that would have landed the Patriots in the Giants red zone up by two points, with slightly over four minutes remaining. It seemed as if Welker had made the catch, New England had the game sealed.

"It's a play I never drop. Most critical situation, and I let the team down," Welker told ESPN.

And so, with four minutes and 46 seconds remaining, Eli set out on the Giants 12-yard line and did not look back. On yet another fourth-quarter comeback scoring drive, Manning clutched up.

On the first play of the game, the

most outstanding play of the Super Bowl occurred. Mario Manningham caught a 38-yard strike from Manning while running down the sideline, and managed to get two feet inbounds before being shoved out. It was the longest play of the game for either team and carried shadows of David Tyree's famous, game-saving, drive-preserving, velcro-helmet catch in the 2007 matchup between the same franchises. Eli then fired two more passes Manningham's way, and methodically marched the Giants down the field.

With 57 seconds left, Ahmad Bradshaw took a handoff from Eli and rushed, purposely uncontested, into the end zone. Just before he crossed the plane, Bradshaw seemingly tried to stop himself, as he and Eli both realized the Patriots plan to let them score. This way, Brady would have more time for his last drive. However devious, New England coach Bill Belichick's

plan failed as a final Hail Mary pass from the Patriots 49-yard line fell harmlessly to the turf, naming the Giants Super Bowl champions.

Eli Manning, with 296 passing yards and one touchdown pass, was named MVP. He has now claimed two Super Bowl MVP awards, to go along with two rings, doubling the amount his brother, Peyton, has of both.

The topping on my chips was not the only kind of salsa on Super Bowl Sunday. Tom Brady will have to go to Kay Jewelers if he wants his fourth ring.

Eli Manning has more than asserted himself as one of the NFL's elite quarterbacks. And, just 4 years removed from their stunning win over the then undefeated Patriots in Super Bowl XLII, the Patriots were once again denied glory, as the Giants reign as champions in the world of the NFL.



**New York Giants running back Ahmad Bradshaw falls into endzone, despite attempt to stop on one yard line. This touchdown gave Big Blue the lead, which ended up being the final score of 21-17.**

# Crew continues success as Schreiber hosts first regatta

by **Aaron Brezel**  
*Staff Writer*

Recently, Schreiber hosted its first ever regatta. This race, dubbed the Gold Coast Classic, was held on the floor of the gymnasium. It was a very large indoor regatta, with hundreds of contestants with ages ranging from 5 to 70 years old. Despite the huge numbers of participation, Port Rowing asserted its dominance, winning 13 medals overall. This included three first place finishes by eighth grader Sarah Silverstein in the 11-14 year old division, junior Lucie Levinger in the varsity women's lightweight division, and Friend Academy's senior Spencer Moslow in the varsity men's heavyweight division.

In addition, with a total tally of 63 points, Port Rowing was able to take home the highly coveted Dorman Trophy, which is named for one of Port Rowing's founding members. This trophy is given out to the team that racks up the most overall points. The nearest finishes for the Dorman trophy were six medals and 22 points for the L.I. Rowing Club, and four medals

and 15 points for the Sagamore Rowing Association. With this regatta, the Port Washington Crew Team has solidified its position as one of the crew powerhouses in Long Island.

To accommodate for the varied ages and skill levels of rowers, races were divided up into several divisions. There was the youth division, a masters division for adults up to age 70, a middle school division, and heavy and lightweight divisions for high school novice and varsity.

Allowing for all age groups to race fulfilled Port Rowing's ultimate goal, which is to make rowing a larger part of the community.

With the largest crew program on Long Island with 150 participants this winter, Port Rowing's coaches and rowers expected no less than the best going into this regatta.

"We expected to win the team cup, and we did" said Head Coach Steve Panzik.

Even now, after a dominating performance, the team knows they cannot rest on their laurels.

"While this race shows that we have promise and talent, there is a lot of room

to improve," said junior Michael Sperling, who rowed in the varsity lightweight division.

The spring season is fast approaching and after a breakout first spring season a year ago, Port Rowing needs to avoid a sophomore slump.

"Our goal going into the spring season is to dominate on the local level, make a name for ourselves on the state level, and introduce ourselves on a national level," said Coach Panzik.

The highlight of the regatta was professional rower Jason Read, who addressed the crowd during the midday break. As a 13-time member of the U.S. national team, gold medalist in the 2004 Athens Olympics, 9/11 first responder, and two-time U.S. men's rower of the year, he carries an impressive pedigree. His message, which fascinated the audience for over a half an hour, was to not let obstacles get in your way of becoming successful. To highlight his point, he expressed, being himself only 5' 11" in a sport ruled by giants, that it doesn't matter how big you are, but rather how much heart and determination you have.

"His speech was very inspirational and

motivational, and I thought the crowd was captivated," said Director of Athletics Ms. Stephanie Joannon.

This regatta was a huge effort in the making on the part of both Port Rowing and the district administration.

To hold an indoor regatta, 25 rowing machines, called ergometers, had to be carted from the Port Rowing warehouse on Channel Drive and set up on the floor of the school gymnasium.

In order to make the race less like watching people run on the treadmill, a giant screen was set up to "televise" the race using a program that turned each person's ergometer into a boat. Each race was full of excitement as spectators, coaches, and fellow rowers cheered on.

"From the time I walked into the gym to the time the last rower left I was impressed by the pure joy of our rowers being a part of something" said Ms. Joannon.

"We had great success in the fall and worked really hard this winter in order to get ready for the spring season," said Lucie Levinger.



# VIKING SPORTS

## Football team demoted to Developmental League *Athletic Director declines comment on plans to cut program down the line*

BY **Dan Miranda**

*Assistant Sports Editor*

According to *MSG Varsity*, Port Washington will no longer have a playoff football team, at least for the next two years. The team will compete in a newly created Developmental League, where stats will not count in the Nassau record books and playoffs will not exist.

In essence, the league, made up of Jericho, Roslyn, Friends Academy, Great Neck North and South, Long Island Lutheran, and Port Washington, is a phantom. This league will be compiled of some of the statistically worst football programs

**“It comes down to the nature of the school. Around the country, football is a year round thing. People in this school aren’t focused on it year round, though,” said Underwood. When asked who was at fault, the coaching staff or the players, Underwood... said it was the players.**

in the past few seasons. Port Washington, for instance, had a total of one win over the past two years, when combining their JV and varsity games.

Schreiber retains the highest population of the schools instated in the Developmental League, the only one that was in Conference I. Conference placement is decided by school population.

“We are going to look at it for a period of time and see two things,” said Nassau County football coordinator Pat Pizzarelli to *MSG Varsity*. “One, is it really developing these schools and are they getting better and getting more numbers and being more competitive? Two, what is the effect on the rest of the teams in Nassau—the other 50 teams? If it is a bad effect on 50, why should we do something for six?”

Another issue has been recruiting talented lacrosse players over to the football turf. Partly due to lack of interest, partly due to injuries, the Vikings football team was depleted with a lack of multi-sport star power.

“I wasn’t cleared to play football because of my back injury. I feel like my friends didn’t play either because they lacked faith in the team’s possible success,” said junior John Crawley, who has verbally committed to play lacrosse for Division I powerhouse Johns Hopkins.

Senior Jake Froccaro is headed to Princeton in the fall to play lacrosse with his older brother, Jeff (Class of ‘10). He stands at six feet tall, but has not decided to play football in any of his four years of high school.

“During the fall season, I like to focus on my schoolwork and really get settled into my classes. Also I use the fall to pre-

pare for lacrosse and basketball by working out and getting in the best shape possible,” said Froccaro.

The football team’s coaching staff has faced criticism from parents online. A few parents blamed the close losses in the previous season on the coaching staff.

One parent even felt so strongly that they decided to create a blog entitled “Parents for Vikings” that outlines ways for the football team to better themselves.

The blog’s first post was published on October 6, 2011, right in the midst of the football team’s 0-8 effort. The parent takes shots at the current regime of coaches and how they have handled the program. Without singling out any particular trainer, the parent writes that the administration is “allowing poor coaching and a poorly organized/planned system to remain in place.”

While some parents believe the demotion is detrimental to the program, Head Coach Mr. Jamel Ramsay seemed genuinely happy to be a part of the Developmental League.

“It’s the best thing for the program... one of the downfalls last year was we didn’t have a lot of guys on the team,” said Coach Ramsay. “Hopefully, the chance to win attracts more guys to the program. The guys on the team are excited because now they know they have a chance to win.”

Some—particularly former Port Washington football alumni—view the blog as an unnecessary dig at the coaches when the blame should be placed on the players themselves.

“If you are somehow of the mindset that a better coach would get better results, I can tell you that Lombardi couldn’t get these kids, in this conference, to play much better,” writes Kingdom1, a commenter who identifies himself as a former football player for the Vikings and a member of the PWHS Hall of Fame. “If they

had those 5-6 more athletes that choose to not play, they’d have 4-5 more wins and you wouldn’t be so angry.”

Junior Aaron Underwood hails from Michigan and moved to Port Washington in eighth grade. Since then, he has brought a physical presence on both offense (tight end) and defense (linebacker).

Underwood played for the varsity team in spurts in his sophomore season and started for Coach Ramsey in the 2011 effort. When asked why the Port squad has failed to achieve wins, Underwood did not hesitate in answering.

“It comes down to the nature of the school. Around the country, football is a year round thing. People in this school aren’t focused on it year round, though,” said Underwood.

When asked who was at fault, the coaching staff or the players, Underwood said it was the players who should be blamed for their lack of participation in the program during the offseason.

Coach Ramsay said he did not have knowledge of the parent complaints online.

“Honestly, I haven’t heard much about it. I know we’re more than capable of doing what we’re doing at the high school level,” said the former wide receivers coach for CW Post.

“Last year it was all about closing the gap and making it more competitive. This year, we are trying to stay positive,” said Coach Ramsey. “This year we have the same attitude we had last year. We’ve been

studying film day-in and day-out and we hopefully a hardworking team and at the end of the day it’s also important that we develop young men that can represent Port Washington.”

*The Schreiber Times* contacted Ms.



Elana Galassi

**Senior Jay Cohen and the rest of the seniors who played two years on the varsity team did not accumulate a win in sixteen games.**

Stephanie Joannon, Director of Athletics, but she refused to comment, citing that it is “the policy of the administration that we do not comment on anything from anonymous sources.”



Adina Genn

**The varsity football team went 0-8 this season for the second straight year. As a result, Nassau County football officials have put Schreiber in a Development League with seven other schools.**