

THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXI No. 4 December 2010

THE BURDEN OF



INEQUALITY



*The Chronicles of
Narnia*
-A&E-



*Mid-year
Budget Cuts*
-News-

Schreiber Health
-Features-
A Day in the Life of a Wrestler
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This photograph was taken by junior Gabrielle Davidoff during the summer as part of an assignment for her AP Photo class. She was at the beach in Southold, NY, and decided to photograph her dog as it came out of the water

NEWS BRIEFS

Natural Helpers club reinstated

The Natural Helpers club was renewed this year with a new advisor, social worker Ms. Adriana Najera-Pollak. In previous years, this organization had been regarded as a program within the school. With its new status as an official club, Ms. Najera-Pollak decided to make several necessary changes to redefine its image and recruit new members.

"We want to choose people who have a sincerity to help others," said Ms. Najera-Pollak. "Members have to be willing to help anyone."

Ms. Najera-Pollak's first initiative was to create a logo. The new insignia depicts four overlapping circles and seven people standing together on the inside.

Natural Helpers are selected in one of two ways: by recommendation from prior members or staff, or by an anonymous school-wide survey. This year, however, the club started off late so no survey was given.

"I was inducted in 10th grade because I was elected by my peers. Natural Helpers is a special group. We are picked by our peers for our natural ability to help others and taught how to further help teens. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the group when I say all of us in Natural Helpers are honored to be there," said senior Alanna Bethon.

Ms. Najera-Pollak has also decided to

create new officer positions for the club. The new positions will include a secretary, a community support team, a fundraising support team, and a communication support team.

The Natural Helpers Club retreat is an annual event designed to introduce the club to potential members and reaffirm the goals of the club. Last year, it was held at the St. Ignatius Jesuit Retreat House near Christopher Morley Park.

"Before I went on the retreat I thought it was going to be really weird and awkward but it was actually really fun. Through this experience I met a lot of other students I may not have met otherwise," said junior Heidi Shin.

Overall, the Natural Helpers are grateful that their group is reinstated as a club.

"It's really fun," said junior Genevieve Bellon. "Everyone is together in one place and we meet lots of new people. We learn about what to do if anyone confronted us with any problems they have."

~Eleanor Kim

Club charity drives

Several school clubs have been at work doing charity work this holiday season.

As part of a drive for Nassau County Social Services, Key Club members spent much of December collecting toys. Members brought toys to meetings, and

toys were also collected in boxes in the lobby and during health classes.

Club members spent time sorting the gifts this week, before they were picked up to go to the event.

The toys collected will be distributed to orphans and foster children in Nassau County. Although many service organizations participate in the collection, the Key Club is usually the main source of gifts. Toys will be distributed at a holiday party held for the children and their families.

Starting after break, the Science Honor Society will be collecting personal hygiene items to donate to the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) in Hempstead, N.Y. These items will be distributed to underprivileged Long Islanders.

The English Honor Society has also been running its own drive, to collect books for children through Williamsburg "Y" Head Start. It has already collected books, and is planning to extend the drive into the new year.

With a greater focus on charity in high schools everywhere, Schreiber clubs have lent a hand to bring some joy for the holidays.

~Hannah Fagen

ERRATUM:

In the November issue, Natalie Ciappa was incorrectly stated to have attended Massapequa High School. She attended Plainedge High School.

The Schreiber Times

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School district faces fiscal crisis, but remains afloat

Economic issues at the state and county levels create problems for Port schools

BY **Hannah Fagen**

Assistant News Editor

After years of financial prosperity, the education system has taken a beating from the current economic climate. Fiscal issues at both state and county levels are now threatening to disrupt the finances of school districts, including our own. The Nassau County and New York State legislatures are planning to have a mid-year budget cut. Such action would affect the Port Washington school district and others throughout Nassau County during the middle of this school year.

"The state, unfortunately, is in a fiscal crisis, so it appears that there is going to be a mid-year budget cut, which would mean that we would get less state aid," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon.

In order to pay off their debts, the state of New York and Nassau County will be providing less aid to the Port Washington school district in the years to come. They will also be increasing the costs of basic services. One area that will be affected is the district's required contributions to employee health plans. This contribution has increased by 15 percent, which is an extra cost of \$2 million. Additionally, the district is now required to contribute an additional \$2.5 million toward employee pensions.

The district will be responsible for paying new property tax refunds and taxes on the county sewers, which will cost more than \$4 million. Unfunded mandates, which are costs the district is required to pay, are also being increased for the next year by both the county and state.

The additional costs facing the district will total approximately \$8 million. This is a significant portion of the \$30 million of the district's \$130 million budget that is controlled by the Board of Education.

"I sensed this problem eight years ago, after the crash of 2000. So the good news

is, we have worked together with Assistant Superintendent Mary Callahan, the Board of Education, and all of our administrators and faculty to build up funds, through cost-cutting," said Dr. Gordon. "The reserves that we have built up are good for two more years, which means that even if the state does a mid-year cut, our strategic plan put us ahead of the curve, so we're okay."

These reserves are collections of funds that the school district has accumulated by under spending on the budget. They can and have been used in the past to pay for extra costs not originally accounted for in the budget, such as the construction of the new track.

"We count on being smart by under spending our budget and using the state aid to help build up our reserves," said Dr. Gordon.

With a decrease in state aid, the school district will now have less money to contribute to the reserve funds. Although the current reserves can maintain the school district at its current state for the next two years, there is no telling what will happen if the economy doesn't turn around.

"I feel safe knowing my education will last the way it is now for at least two more years, but I'm not completely at ease," said freshman Jackson Shain.

"Our school district is in excellent financial shape, all of our audits have been outstanding. The county and state are pushing across their problems down to the schools throughout New York. And that, of course, puts school districts in a bind," said Dr. Gordon.

The district has had very stable finances up until this point. At this point, the Board is not expecting to cut any student programs.

In addition to the year-to-year costs of running a school district, unexpected costs often arise. Currently, improvements are necessary at several of the school district facilities, such as leaking roofs at the middle school, which have been discussed

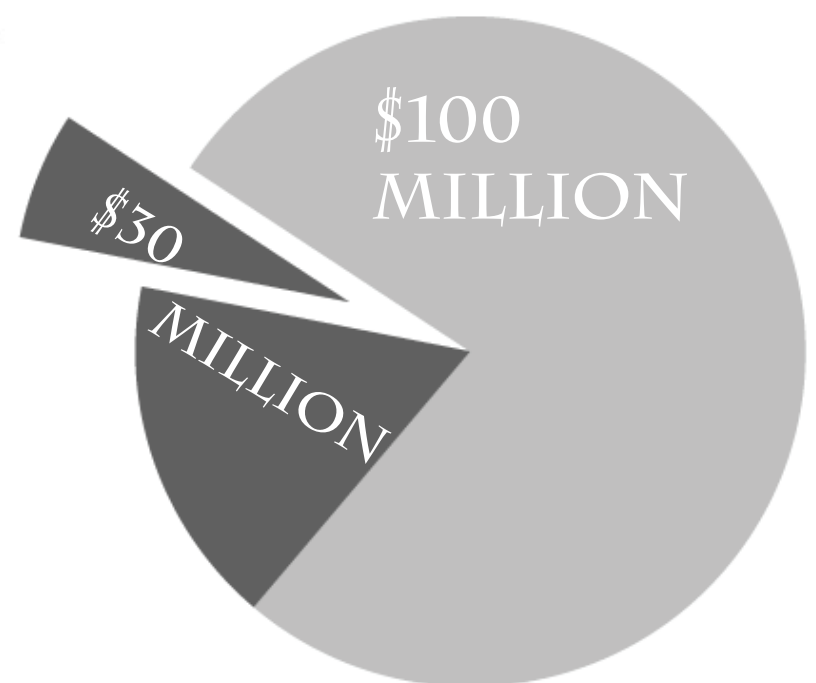
at several Board of Education meetings.

"There are a lot of things that need to be done right now. There are general fixes that need to be made, which will be difficult under these conditions," said senior Tommy Doyle, a Student Council

opportunity to present their cases about state aid and unfunded mandates to the New York State government.

In the future, although the finances of the district may be uncertain, students can rest assured that the district is

COMPOSITION OF A \$130 MILLION BUDGET



Of the approximately \$130 million of the Port Washington School District budget, \$100 million is used toward fixed costs. The remaining \$30 million, of which \$8 million will be lost to the state and county, is under the control of the Board of Ed.

executive board member.

In order to make a statement against new state policies that act against the well-being of the school district, both the Board of Education and Student Council are considering participation in Lobby Day in Albany later this year. During Lobby Day, students and other participants have the

doing everything they can to prevent cutting educational and extra-curricular programs.

"Every student has the right to earn success, which is why we have so many programs in the arts, and sports teams, and so many course choices," said Dr. Gordon.

Assemblies on cyber bullying warn about Internet dangers

BY **Annelise Meyding**

Contributing Writer

In an effort to combat the dangers facing high schoolers, the school district recently brought in a speaker from the Nassau County District Attorney's office to hold an assembly regarding cyber bullying.

On the mornings of Dec. 6 and 7, two separate assemblies were held for the under and upperclassmen, both led by Assistant District Attorney Jeremy Glicksman.

Glicksman has been conducting this presentation for about five years, traveling to over 30 different schools in Nassau County. During his career, he has prosecuted in many cases relating to cyber bullying.

"Cyber bullying has become a huge issue in our society today and many people do not realize how serious the problem is," said Mr. Glicksman.

A large portion of Mr. Glicksman's presentation was statistics. These statistics, which may have been shocking to some, show increasing levels of cyber bullying

activity nationwide. According to his figures, 43 percent of teens in the United States have been cyber bullied and 55 percent of teens in the United States have been cyber bullies themselves. Among those who have cyber bullied, 81 percent said that they did it "because it was funny," or "just for the fun of it." Additionally,

"Cyber bullying has become a huge issue in our society today and many people do not realize how serious the problem is," said Assistant District Attorney Jeremy Glicksman.

18.7 percent of teens in the United States who have cyber bullied think that the victims "deserved it."

With a growing number of assemblies relating to social issues facing high school students, debate has emerged about the

impact of the events, and as to whether or not the students take these assemblies seriously.

"Yes, I believe that people do take the assembly seriously. If they don't, they should start to," said Glicksman.

Students learn about issues such as cyber bullying repeatedly in venues including health class and various assemblies presented by the school. For many students, however, the information has become repetitive.

"I felt that the information given by Glicksman was all previously taught, so it wasn't as effective as it could have been. If he had used different facts it would have been a better assembly," said freshman Avanti Shroff.

Towards the end of the assembly, Glicksman made a reference to the recent craze of making cartoons as profile pictures on the popular social networking site Facebook. He revealed to the students that the initial idea was actually a plot created by pedophiles. This fact, by far, was met with the most passionate and surprised reaction.

"The assembly was interesting but the District Attorney giving the speech could

have told more incidents about cyber bullying that have happened in real life. I would've liked more examples rather than constant lecturing which ended up being pretty boring," said freshman Abby Harrari.

The Nassau County District Attorney's office has conjured the acronym, "STOP then send." STOP stands for "Study content, Think about others, Only send if appropriate, Pictures are forever." This part of the acronym is designed to help teens to decide if what they are posting on the Internet is appropriate, and it allows them to recognize the signs of cyber bullying.

Overall, the assembly provoked mixed reactions from the student body.

"I feel like the presenter was out of touch, and a bit hypocritical. He alternated between talking about the Internet's anonymity and how he could then track you down, without even acknowledging the simple ways around it," said junior Michael Schweitzer. "He talked about 'those poor girls' who had their pictures spread around, then says he'd charge them for distributing child pornography. It was very disconcerting."

Sales, festivities, and town unity usher in winter season

Holiday shoppers come by land and by trolley to participate in the first annual Port Night Out

BY Max Kraus and Kristin Yu

Assistant News Editor and Staff Assistant

The cold chill and rainy weather did not hamper the holiday spirit of local shoppers. On Dec. 1 and Dec. 15, stores offered promotions and special features to liven holiday business throughout Port Washington. This event, known as Port Night Out, aimed to create a "magical shopping experience" by combining festive store discounts with the annual decoration of Main Street with holiday lights, Christmas trees, and carolers.

Port Night Out, the brainchild of several community and business organizations, heralded the holiday season with singing, cultural dances, and sales. The event was a result of the joint efforts of the Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington, the Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District, the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce, and

the Town of North Hempstead.

"I think it was a great idea for a number of reasons," said Ms. Dvora Troshane, a member of the Residents for More Beautiful Port Washington and a store owner on Main Street. "When store owners come together it's great for the community. It's good for both the community and business owners, especially in this economy. We wanted to keep people shopping in town instead out at malls and large stores."

A trolley service sponsored by the Business and Tourism Development Corporation of the Town of North Hempstead transported residents along Main Street. This free service dropped and picked up holiday shoppers at five locations. As the temperature dropped and the sun sank below the horizon, residents took full advantage of the trolley service. Mid-afternoon rain showers on the first night at the beginning of the month posed a challenge, as did the frigid

temperatures on the second night.

"We had face-painting and trumpet players, and were supposed to have jugglers on the first night," said Mr. Juliano Petriello, an employee at Gail's Stride Rite. "It was really worth it, even though it was raining."

The trolley was not the only feature sponsored by the event's benefactors. On Dec. 15, the Annual Tree Lighting Committee hosted a traditional Christmas presentation. This presentation featured the lighting of the Christmas tree located in Blumenfeld Park next to the Landmark, as well as a Nativity presentation.

In order to do their part in contributing to the winter festivities, store and restaurant owners along Main Street held promotions. These promotions included storewide discounts, pictures with Santa Claus, refreshments, classical music, product raffles, and even free massages.

Entrée Designer Boutique featured a trunk show of the latest Lionette jewelry collection by designer Noa Sade and fashion business associate Vanessa Lee.

Thanee Thai hired traditional Thai dancers to perform for its customers. The Baltimore Design Center hosted a jazz combo and served free wine and cheese on both nights.

"The weather didn't really affect business," said an employee of the Baltimore Design Center. "The people expect the holiday weather. We had nearly 100 people the first night."

Several of the promotions were set up as a way to donate to charity.

Bluetique held a runway fashion show on both nights and donated a portion of their profits to Kids In Distressed Situations (KIDS). Impulse Boutique donated a share of the event's revenue to the charitable cause of lung cancer research, in memory of a close friend they lost to the disease.

Port Night Out catered to the needs and delights of both adults and children.

At Carnel's Printing, children were given the opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa Claus. These pictures could then be printed on media that ranged from t-shirts to coffee mugs. The Dolphin Bookstore hired local singer Jeff Sorg to perform for children while their parents browsed the shelves.

"I've been involved in the store for many years," said Mr. Sorg. "It is good for the town and there is a community sense that comes from the event."

Schreiber students also participated in Port Night Out. Singer and song-writer senior Ava Anderson was invited to play for an hour at Bluetique. She performed original songs and covers of popular bands like Paramore and the Kings of Leon.

"The atmosphere was very merry," said Anderson. "The experience was very fun. I would love to perform at an event like this again."

Schreiber student organizations such as Key Club and Chamber Choir also got involved in the event.

"Our entire group set up shop on the corner of the Mediterranean Marketplace and sang carols and hanukkah songs for an hour," said chamber choir member senior Annabelle May. "The reactions were great. We had people standing in the cold weather just to listen to us."

Despite the weather, the suggestion that Port Night Out be expanded and continued in the future was seemingly unanimous.

"The event was wonderful in my opinion," said Ms. Judy Ray from Carnel's Printing. "It would be nice to also have it in the spring so shoppers will have better weather to walk around in."

"Anything that brings the community together is wonderful thing," said Ms. Troshane. "I'm really grateful that we have such wonderful organizations that are trying to make Main Street a more vibrant place to shop and become more beautiful."



Courtesy of Mr. John Spezio

Members of the Chamber Choir, under the direction of Mr. John Spezio, performed holiday songs on the first Port Night Out on Dec. 1. Despite the cold, the event was hailed as fun and festive.

Latin Club celebrates Saturnalia with food, competitions, and elements

BY Celine Sze

Contributing Writer

To celebrate the holiday season, the Latin Club hosted its annual Saturnalia festival. The festival is based on a holiday which was originally observed by the ancient Romans to praise their god Saturn just before the winter solstice. To honor this tradition, the club held a themed party on Dec. 16, where Latin students dressed up in togas and costumes, gathered to eat food, and participated in various competitions against the other grades.

Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta and Assistant Principals Mr. David Miller and Ms. Julie Torres were in attendance as well as several languages other than English teachers. These special guests aided in judging the games. To the surprise of many students, Mr. George Mickus, one of the Latin teachers at Weber also came to visit his former students.

Every year, the party is focused around a Latin-related theme. This year it was the "elements" from classical thought. The freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes, each represented earth, water, fire, and air, respectively. To heighten the interests of the students, the four kingdoms of the popular TV show

Avatar: The Last Airbender, each based on an element, were incorporated into the theme. Latin classes before the event were dedicated to preparing for the festival.

Each grade used its creativity and artistic skill to construct a banner that combined its element, characters from *Avatar*, and Roman mythology. At Saturnalia, the posters were judged by a panel of adults, which unanimously declared the sophomore banner the winner for its creativity and appearance.

Other activities such as musical chairs and limbo also gave grades the opportunity to win points as they competed to be the champion of the festival.

"I thought it was a fun night where we were able to laugh and come together as a grade to compete in the games," said junior Nina Devas.

After all the competitions were over, club advisor Ms. Elizabeth Griffin announced that the sophomore class had won by achieving first in the banner competition, wheelbarrow race, and limbo. Although the sophomore class gained the most points, the seniors were named honorary winners in for the sake of tradition.

"I was amazed at how much spirit the students had and how everyone pitched in to help make this a great Saturnalia," said

Mr. Mickus.

All of the time, effort, and preparation spent on deciding on a theme, painting the banners, and organizing games by the Latin Club members was evident and helped make the party a success.

"Saturnalia was a great opportunity to hang out with the students outside of the classroom and get away from talking about declensions and grammar," said Ms. Griffin.



Dan Miller

Senior James McCallen limboes successfully as other participants, Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta, and Italian teacher Ms. Meredith White look on.

Music groups showcase talent in Uniondale performances

BY **Minah Kim**
Staff Writer

This month, the school's music ensembles were offered the unique opportunity to perform at a distinguished venue.

The symphonic orchestra, mixed choir, and women's choir performed at the Reckson Plaza, formerly EAB Plaza, in Uniondale on Dec. 13 as part of a field trip. The groups were accompanied by Mr. Anthony Pinelli, the orchestra director, Mr. John Spiezio, the director of both choirs, and Ms. Sheri Suzzan, the district creative arts director.

Reckson Plaza, the headquarters of RXR Realty, is the largest office complex in Long Island. Similar to Rockefeller Center in New York City, Reckson set up the largest Christmas tree on Long Island and opened an outdoor skating rink for the winter season. It is renowned for its wintertime entertainment for both employees and locals. Schreiber's ensembles were invited to be a part of Reckson Plaza's winter concert series.

"We are always excited to find new performance venues to showcase our musical abilities," said Mr. Spiezio.

This trip was one of the first opportunities for the choirs and the orchestra to unite as one ensemble. Their collaborative performance consisted of holiday music including "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Two Christmas Favorites," "Away in a Manger," "Let It Snow" and "White Christmas." The

ensembles also took some time to showcase their pieces as separate ensembles. The orchestra performed "The Sentimental Sarabande of the Simple Symphony" and the choir performed "Elijah Rock" and "Maoz Tzur."

"I loved playing Christmas songs," said junior Grace Kim, a cellist in the symphonic orchestra. "It was really fun and it spread Christmas cheer to the audience."

They performed for about an hour in Reckson Plaza's atrium to an audience of mainly senior citizens, parents, professionals working in the offices, and visitors. The performance attracted viewers as it progressed; some individuals stopped on their paths to listen from the floor above.

"It felt great performing for the community and giving some of the senior citizens in the audience a chance to listen to a live orchestra," said senior Dainn Woo, a violinist in the symphony orchestra. "I also loved doing a joint performance with the choir."

Mr. Spiezio has made it a goal to increase the amount and variety of performances for the student ensembles.

"With the time spent learning and perfecting skills, we don't perform enough. Giving students opportunities to perform is special because it enhances musical growth and can be cherished for a lifetime," said Mr. Spiezio.

At this point, there are no further music field trips planned. "I really enjoyed this trip and I would love to go again," said junior Jennifer Kim, a violist in the



Courtesy of Mr. Anthony Pinelli

Mixed choir, women's choir, and symphonic orchestra students pose with teachers Mr. Anthony Pinelli and Mr. John Spiezio at the Reckson Plaza, where they performed on Dec. 13.

symphony orchestra.

"I thought the trip was fantastic. It was great to spend time with everyone in a unique setting, and it was the perfect

way to get into the holiday spirit," said sophomore Delia Van Praag, a student in the mixed choir.

Possibility of new police station

BY **Matt Heiden**
News Editor

Most students put little thought into the location of the police station, which has remained at its address on Port Washington Boulevard for over 50 years. However, ever since a 2000 study determined that the current station lacks the space and utility necessary to function efficiently, the police department began considering renovation or expansion.

So, when two of the three police commissioners voted to purchase 4.75 acres of land in Port Washington North on Channel Drive, worth approximately \$2.5 million on Oct. 13, not many students or Port residents were aware of the plan to expand.

The purchase, paid with surplus funds, has a 90 day period in which the police can cancel the deal and get its money back if most residents are opposed. Before the Jan. 13 deadline when the contract becomes permanent, the candidates for police commissioner held a public meeting in the cafeteria on Dec. 2 to inform taxpayers and debate the proposals. Many Port residents opposed the plan for financial reasons during these hard economic times; others emphasized the need for adequate police facilities.

Here is a breakdown of some of the issues surrounding the proposed expansion that are in consideration.

Cost

Although the purchase cost about \$2.5 million, additional funds would be required to develop the land into a functioning police station, bringing the estimated total cost of the project to \$10 million. Because the town is still in a harsh economic climate, some question whether the timing is right.

Others note that over the past two decades police personnel has increased by approximately 30 percent and is expected to continue to grow. At the meeting, architect Mr. Richard Lawrence

emphasized that the money would be well-spent if it helped augment aging and inadequate facilities. Lawrence stated that it would cost an estimated \$18 million to bring the current station fully up-to-date regarding equipment, parking, and space for police staff. This would have to be done by demolishing and rebuilding headquarters.

To purchase the land, the police department used saved funds and asset forfeiture money, which are they funds from the federal government in exchange for confiscated property. The contract did not require taxpayer dollars, but they will be needed if the project goes ahead.

Land Ownership

Before the Port Washington police had bought the land, the town of Port Washington North was also interested in developing it for a new Village Hall and Village Club. Some hybrid proposals have been suggested including creating a Village Center attached to a police station on the same building. One police commissioner, Angela Lawlor-Mullins, voted against the purchase because she felt that accepting the contract went behind the Village Board of Port Washington North and Mayor Bob Weitzner. The other two commissioners supported the plan because they felt that the police had been looking for a place to expand for almost 10 years. This is when they first became aware of the space issues and handicap inaccessibility of the current police station.

Different Police Districts/Streamlining

If the Port Washington Police Department were merged with the Nassau County Police, which services most of Nassau County, the district would have to sacrifice the school resource officer, Detective Tony Guzzello, nicknamed by students as "Officer Tony," but taxpayers would save several hundreds of dollars per year in property taxes.

Some feel that the location might help responsiveness and safety in that area.

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Temple vandalism prompts debate and reflection in community

BY Juliana Beall
Contributing Writer

On a recent Saturday night, two students were arrested for the crime of "aggravated harassment," for allegedly creating a 12-by-12 foot swastika out of 28 folding chairs they found in the parking lot of a local synagogue.

According to the Nassau County Police, a rabbi discovered the symbol soon after 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 and then called the police. Later that night, the Nassau County Police arrested both students and charged them.

This is not the only anti-Semitic act that the Port Washington community has

"There are always intolerant people amidst a tolerant community. We need to continue to educate people about acceptance and diversity, not tolerance," said Rabbi Jodie Siff of the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore.

faced in recent years. In August of 2007, two young adults, one minor and one over the age of 21, painted a swastika on a door of the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, located in Manhasset.

Shortly after the vandalism was noticed by a cantor working at the synagogue, the Nassau County Police Department immediately responded by sending police to patrol the area.

However, soon after the officer on duty checked out at 12 a.m. that night, the suspects returned, smashing in two windows and vandalizing the building with spray paint.

The synagogue has many Port Washington congregants.

"There were various and diverse reactions to the event. Some people wanted to show the vandalism to their children, to remind them that anti-Semitism is present in this world, and there were other people who wanted the whole thing to go away," said Rabbi Jodie Siff of the Reconstructionist Synagogue. "There were those that wanted to severely prosecute the perpetrators and others who didn't want to prosecute at all."

Similar reactions are felt towards the perpetrators of the most recent act in Great Neck. The debate concerns where to place the alleged perpetrators on the wide spectrum of potential charges that ranges from an act of vandalism to a hate crime.

One important issue in considering how severely to punish the students is the degree of calculation behind the act. Both of these events strike the general public as surprising.

"There are always intolerant people amidst a tolerant community. We need to continue to educate people about acceptance and diversity, not tolerance," said Rabbi Jodie.



Courtesy of the Nassau County Police Department

Two students allegedly created a 12-by-12 foot swastika after dark out of 28 folding chairs in the parking lot of a Great Neck synagogue on Nov. 19.

Other educators agree that acceptance should be taught in schools. For instance, Jericho Middle School has taken on this task through creating the "Seedlings" year-long program, named after the national program SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), intended to instill an appreciation for diversity through school hallways by learning about parts of other cultures such as food and language.

For the time being, however, the creation of a swastika on temple grounds

remains a hurtful sign to the Jewish community.

"When you think about discrimination, most forget about it until it appears again. This incident made me realize that hate for Jews is not gone and might never be, but you can never stop ignoring it and keep going on with your life," said junior Emily Rosenthal. "What was done can never be taken back no matter how disgusting the act was; however, we should keep going as people and survive off the good, not the evil."



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Point

Counterpoint

Should participation count in students' grades?

BY **Brendan Weintraub**

Staff Writer

Most teachers grade their students on their tests, quizzes, essays, and homework. But don't forget the all important participation grade.

Some students argue whether or not we should have a participation grade count at all in our class grade. We should. Participation is a key part of the learning process; it allows you to get involved in class discussion and shows that you've prepared adequately for class.

Many teachers agree that class participation should be part of a student's grade. They want to give each student the chance to do his or her best in the class. The fact that they can get a boost in their grade for participating gives students an incentive to participate and get more involved in class discussions.

In English classes, it is especially important for students to be a part of class discussions.

"The ability to verbalize ideas does not come naturally, and it takes practice," said English teacher Dr. Sara Brock. "Through discussion, we clarify and extend our ideas. Discussion is important preparation for writing."

Various students excel in different subjects and aspects of school. Some may be better at science, and some may be better at English. This idea also applies to how students learn. Some can do all of their homework perfectly and get good grades on tests, but they might not participate well.

Others do not do very well on quizzes and tests, but they come up with very interesting ideas and are able to express themselves articulately.

Including a participation grade allows teachers to reward those students who are really trying. A teacher can calculate a participation grade to help students who are actually trying to do well in the classroom, but seem to struggle with the tests.

"Students' active participation shows their interest in class and helps keep the class interesting for other students around them. Not only can class participation be helpful to those excelling, but also to those who are struggling with tests. By actively engaging in class, teachers would be able to see those who are truly working hard despite low test results," said junior Isha Gupta.

Participation does not just have to apply to English classes. If you have a question in your math class, chances are that someone else has the same question. Asking questions demonstrates your curiosity and attentiveness. Remember the cliché: there are no stupid questions.

"Motivation to do well can be much more valuable than simply good grades," said Gupta.

A participation grade encourages students to voice their opinions and be more confident in communicating their

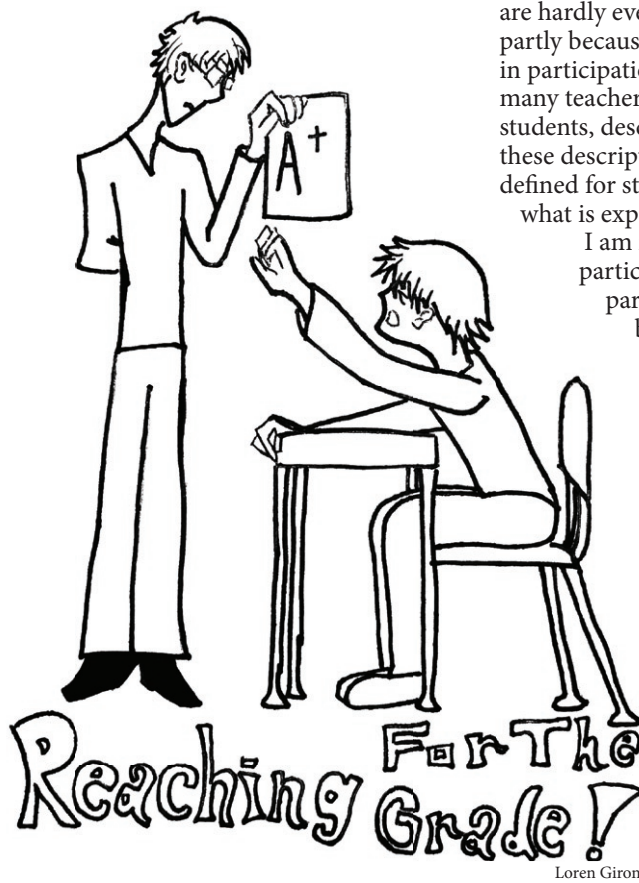
ideas. These skills will make a profound difference when we are older.

The ability to express yourself clearly and confidently is essential in the real world. For example, a promotion is more likely to go to someone who is able to effectively communicate his or her ideas rather than someone who stays in the shadows.

Have you ever noticed how painfully class drags when no one participates in discussion? On the other hand, the hour seems to fly by when various students are offering unique insights on the topic at hand. A participation grade encourages students to volunteer more in class, which benefits the overall class dynamic.

Participation is a very important and necessary skill that all students should try to master. Speaking in class makes you an active learner who can better understand the material.

In addition to all of these benefits, participation will even boost your grade. So, just remember to raise your hand next time you're in class, and you won't have a problem.

BY **Alice Chou**

Contributing Writer

Although students may not realize it, teachers are grading them during every class period, not only when grading tests or reading papers. Side conversations with friends and other behaviors will result in a reduction in a student's participation grade. In most cases, however, the quiet students in the class face the largest disadvantage even if they have a good understanding of the class material and perform well on other assessments.

Evaluating participation is a subjective process. In many cases, participation grades are based upon a teacher's intuition or how the teacher feels about a certain student's behavior. The standards of the teacher, however, can be drastically different from those of the students. Is the participation grade relative to the rest of the class? Is it based on a certain standard that a particular teacher sets for the course?

The answers to these questions are hardly ever adequately answered partly because of the vague language in participation rubrics. Even though many teachers provide guidelines for students, describing "good" participation, these descriptions are often too broadly defined for students to fully understand what is expected of them in class.

I am not denying that class participation is a significant part of the learning process, but contributing to class discussions and activities is not vital to a thorough understanding of the course material.

Also, knowing that a grade is at stake may put too much pressure on students to say the perfect thing and discourage students from assuming a more active role in the classroom.

Demanding that students participate can be intimidating. Students feel compelled to provide a correct and thorough impromptu response or else face

humiliation in front of their teachers and peers. Students who are afraid of voicing a wrong or inaccurate answer would rather not contribute to class discussions at all, sometimes to save themselves from the condescending glares of the "know-it-alls" in the class.

Reluctance to participate may relate to personality. There are always students who are more introverted than others and do not feel comfortable speaking in front of a class on a daily basis. Grading participation essentially rewards outspoken students while penalizing those who prefer to assume a quieter role in the classroom.

It produces an inherent disadvantage for shy students, who must deviate from a mindset that they have held for years and venture into unfamiliar ground in order to satisfy participation requirements. Forcing students to leave their comfort zone can be counterproductive and in most cases will not result in more effective learning on the students' part.

A lack of participation does not necessarily translate into a lack of understanding. A student's decision to remain quiet during class is not a sign that the student is not learning. Each individual responds to different teaching styles. While some like to voice their ideas and "think out loud," others prefer to listen to the teacher or the outlooks of other students and integrate these ideas with their own.

Allowing students to adjust to the learning environment in a way that best suits their needs results in a higher degree of success in the class as a whole, even if it means that some students will not verbally participate as much as others.

Although the quality of student responses during class is an apparent indication of a student's understanding of the course material, there are other ways to measure progress. Improvements in test grades or in the quality of written work provide tangible evidence of academic growth and development. Students who work hard outside of class and are prepared, attentive, and respectful in class should not be penalized if they are not inclined to speak.

"I think it's unfair that a person who works hard is punished because he or she is shy and would rather not speak in front of a class. It's really difficult for timid students to overcome their shyness," said junior Alexis Fessatidis.

Excluding a mark for participation from the grade book won't necessarily discourage students from contributing during class discussions and activities. Some may argue that because there is no incentive to participate, students will refrain from doing so. On the contrary, it removes the pressure from the situation that had previously discouraged timid students from speaking in class. If participation is not included in a student's grade, there will not be as great a barrier to surmount.

Schreiber Speaks

"Students are expected to participate in classes. It should not be factored into one's grade."
-Isabella Goetze, junior

"Participation should be included in a student's grade, because part of learning is asking questions and doing classwork. If students don't do what's required of them in the classroom, they should be penalized and those that do put in the effort should be rewarded."
-Samantha Palmer, senior

Online language translators translate to laziness

Students rely too heavily on websites to do their LOTE homework

BY Aaron Bialer
Contributing Writer

A major part of learning a foreign language is translating. However, overuse of online language translators takes from this valuable step in the learning process. Many students rely on translators to complete their homework. This makes it evident that kids feel that the use of online language translators, such as Google Translate, is a fair and easy way to obtain translations.

In fact, some students even use these translators to translate whole paragraphs. Some say the use of such translators is cheating and that using them for as much as one word is immoral.

Realistically, language translators can be used minimally without blame, but translating full sentences and paragraphs is corrupt.

Students often employ translators to use words that they have never learned. Doing this takes away from the learning process.

Furthermore, online translators are highly unreliable. Translators often do not translate everything correctly. Students often have no way of telling whether the translation is correct, as they have never seen the word before. However, when teachers review students' work, it is apparent if students used the translators excessively, due to the mistakes.

"When one uses a translator he or she, on most occasions, receives a wrong translation. It gives tenses and vocabulary that the student has never seen. It also undermines the logical progression of language instruction," said the Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

chairperson Mr. John Placella.

For example, when one types a paragraph into a translator and translates it to another language and back, it comes out different. The grammar is often wrong and the vocabulary and tenses are usually slightly off. Wrong translations result in points off of projects and make it apparent that the student is not actually completing the assignment.

"I use Google Translator rarely. Most of the time it is extremely helpful, but sometimes the translations are inaccurate," said freshman Jack Weinkselbaum.

Online language translators also destroy the learning process. Students no longer have to pay attention during class to be able to understand the homework.

They can simply look up a word on a translator when they don't know something. This practice only fosters laziness when doing schoolwork, for language classes and others as well. Students who use the translators are cheating themselves out of the learning process.

"Since it is not valid and since it provides a way to have someone

or something else do your work, it is basically cheating and deserves a zero," said Mr. Placella.

When someone cheats off of another person's test, the only thing the student learns is that it is not necessary to pay attention during class. The answers are right there, ready to be taken, and they can use it any-

time without having to know anything.

It is the same with language translators. The answers are right there and can easily be looked up without having to try to figure anything out whether it is a French passage or an Italian dialogue.

Some language students understand that these translations are often wrong and, therefore, use it minimally and only to look up words that the teacher has already gone over. When a student actually knows a word and does not recognize the translation at all, he or she knows the translation is not the one he or she is looking for.

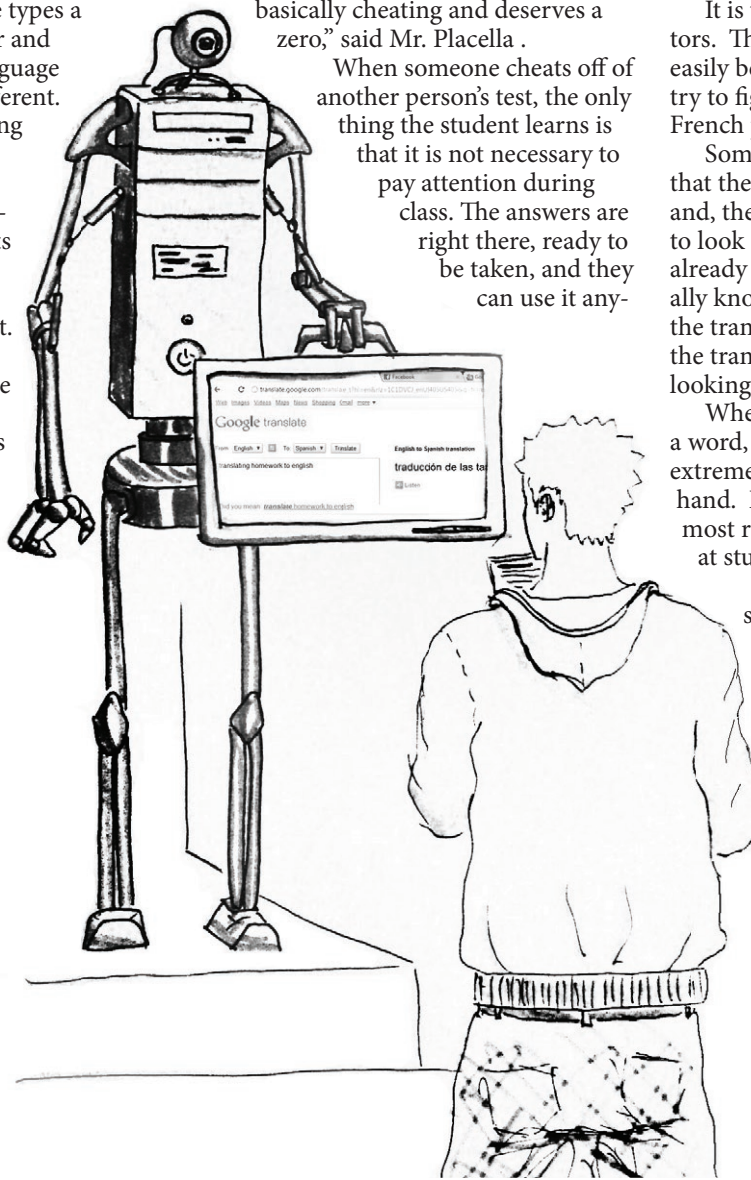
When a student temporarily forgets a word, language translators can be extremely helpful if a dictionary is not on hand. But since they are not always the most reliable, translators should be used at students' discretion.

For a less morally ambiguous solution, teachers often suggest the usage of dictionaries. Handheld dictionaries are a good alternative to online translators.

They cannot translate whole paragraphs and stories for students, but they can still offer some assistance, which is appropriate in the learning process.

In total, online translators can be inaccurate, are considered cheating, and are, on the whole, the same as dictionaries. Translators should be allowed for minor translations, but not for sentences or paragraphs.

Overall, language translators can be used only up to a certain extent, but they should not be doing your homework for you.



Isaac Batbayar

An inaccurate attempt at surveying the teenage drug scene

BY Sarah Paul
Staff Writer

It's high school. The time to take risks, to discover who you are. Unfortunately, many students pick the wrong risks to take. Substance abuse in high schools is a very pressing issue.

Through health education, we learn the facts, but not always the strategies. What can be done to prevent our developing minds from seeking such harmful practices?

A survey about substance use was conducted earlier this month. After a "passive" consent procedure, all students participated and were given an hour to complete questions such as: "How many times have you had alcohol in the past 30 days?" and "How many hours do you participate in after school activities per week?"

The final question asked students if they were honest when filling out the survey. Were you?

"That's a fact: no one was honest," said sophomore Zach Baer.

This seems to be the conclusive opinion of the student body. For whatever reason, students decide to answer the questions dishonestly. They say they are addicted to drugs when, in reality, they may not even know what the drug looks like.

On the other hand, others responded

positively to questions regarding self-esteem, friendships, and constructive behaviors when they, in fact, gain their chief pleasure from drugs and other destructive behaviors.

For many teenagers, silly as it may sound, talking about drugs is provocative and exciting. They want to "brag" and seem "cool." They get a type of rush out of it, not unlike the rush felt when getting high.

They feel like adults don't understand what being a teenager is like. Or maybe, they are just being immature and simply having fun.

But the point is: how honest are the subjects? How accurate are these results?

"I think, like all surveys, there is a mix of responses, both honest and dishonest. But there is also some truth to it," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald.

Guaranteed, there is a risk inherent in conducting any survey: there is no assurance that the responders are being completely truthful. But

teenagers seem more likely to make up responses and play around with the questions when answering serious surveys than other age groups.

What reason do they have for being honest, anyway? What do they care? It's simply an hour without class, and it cannot possibly be of any service to them. Right?

"I don't think the survey was necessary or helpful, because many students take these surveys as a joke and do not provide legitimate answers," said senior Andy Lieberman. "There are many outliers that skew this data."

Lieberman brings up a crucial point: the results are skewed because of the

admittedly widespread dishonesty of the student body. How can accurate statistics be determined?

"Students are honest when responding; however, when the survey is longer, less attentiveness occurs as students 'rush through' the questions," said Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta.

Because of the dishonesty of students when filling out questionnaires, we may never be fully aware of teenagers' destructive behaviors.

However, since substance abuse is still an important issue in all high schools, efforts should be made, regardless of the drug survey results, to alleviate the negative effects of drugs and risk taking.

48. How old are you?

14	15	16	17
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

49. How old were you when you first smoked Marijuana?

14	15	16	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

50. Were you honest on this test?

NO	Some-what	YES	very
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Jane Nolting-Kolb

Holiday fun free of financial burden

BY Heidi Shin

Staff Writer

When it's time to turn calendars to December, most people frequently ask themselves, "How many gifts do I need to buy?" If you're worrying about what to get your family and friends, remember that you are not actually required to spend lots of money to spread holiday cheer.

This season, keep in mind that putting magic into the holidays takes a creative vision, not a spending spree. According to statistics, most people feel that spending less money on gifts will actually help the gift-buyer and receivers focus more on the true meaning of the holidays. Plus, many would doubtlessly like to have a more simplified holiday season after a year of economic troubles.

Creativity, not price tags, inspires the most memorable presents and is truly the essence of good-gift giving. This year, think about how you could make a gift more memorable.

"I think most of the time, people usually want to get their friends and family really expensive gifts, but it doesn't seem sentimental," said junior Rakina Imam. "It seems like they just wanted to get them something really expensive instead of thinking about what the other person might really like or want."

For many people, the joy of the winter holidays is lost in a ceaseless bustle as they are consumed with doing, spending, and getting at a frantic pace. A gift that you have made yourself is usually treasured far above a store-bought one, even if it is a bit rougher around the edges than its commercial counterpart.

Instead of spending money, be creative by making your loved ones handmade gifts or baked goods. Such gifts show effort and care. Holiday cards can also be expensive and environmentally wasteful, so be eco-friendly and use craft

supplies available at home.

If you must give store-bought cards, try to buy them from places that will donate the money to charity or people in need. Many businesses advertise such programs around this time of year.

Spending a lot of money can also cause stress about a family's financial situation. This added stress is unwelcome and can make people forget the more important aspects of the holiday season.

Giving coupons to charities or to those who are struggling financially is thoughtful and helpful, especially during the holiday season when money is an issue.

If spending money becomes a must, shovel, babysit, or do odd jobs around the neighborhood in order to earn enough money to buy



you will be helping.

For busy high school students, time can be a huge issue. If work or babysitting hours must be reduced and someone cannot earn enough money, set limits on how much you spend on presents.

For example, Secret Santa, which is a fun way of giving gifts to your friends, usually allows a general range in the price of gifts.

Work with your friends to set a range where presents are inexpensive, but the celebration is still enjoyable and creative.

"When people do Secret Santa during the holidays, it's really fun, and also, you don't have to spend so much money because there's usually a price limit," said junior Ashley Oelbaum. "And because there's a price limit, some people might get stuck with what they should buy, so they just make their friends a really nice card or bake them sweets."

A less commercial holiday season is important especially when people tend to forget about the special meaning of spending time with those you love.

The winter holidays can be seen as the time of year

to be more appreciative of what you have and the loving people around you. So be more thoughtful when giving gifts by being more creative instead of just spending money.

presents. Keep in mind, though, random acts of kindness are always priceless.

Maybe doing more good deeds should be considered a New Year's resolution. Think of it as a present to everybody that

Blocking complaints of blocked websites

BY Katie Garry

Contributing Writer

Nobody likes to be told no. We are told no by our parents, teachers, bosses, peers, and in this era, even our computers. Whenever we are told no, we try to get around it, whether it involves asking the other parent or restructuring our proposition. However, there is no way to get around the omnipotent computer. Therefore, let's be realistic and compromise our Internet surfing for our safety.

Signing onto the school's computer system, you may come across a whole group of non-accessible websites. Yes, this group includes Facebook, Twitter, YouTube... all the addictive stuff.

While it is appropriate that these websites are blocked in the school environment, several blocked websites are actually informative and useful for student research.

Knowing of this "fault" in the system, one can easily become curious. Why block websites that benefit education? Why have this Internet filtering system in the first place? The answer is easy: safety.

"The goal is to have open access of information that follows federal law while having safe Internet searches for students," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller.

The difference between widely known websites such as Facebook and informational blogs is clear. Administration knows that the well-known websites are not educational, but determining whether blogs are more of a benefit or a corruption to students always results in a grey line.

Are many blogs and websites blocked actually useful for school work? Of course. Are many blogs and websites blocked actually dangerous and irrelevant to education? Of course. The problem lies between determining which website goes into which category. For the most part, if administration is "iffy" about a website being safe, it will be blocked.

Have a problem with this filtering system from the get-go? Understand that not having the filtering system would be breaking federal law. The federal government gives "E-rate money" to reimburse schools for the costs of telecommunication and Internet access, according to Mr. Miller. In accepting E-rate money, the school must provide online filtering.

Although the school commends the filtering system for protecting students against Internet danger and keeping them more focused on educational websites rather than Facebook and the beach read of the Internet, the system was not the school's idea.

Even if every staff member com-

plained about the filtering system, it would not be taken down as doing so would be breaking the law.

If blocking a website creates an inconvenience to students but also assures them safe Internet searches, that is a compromise the school is willing to make. Fortunately, many in the Schreiber community, including Mr. Miller, can admit that the system "is not perfect" and understands some blocked websites really are useful.

"The possibility exists that it would prevent students from getting information," said Mr. Miller. "If the website is legitimate, we can contact the technology department."

This is not the most ideal solution, as it requires coordinating the administration, the technology department, and the department using the website. According to Ms. Pat Baglio, unblocking websites can be a difficult process, depending on the website. Over the past month, three or four websites have been unblocked at teachers' requests.

There are websites currently blocked on the school's system that may eventually be unblocked and there are some that will be blocked permanently. The filtering system is far from perfect, yet the ability to request websites to be unblocked gives students and teachers no reason to complain.

Congested computer labs

BY Hannah Zweig

Staff Writer

Picture this: you just got out of English and realize that you have an essay due tomorrow, and now you have an off period. Naturally, like any dedicated student, you want to use your off period to your advantage and type up the essay. But, after huffing and puffing up the three flights of stairs to get to the library, you race over to the computer lab only to see the discouraging sign saying "CLASS IN SESSION."

As the world of technology revolutionizes homework assignments, the necessity for computers at school has skyrocketed. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more difficult for students to get on the computer during school hours.

One of Schreiber's greatest assets is the fact that it factors in off periods into students' schedules, a benefit that other school districts lack. However, it is difficult to make constructive use of this extra time without the use of computers.

"When I try to be productive during my off periods, as the school suggests, it is difficult because of the lack of resources. It makes completing assignments more difficult," said sophomore Miles Kurtz.

According to school librarian Ms. Mary Seligman, the classes are generally scheduled by teachers who cannot use their own department computer lab, or who need to use the SmartBoard or library resources. The number of class periods that the computer lab is occupied varies from day to day, according to Ms. Pat Baglio, the Information Technology Assistant. Classes are designated to computer labs based on the size of the class.

Due to the demand for more computers by students, there should be a limit on how many classes can sign up for the computer lab per day. It is outrageous that the library is sometimes scheduled with classes the entire day, making it much harder for students to get computer-based work done. With all of the work teachers require students to complete on a computer, it is crucial that students are able to make the most out of their off periods.

At the same time, it is important not to intrude on class time, which, in the end, takes priority over off periods. Therefore, another solution would be to more efficiently use the computers that we have.

Our school has many computers in locations other than the library and the English and social studies resource rooms. These include the computer labs in the science and technology wings. While teachers schedule class time in these other labs for some periods, this does not necessarily mean that the labs are full all the time. If these other computer labs were open, students could redirect themselves to these locations when the library is occupied.

While the school has enough computers to suit the needs of its students, computers should be made more available. By limiting the class periods in the library computer lab to a few a day and opening up other computer labs for student use, this problem can be solved. If you are asking why, just compute the benefits.

Editorials

Drive respectfully in Monfort Lot

Unfortunately, since the beginning of this year, there have been a few incidents involving seniors parking in the Monfort lot.

In their hustle and bustle to and from school each day, students, who are young drivers, have been getting into accidents that could have possibly been avoided.

Recognizing these accidents in the parking lot, *The Schreiber Times* urges drivers to take extra caution when going to and from school.

Part of the caution taken could be to wait to start driving to school until one gains experience and feels comfortable with parking and maneuvering in tight spaces.

While passing a road test does indicate someone's competency to drive, it is obvious that the more experienced a driver is, the more comfortable he or she will be with driving and parking his or her car.

It is important that students get used to driving on their own in wide, open spaces before they drive on their own in the tight, cramped spaces of the lot. While the road test does assess one's ability to parallel park and do three-point turns, it does not assess one's ability to park efficiently while rushing to get to school on time.

The stress associated with getting to school on time can cause road rage and actions that would not happen in a calm environment.

The Schreiber Times contends that while driving to school can be exciting, seniors should wait until they truly become comfortable, perhaps a few weeks after they pass their road test. Whatever the length of time, students should use their judgment before driving to school.

Other than ensuring that they are ready to drive to school, students should also be respectful of others once in the parking lot. Students should follow the same conduct in the parking lot as they do each day on the road.

They should recognize that just because they might know the people driving around them, the rules of driving and against road rage still apply.

As peers, students should be respectful of one another when entering, parking in, and leaving the lot. Students should not yell and excessively honk at one another. They should not fool around or engage in horseplay while driving either.

Due to the recent accidents, *The Schreiber Times* wants to urge students to drive with caution, respectfully, and responsibly in the Monfort lot to avoid further problems and costly incidents.

Wanted: In-class holiday parties

Recently, the administration has made it a priority to eliminate in-class parties. This has become an issue, especially now, as the winter vacation approaches and many classes opt to throw parties with food during the last days of school.

Earlier this month, Interim Principal Dr. Francis Banta asked all the teachers to refrain from having parties during class.

The administration argues that if many classes are having parties before vacation, kids will ask themselves why they should even come to school at all for the last day before break.

However, *The Schreiber Times* realistically recognizes that as winter vacation approaches, students tend to mentally "check out" anyway. There is little value in teaching students lessons that they will not fully absorb anyway and quickly forget once the 3:05 bell rings.

Also, the last week of vacation is usually filled with teachers rushing to finish their lessons. Many teachers want to get in their last test right before vacation, so that they don't have to test students on material that they will most likely forget over the vacation. It is just more convenient to start a new lesson plan with the new year.

Since many teachers tend to pack a lot of material into the last days before vacation, students would appreciate having parties in their other classes that want to throw parties. The relaxation of some class parties would balance out the pre-vacation chaos of other classes.

The administration also claims that parties have no instructional value. However, parties further solidify students' understanding of the lesson they are learning.

Especially in the language classes, getting a taste of the culture that they are learning about enhances students' connection to the culture, and, therefore, gets them more interested in what could otherwise be a generic, forgettable lesson.

It seems that this new policy is far too strict. Once in a while, students deserve to relax and enjoy an in-class party.

Most classes do not even have parties, and even the ones that do have parties do not usually last the whole period. Students can bring in their relevant-to-the-class treats, pass them out, and enjoy them while listening to the teacher continue the curriculum.

The administration wants to maintain normalcy in the classroom, but normalcy often turns into dullness.

School is already all about routine. Our six day cycle becomes much too repetitive, and *The Schreiber Times* believes that in-class parties add just the right amount of flavor into a student's schedule.

Anti-semitism condemned

Anti-semitism has a long history. The recent incident of arranging folding chairs into a swastika can be written off

as the reckless, ignorant, and downright stupid actions of a few, but it inherits a legacy of oppression over 2,000 years old that unfortunately continues to the present day.

In times when the president of Iran can still win supporters by denying the Holocaust and lasting peace for Israel seems to remain an intractable obstacle, it is hard for Jews to rest easy when they are reminded that the echoes of hardship and strife continue so near to them.

That this act occurred not just in a neighboring town but in a house of worship is inexcusable. The Schreiber community is right to be disgusted.

Therefore, *The Schreiber Times* would like to harshly criticize the vandals responsible for this hurtful and indecent act and urge the Port Washington and Long Island Jewish community not to lose faith in the humanity of others.

It is important for Jews to recognize that the event encompasses not just the narrow-minded attitudes of a few, but also the solidarity of a strong community of Jews and non-Jews.

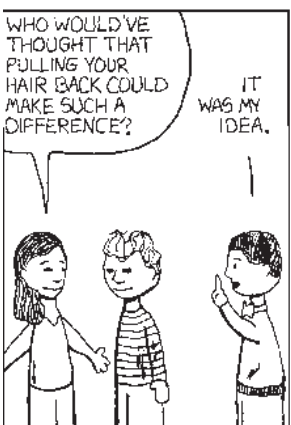
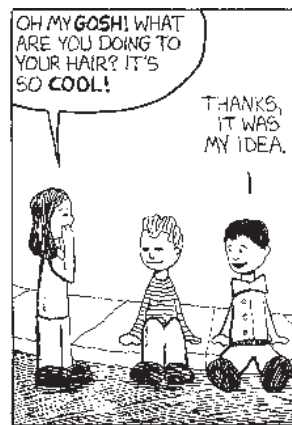
There can be no doubt that the crime serves as a harsh reminder of the past, but the swift and uncompromising reaction of police and school officials also showcases the respect for human decency that is a fundamental right for all religious groups.

This was an isolated and universally condemned action of two misguided students. Although it is right that this vandalism not go unpunished, the Port community should most importantly focus its energies on trying to understand such a sensitive issue with an open mind and a willingness to forgive those who make mistakes.

It would be unreasonable to expect this to be the last intolerant incident that affects Port Washington. But if we follow the brave example of empathy from most people in this town, *The Schreiber Times* will remain proud of its diverse, understanding, and supportive community.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on Jan. 6. All new writers are welcome!

The Hart Knock Life



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.

Plethora of opportunities available to those eager to help

More than half of students find positive ways to dedicate free time

BY KAIA DE BRUIN

Staff Assistant

For students who are interested in volunteering, the choices are practically limitless.

Port Washington is home to numerous charities, foundations, and organizations that exist to organize volunteers to help the community.

Many of these, like the Public Library, the Port Washington Education Foundation (PWEF), and the Helen Keller Center, among others, allow students to get involved.

Quite a few students also do volunteer work through religious groups or other activities in which they are involved outside of school.

While many students perform community service over the summer, both locally and in other parts of the world, fewer students participate during the school year as well.

There are a few dedicated students who spend time volunteering throughout the year, however. Seniors Jeremy Eule, Yestle Kim and Jacob Shevrin volunteer for the PWEF.

“We help third graders from all of the elementary schools in Port Washington with their schoolwork and homework,” said Kim. “I’ve been volunteering there since tenth grade, but you can start freshman year.”

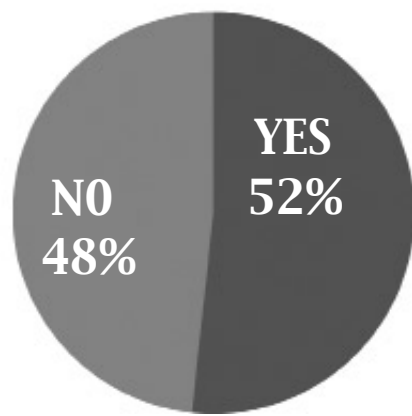
In addition to helping younger students with their work, volunteers for the PWEF also set up special projects for different occasions. For Thanksgiving, they decorated candles and made bookmarks for the kids to take home and use.

While volunteering is helpful to the community and whoever it benefits, it can be personally rewarding as well. Doing volunteer work does not have to feel like an obligation and it is often enjoyable for the students who take part.

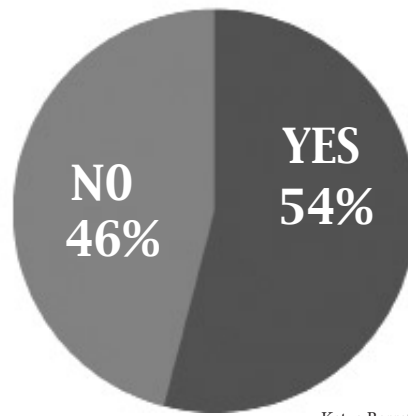
“It’s a lot of fun when you have friends volunteering with you, and the children are fun to work with. It feels rewarding to know that I’m spending my own time to help the third graders expand their knowledge and to help them make new

SCHREIBER SPEAKS

Do you volunteer (in or outside of school) on a regular basis?



Does the school do enough to help students find ways to volunteer?



Katya Barrett

More than one half of the 205 students surveyed volunteer on a regular basis, and even more agree that the school does enough to help interested students find ways to volunteer. According to these statistics, the percentage of Schreiber students who volunteer is more than 20 percent higher than the national rate of volunteering among 16-19 year olds (Source: www.volunteeringinamerica.gov). The majority of students agreed that because of the community service fair and Schreiber’s many clubs, the school offers plenty of assistance to those looking for a way to volunteer. When compared to the results of last month’s polls, it is clear that volunteering is much more popular among students than having a regular paying job.

friends from different schools. I think that that aspect makes it easier for them to adapt in Weber as well,” said Kim.

Students looking to take part in community service will find that the school offers many resources.

Schreiber’s Compact Committee has a community service guide on the school’s website that lists local organizations that take student volunteers. It includes nearly 40 organizations in addition to clubs at the school that take part in volunteering.

A community service fair takes place

every year as well. At this event held during lunch periods, students can learn about local organizations that help the community and sign up to work with them.

“I believe that community service fairs are a great way for people to see how they can help out their community,” said senior Samantha Palmer. “Then, they can get involved and really make a difference.”

Many of Schreiber’s clubs take part in community service, but Key Club is probably the most popular.

Key Club is involved with many different organizations in the community. With over 150 members, the club is full of students who are eager to help in any way. Some events involve many volunteers while others only take a few, so all students get a chance to participate.

The Key Club’s members suggest ideas at meetings so they can take part in activities that are meaningful or interesting. Outside organizations and agencies keep in touch with club advisor Ms. Janine Kalinowski.

“The Key Club board is also responsible for researching volunteer opportunities in the community. This year, we’ve had events to sign up for every week at meetings, which shows the growing reputation Key Club has developed in the community,” said Ms. Kalinowski.

Nearly everyone who takes part in volunteer work on a regular basis cites it as a very positive way to dedicate time.

“It is a great way for students to learn the joy of dedicating their time to helping others,” said Ms. Kalinowski. “Students who are active in community service establish much greater confidence and a strong self-concept.”

However, not everyone thinks that the most beneficial part of volunteering is the reward that the volunteer feels after helping someone else.

“I think that nowadays volunteering has become almost mandatory because so many high school students believe that you need it to get into college,” said Kim.

While it is true that many volunteer as another way to add to their college resumes, in the end, they still learn something about how it can feel to help others out.

“Volunteering in high school provides students with the opportunity to take initiative. It helps provide students with a stronger tie to their school and helps them to see the impact of their volunteerism on the larger community,” said Ms. Kalinowski. “Furthermore, it encourages the development of one’s moral and ethical character—traits that are valued in our society and help one grow as an individual.”

Students in the dark about importance of turning off the lights

BY CAMERON TAIT-OZER

Contributing Writer

Although global warming is a worldwide problem, it is possible to make a difference on a local level by recycling and conserving energy. These simple ways of helping the planet, however, are often overlooked, particularly in busy places like schools.

For this reason, the Treehuggers Environmental Club is taking action to lower the building’s overall energy use to ultimately reduce the school’s carbon footprint.

“It’s really important to raise awareness about energy conservation because people don’t realize how big an impact they actually have on the environment,” said club treasurer, junior Rachel Cohen. “People don’t know that the simple things they do can actually make a big difference.”

The Treehuggers Club, run by ESL teacher Ms. Julie Barbieri, has taken a

variety of steps to save energy. Its main quest is to find out and reduce the school’s carbon footprint. This will enable the club to accurately gauge exactly what the next step should be.

While solar panels would be one of the most effective ways of shrinking our carbon footprint, the cost, in addition to other factors, make this an unlikely improvement.

Energy reform is difficult to accomplish in a building like Schreiber, the age of which makes the idea of changing fuel sources essentially impossible. There are many smaller improvements, however, that can be made to benefit the environment.

Much of the school’s energy is consumed by heating, air conditioning, and many necessary educational appliances, such as computers, projectors and printers. Director of Facilities and Operations Mr. James Ristano has done mechanical maintenance to increase the efficiency of the appliances and communication devices throughout the school.

“Small investments, like increasing

efficiency, can reap high rewards,” said Mr. Ristano.

Other simple steps, like setting a temperature limit for the heat and air

“It’s really important to raise awareness about energy conservation because people don’t realize how big an impact they actually have on the environment,” said club treasurer junior Rachel Cohen.

conditioning, could greatly decrease the amount of energy the school uses. Turning off computers at the end of the day, which also saves energy, is already required by the administration.

“We want the school to use the smallest amount of energy possible without hindering education,” said Ms. Barbieri.

The Treehuggers Club also strives to make students conscious of how important and beneficial it is to be aware of energy consumption by publicizing worldwide events such as Earth Hour.

“The aim of Earth Hour is to bring awareness to world energy conservation, which is a vital cause,” said Ms. Barbieri.

Earth Hour, which is observed every March by people all over the world, urges people to turn off lights and appliances, and thus save power and reduce light pollution.

Although climate change cannot be stopped immediately, even a small amount of energy conservation can have a positive long-term effect.

Through promoting events such as Earth Hour and conserving energy within the building, Treehuggers hopes to remind students just how easy and important it is to turn off the lights.



INVESTIGATING INTEGRATION

Port Washington has long been recognized for its cultural diversity, and with a vast spectrum of ethnicities at Schreiber, all kinds of holiday spirit have transcended into the school's hallways.

"I think Schreiber is fairly diverse. There is certainly a broad range of cultures and nationalities represented in the student body," said ESL teacher Ms. Julie Barbieri.

Despite this distinguishing aspect, students still seem to surround themselves with those they are most comfortable with, whether it be friends, sports teams, or clubs. Students, and the school overall, have not taken full advantage of the possibilities of such a multicultural student body and learning environment.

"I'm surprised that we as a school do not celebrate cultural diversity as much as we could," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres. "Our celebrations are not fully defined as a real expression of cultural pride."

ESL/International Students

Schreiber's diversity is evident in its large population of international students. Yet, the tolerance of its atmosphere is also put to the test with these students, especially those whose first language is not English.

Over the years, the ESL department has expanded to accompany the growing

size of the international student body. It mainly consists of students from Central America as well as several Italian, Asian, and Israeli students.

"We are kind of like a big family. ESL students hang out in the ESL resource room, prefer to go to ESL teachers for extra help, and we have our own little celebrations for different cultures," said Ms. Barbieri.

"Some students take great advantage of the resources that ESL provides, yet those that do not may find that they continue to struggle," said Ms. Torres.

Although the department provides a tight-knit group to welcome these students and enable them to become acclimated, the ultimate goal is to make sure the students are integrated into the entire Schreiber community.

A few years ago, this goal was endangered by the prospective physical isolation of the ESL classes. Most of these classes were located right across from the ESL resource room. This would have essentially made an "ESL wing."

"We discussed that those classes should not all be in the same place. We moved ESL social studies classrooms to the social studies wing, the English classes to the English wing," said Ms. Torres. "All we did was to help create a schedule of a mainstream student. We did this to bring the ESL students out of that little corner in the building and help them feel part of the bigger school."

Despite this attempt by the administration, many ESL students are still segregated and choose to remain within the

parameters of the ESL department.

"They are separated from the mainstream because of their language abilities. Many spend a majority of their day learning English and other academics in sheltered classrooms. As a result, they are not integrated into academic classes," said Ms. Barbieri.

Generally, after their first year at Schreiber, ESL students are integrated into math classes and after the second year, into science classes. It is not until they achieve an advanced score in a year-end examination that these students are placed into regular English and social studies classes.

"When I first came here, I did not know any English and I felt shy," said ESL student sophomore Franklin Moran. "I thought it was the worst situation and I felt homesick, but when I learned from the ESL teachers, I started to speak English better. Now I can have a conversation with people easily and talk with them. Students like how I speak."

However, when it comes to social interactions, individual students must adjust to the school community.

"It depends on the student. People with outgoing personalities tend to integrate quickly without any hindrances, but that is only a few kids. A majority of students are more comfortable expressing themselves in their own language. Naturally, they are more comfortable to spend time with others of the same country and culture. It's the same in New York City with sections such as 'Little Italy' and 'Chinatown'; that's the way immigration

goes," said Ms. Barbieri.

When students come at an older age, it is usually more difficult for them to adjust. However, the abundant extracurricular opportunities offered at Schreiber eases this transition.

"I liked being on the swim team. Here, swimming is more competitive, but in a positive way," said ESL student freshman Anna Piona, who moved from Italy this summer. "The girls on the team helped me. It is difficult here, but I'm learning, and I'm happy."

"Unfortunately, a lot of the ESL kids have to work after school long hours, and they are not able to participate in after school activities. Many of them have after school commitments, which presents another road block," said Ms. Barbieri.

However, some students in the ESL department do not have many others to immediately associate with. Junior Zobia Iqbal is the only Pakistani student in the department.

"Many people in the department speak Spanish, so I felt awkward at first. In the beginning, it was difficult because I had no one to speak with. My counselor really helped me and my teachers support me a lot. Now, I am feeling better because I have a lot of friends," said Iqbal.

One of the distinctive features of the school's ESL services is its resource room. Though this does not necessarily help the students integrate, it helps them transition and gives them a place to congregate.

In recent years, celebrations such as National Hispanic Heritage Month have attempted to acculturate these students

with the general student body. In an event held earlier this year, students from language classes joined together with ESL students to enjoy a day of cultural awareness.

"Anything Schreiber does to recognize these kids helps them feel at home at large, not just within the ESL department," said Ms. Barbieri.

Last year, an attempt was made to create an ESL Alliance in which a mainstream student would act as a mentor to an ESL student. However, the students that were responsible for coordinating this alliance have graduated, and this mentorship program remains in its initial stages. Currently,

"It always surprises me how segregated the cafeteria looks because the setup does not reflect who I think people happen to be friends with," said Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres.

rently, new ESL students are paired with other classmates of the department to help them become adjusted to the school. "When a new kid comes in, we put them with another kid in ESL. Whereas if it were done by a student from the student body at large, the new student would have a connection and integrate from the beginning," said Ms. Barbieri.

Student Interactions

While Schreiber is free from overt racism, some social groups remain relatively exclusive by race.

"I do not notice any intolerance in class," said English teacher Ms. Jennifer Sacha. "I find students to be open-minded during discussions."

Although the school is fairly tolerant, there have been several occurrences resulting from racial bias.

"There are always going to be a handful of kids who have deep-rooted issues and biases against some cultures, but I do feel an overwhelming amount of students are tolerant," said Ms. Torres.

In health classes, these issues are frequently addressed. Although there is not a specific unit in the curriculum, the health teachers stress the importance of acceptance and tolerance.

"Every single day, every single lesson, we address these issues," said Ms. Pat Kosiba. "In my classroom, I promote tolerance, yet in the halls I have seen disrespect."

When cases arise of student harassment regarding ethnicity or religion, each incident is handled on an individual basis.

"I have been presented with lots of bullying instances. Sometimes it is based on races, and other times it is based on sexuality. I handle each situation either on a one-on-one basis or by involving all parties," said Ms. Kosiba.

To get any student adjusted to Schreiber, there are many resources and many ways to reach out and help.

"I'll reach out to students. If I recognize people's special abilities or talents, I will try to get them involved with those activities in which they can utilize these abilities," said Ms. Kosiba.

Although the school is certainly more diverse than many other Long Island areas, the typical high school cafeteria setup is very much a part of the Schreiber cul-

ture.

"There are definitely a lot of tables in the cafeteria that are made up of the same ethnicity, but most tables have a mix of all races. I rarely just sit with 'white' people," said senior Jason Hubsher.

"People at Schreiber don't usually mix with those of different cultures," said senior Andrew Oh. "You see the Asian students together, the Hispanic students together, and then you see a whole lot of Caucasian students."

This social segregation, typical of any high school, might result from peer pressure and other social expectations.

"It always surprises me how segregated the cafeteria looks because the setup does not reflect who I think people happen to be friends with," said Ms. Torres. "On a one-to-one basis, students are more comfortable breaking through social barriers than in a large group setting, like the cafeteria."

Not only are there social groups based on cultures, but there are many groups based on various academic and extracurricular interests.

"I think our school is pretty accepting, but that does not mean that people don't stay with groups of people who have common interests," said junior Rachel Cohen.

Although it is natural for students to socialize with those with similar interests, this is further enhanced by the school's scheduling system in which students are often in classes with the same groups of peers.

"Although within each group there is diversity, within different interest groups, students do not mix. Overall, academic groups do not mix, yet there is diversity within those select groups. I feel that students at Schreiber are segregated by extracurricular interests," said Ms. Torres.

Multicultural Appreciation

With such cultural diversity, it is surprising that the school does not have an established event that celebrates internationality. Many schools across Long Island have held such celebrations, including a multicultural talent show.

"Other schools have a multicultural talent show night where they showcase all cultures in such an exciting way. All different students and people would be attracted to come to celebrate cultures," said health teacher Ms. Meghan Harding.

"In my own district, I know of these events in which students are able to share their heritage through venues such as the Chinese yo-yo, Indian cultural dance, and Irish step-dancing," said Ms. Kosiba.

Last year, several students led by '10 alumna Christina Vlahos and Ms. Torres planned the school's first Multicultural Night. At the event, students performed acts representing their culture including an Indian-Latino dance number, and a Korean instrumental performance. Junior David White light-heartedly discussed his experience transitioning into America from Ireland. Additionally, food from many cultures was offered.

"Last year, we had this event called Multicultural Night. It was really exciting and fun to highlight underrepresented cultures and their corresponding traditions. Hopefully we can continue the tradition this year," said senior SonYon Song. "Events like these are important because they help educate the student body about various cultures," said senior Katharine Fields.

It remains to be seen if this event will be held this year and eventually become an annual tradition to recognize the school's cultural diversity.

One club that works on uniting the student body is Bridging The Gap.

"Students interested in celebrating each other's similarities and embracing

each other's differences are involved with this club," said club adviser Ms. Marisa DeMarco. "Students from all backgrounds come to club meetings to voice their ideas, opinions, issues, and concerns, whether it be on a personal, local, or international level. Many club members have joined in the hopes of gaining global awareness and engaging in positive activities that benefit others."

This club hosts a variety of guest speakers and holds events to reach out to the school community and bring about multicultural awareness and appreciation.

Recently, six students attended the "ERASE RACISM" Conference to meet various students on Long Island and to become leaders within the school community and promote tolerance.

"The goal of the club is to tie the school

and community together," said Ms. DeMarco.

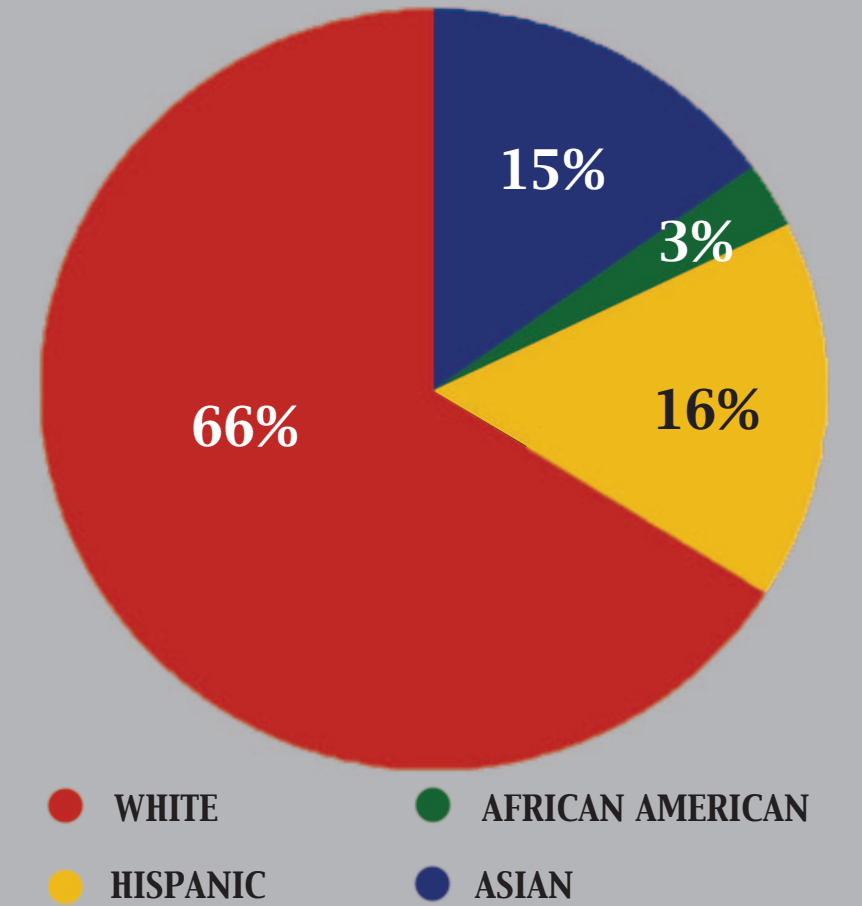
In addition, civil rights activist Ruby Bridges is coming to speak to high school students this March.

The club is also hoping to develop collaborative projects bridging together elementary and high school students through a Mentorship program.

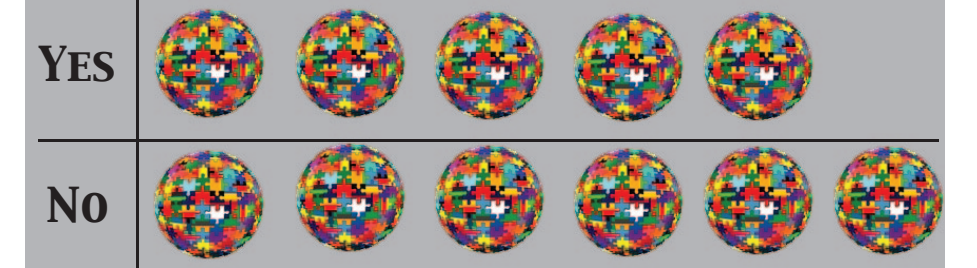
"With this program, we are instilling a sense of love, acceptance, and tolerance through an inter-generational approach," said Ms. DeMarco.

Written by Sahil Doshi and Leah Nash

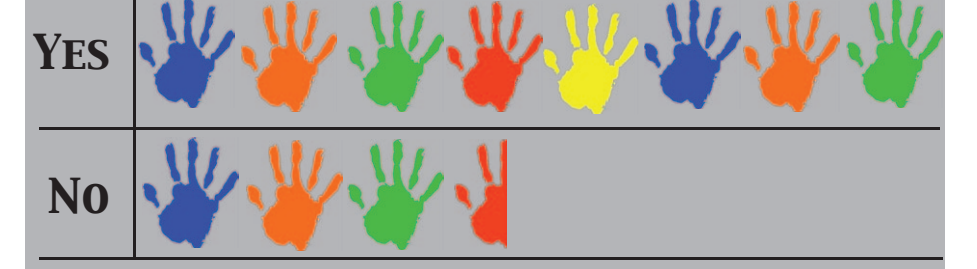
SCHREIBER'S ETHNIC BREAKDOWN



DO YOU BELIEVE OUR STUDENT BODY IS RACIALLY INTEGRATED?



SHOULD OUR SCHOOL HAVE MORE MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS?



= 20 PEOPLE



Courtesy of Ms. Marisa DeMarco



Courtesy of Christina Vlahos

Left: Seven members of the Bridging The Gap club attended the "ERASE RACISM" Conference on Nov. 11. The focus of the conference was to promote tolerance and acceptance. Students all across Long Island came together to learn about becoming leaders within the school community.

Right: Last year, the school held its first Multicultural Night. During the event, there were several performances such as this Greek dance called Chassapasserwiko. Students were able to interact with each other and experience traditions of cultures from around the world.

Think Facebook is a distraction? Try Neopets

By **Jeremy Eule and Kristin Yu**

Contributing Writer and Assistant News Editor

An epidemic is sweeping through the student body, affecting students from every grade. The majority of those affected are seniors.

This epidemic is none other than Neopet-itis. Increasing numbers of students are becoming re-addicted to the popular website Neopets.

Neopets is a website that allows players to create usernames and virtual imaginary pets.

Users may buy, sell, and collect some of the thousands of items Neopets has created and sells in their various shops. Users may also paint their Neopets with exclusive paintbrushes, and play virtual games.

Neopets was originally popular among elementary school and some middle school students.

A widespread Neopets craze occurred in the early 2000s as young students found hours of amusement, countless challenges and a major vehicle of procrastination on the virtual site.

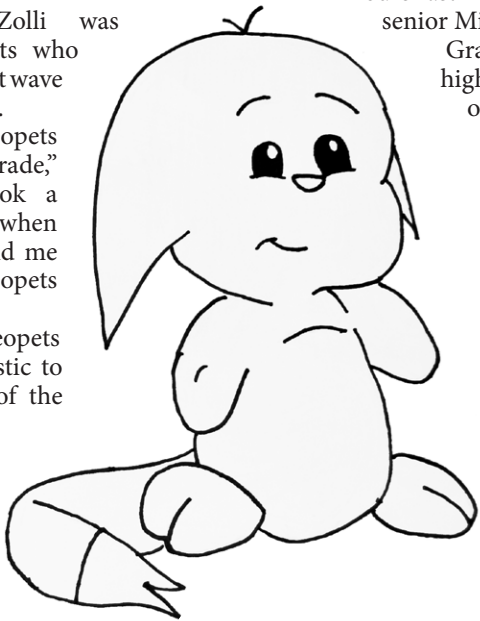
Senior Nikki Zolli was among those students who participated in the first wave of Neopets fanaticism.

"I used to play Neopets when I was in third grade," said Zaolli. "I took a hiatus until recently when one of my friends told me about their new Neopets account."

However, not all Neopets users are as enthusiastic to publicize their love of the site.

"There is no chance in heck that I'm going to be in a Neopets article," said senior Timo Santala.

Santala has



accumulated 9.5 million Neopoints since he began playing on the site.

Still, others play Neopets as part of the growing Neopets trend and peer pressure.

"I only play Neopets when Timo Santala is online. His username is AnimalToast. It's an anagram. He's a clever kid. Add him," said senior Stella Kim.

Kim can often be found on Neopets for hours at a time, according to the Neopets' "Friends online now!" notification.

To some, Neopets is a means of escape from the immense pressures of high school work and college applications. Reactivating Neopets accounts is a new symptom of the disease commonly known as "senioritis."

Other symptoms of senioritis include procrastination of major projects, not completing assignments after, or even before, being accepted to college, and simply ceasing to care about anything school-related.

"Instead of applying to colleges, I decided to play Neopets for three straight hours last Tuesday night," said senior Michael Graf.

Graf also offered a high-five, a symbol of the popular and commonly uttered phrase, "Seniors '11," also pronounced "Senyas '11."

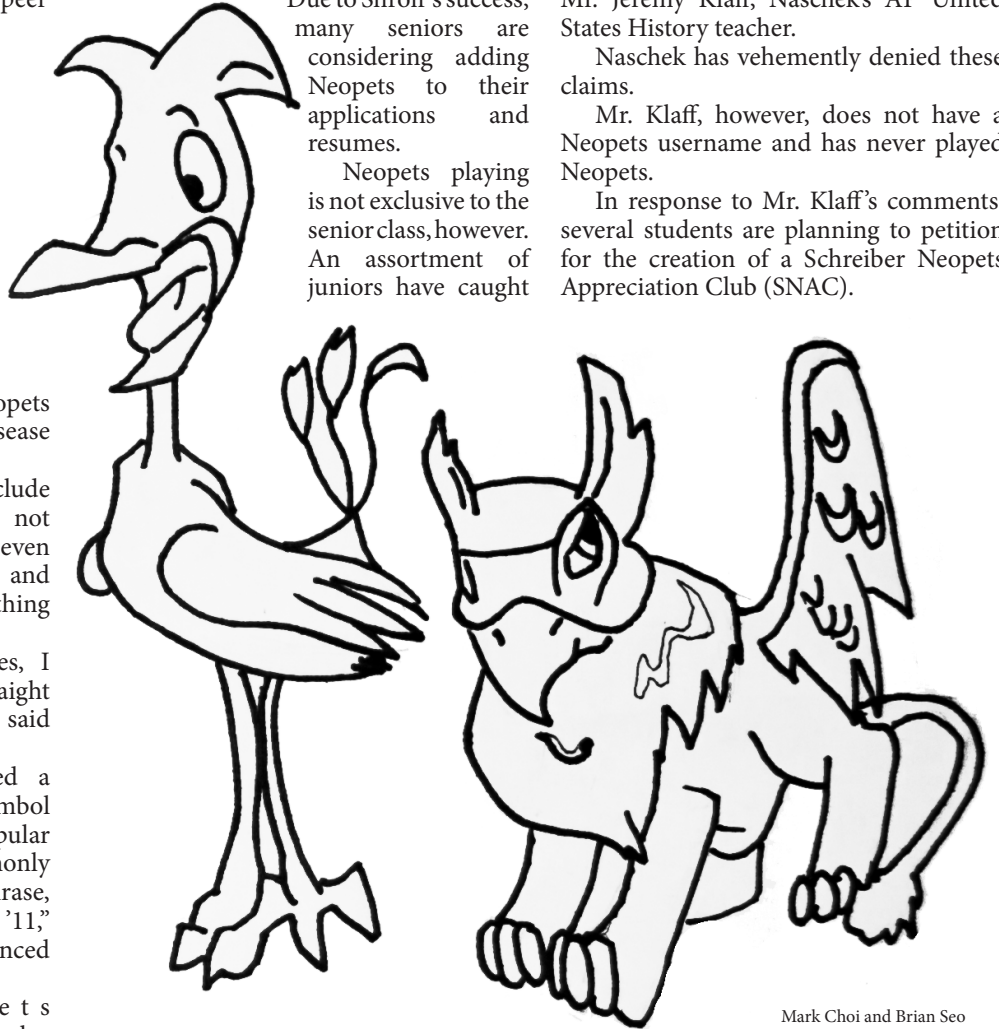
Neopets playing may also be viewed as a sign of intelligence and achievement.

Senior Aditi Shroff allegedly wrote "Neopets" under the extracurricular section of her application to the University of

Pennsylvania, to which she was recently accepted. This acceptance may be partially attributed to her dedication to Neopets.

Due to Shroff's success, many seniors are considering adding Neopets to their applications and resumes.

Neopets playing is not exclusive to the senior class, however. An assortment of juniors have caught



Mark Choi and Brian Seo

on to the trend.

The majority of the sophomore and freshmen classes have not yet recognized the merits of playing Neopets. Such benefits include social isolation.

"Neopets is much more exciting than socializing," said junior Melissa Naschek.

Naschek has not left her house for three consecutive weekends.

Another feature of Neopets playing is a decline in grades.

"Melissa has not completed any of her work recently, which I hear is due to her unhealthy obsession with Neopets," said Mr. Jeremy Klaff, Naschek's AP United States History teacher.

Naschek has vehemently denied these claims.

Mr. Klaff, however, does not have a Neopets username and has never played Neopets.

In response to Mr. Klaff's comments, several students are planning to petition for the creation of a Schreiber Neopets Appreciation Club (SNAC).

The mission of this proposed club would be to increase public awareness, recognition and appreciation of the many benefits of Neopets playing. Another focus of the club would be to celebrate the variety of wonderful and exotic Neopets that exist.

"People should play Neopets because all the cool kids are doing it," said Kim. "Seniors '11!"

With cautionary measures, school stays safe and sound

By **Katya Barrett**

Features Editor

A student is running late. In an attempt to get to math class as quickly as possible, he or she runs to the side entrance of the A-wing, but finds out the door is locked. The student must now go around to the main entrance. While the locking of entrances may be frustrating, it is done for a reason.

"Having so many doors around the building is a significant issue," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller. "Since we can't have personnel at each all the time, locking them is necessary to maintain a secure environment."

The reason for keeping certain doors shut throughout the day is simple; it allows the administration to have control over access to the building.

Despite its necessity, the regulation of school exits remains confusing, and sometimes even frustrating, as many are opened or closed at different times.

While the main doors are open all day, other entrances, such as the ones in the back of the school, are only open until approximately 8:15 a.m.

"I usually come into school through the entrance near the atrium, but when I come in late because I have first period off, the door is locked," said junior Elyse Belarge. "This is frustrating, particularly when it is cold or raining outside, because it makes my walk longer to have to enter through the lobby."

Making visitors sign in and out at the table in the lobby is another way the administration remains knowledgeable of who is in the building at any time.

"We don't want just anyone to be able to walk into the building," said Mr. Miller.

The doors that cause the most controversy when they are kept closed are the ones that provide access to the cafeteria from outside. Many students maintain that the amount of time it takes to walk around to the main entrance, an action made even more difficult when carrying something heavy, is a reason why these doors should remain open.

"I don't think that there is enough of a reason for these doors to be locked," said freshman Simon Shapiro. "It shouldn't have to be a big deal if someone wants to use a shortcut to get to lunch faster, or if someone carrying a heavy box full of food from Bayview, for example, wants to make

a shorter trip."

Although students may complain that keeping many of the entrances and exits to the building locked throughout the day is inconvenient, the administration continues to maintain that it is necessary.

"The inconvenience is secondary to students' safety," said Mr. Miller. "Our number one job is to make sure that everyone is safe."

Observant students may have noticed recently that the doors that connect the main staircase to the circle have been replaced.

This change was necessary because the previous doors were extremely old and could not lock properly.

This created a security threat for everyone during the day and for school property at night.

Keeping doors shut, however, is just one aspect of the administration's plan to keep the school secure. A common sight throughout the school is teachers on hall duty.

While hall duty may seem unnecessary, it is actually another key component of maintaining a safe environment.

The hall duty posts are strategically located near high traffic areas,

entrances, or places where students often congregate.

"I think having teachers on hall duty is beneficial because in case anything ever did go wrong, there would be a teacher there to deal with it," said junior Sean Mintz.

There are 17 hall duty posts in ranking order of priority, although they are never all covered at once.

During any period on a given day, the maximum number of posts being covered is eight.

"We simply don't have enough staff to cover all of them," said Mr. Miller. "We created that number of posts, however, so that in an emergency, teachers could be directed to go to precise locations."

From monitoring entrances and exits to keeping an eye on the hallways, the administration and staff are constantly working to keep the school secure. This goal, however, does require a degree of cooperation from students.

"Everything we do, we do to protect students," said Mr. Miller. "When you think about it, walking ten feet to go around to the main entrance is not that inconvenient."

The nutrition facts: beyond protein, carbs and fats

BY **Blake and Reid Mergler**

Senior Opinions Editor and Senior Features Editor

With the national obesity rate around 30 percent, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, most students have likely encountered somebody who is obese, whether it is their loved ones or strangers.

But contrary to the media's messages, skinny does not automatically mean healthy.

Facing what many consider to be an epidemic in this country, students are now becoming aware of the benefits of being health-conscious, the myths associated with health, and the consequences of a sedentary lifestyle.

Education in Health and Nutrition

Physical education and health education, both of which are required classes, provide students with a base of knowledge before they graduate.

In these two departments, many faculty members are passionate about raising awareness about how to live a healthy lifestyle through nutrition and exercise.

"By virtue of what I've devoted my life to, just teaching physical fitness classes is how I promote health," said physical education teacher and coach Ms. Robin Cooper. "There are always conversations during class regarding what we are doing, and I welcome questions, give advice, and offer information to all."

Meeting with each class twice per cycle, physical education teachers try to promote an active lifestyle and its benefits.

For students who might not have any activity in their lives, however, the minimum state requirement for class meetings might not be enough time for teachers to instill the value of exercise.

"Our students can be introduced to activities, yet they cannot become proficient," said Ms. Cooper. "Our classes and choices are great, and we have an amazing and diverse program; we just don't have it often enough."

Although Ms. Cooper believes that there is a limit to how much impact

physical education has on students, she has seen an improvement over the last ten years.

According to Ms. Cooper, there is an increasing awareness of health issues among students due to the media, the number of gyms per square mile, the spread of yoga and pilates studios, and the popularization of healthy foods.

"Students don't care now about what goes into their body. They believe they are invincible and that they won't get cancer, diabetes, or be overweight. Kids think in the moment and the bad behaviors continue unless someone at home or close gets sick," said Ms. Cooper.

Health teachers have interacted with various types of students including those who think thin equals healthy and those who do not recognize the consequences of poor nutrition and lack of exercise.

There are major differences between the ninth and eleventh grade classes, in which older students make more independent food choices.

"They are starting to drive, and socializing more at restaurants and thus probably eating out more," said health education teacher Ms. Janine Kalinowski. "With this new freedom and lifestyle change, they are faced with decisions about food that they maybe did not have to make before. It could be a big change from when Mom or Dad packed their lunch or when the majority of their meals were spent at home."

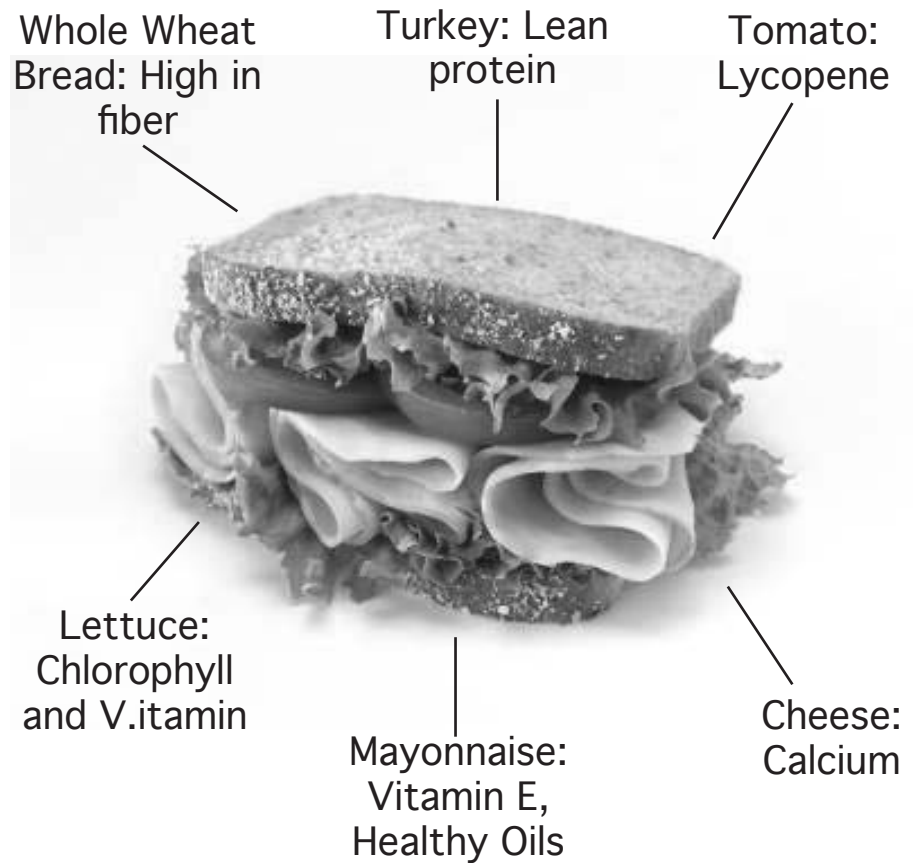
Part of the challenge in teaching high school students about healthy living is students need help breaking poor habits that have developed.

Health teachers strive to bring nutritional habits to the forefront and address the cultural impact of foods.

These professionals address cultural habits regarding nutrition and exercise. Encouraging each individual to make slight or major improvements in his or her life seems to be the most effective method of instilling healthy values in students.

"Students come to health class with 14 to 17 years worth of nutritional habits; it's a matter of getting them to wake-up to their habits and what drives their choices," said Ms. Kalinowski.

There are also electives given through



the family and consumer sciences department, including Food and Nutrition and Culture and Foods, that students can take advantage of throughout their high school careers.

The Nutrition Committee

In Schreiber, there is an increasing effort to address the nutritional needs of students and teachers. According to its mission statement, the Port Washington Union Free School District Nutrition Committee members advocate for high quality, flavorful, and visually appealing cafeteria selections that are nutritionally sound and consistent with School Food Reform and in keeping with the federal Child Nutrition Program and Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act.

About 10 years ago, the HSA position was to act as a liaison between the Food Service Management Company (FSMC) and the school.

The nutrition representatives attended monthly meetings to review the lunch menu and to work with the food service company to improve the lunch options.

According to a member of the Nutrition Committee, at that time, the menus included typical "fast food:" processed food including chicken nuggets and a variety of frozen pizza options, canned fruits and vegetables, and even an option to "super size" the entrée.

"Over the past 10 years, the HSA nutrition representative position not only continues to represent its school at monthly meetings, but also helps bring more opportunities for nutrition education to the students," said a Registered Dietitian and Nutritionist and district Nutrition Committee member who wishes to remain anonymous.

Through the efforts of this committee, there have been "sample days" and improvements to the menu to offer diversity and better quality.

The committee has ensured that fresh fruits and vegetables as well as a salad bar are available daily.

Even though these adjustments were an attempt to to alleviate the health issues

at Schreiber, there are other aspects of the school that are worthy of increased attention.

"We need to figure out how to expedite the flow through the cafeteria's deli sandwich and salad bar lines. We would like to have pre-made sandwiches and salads available for a grab-and-go purchase in the Commons. In addition, we need to have improved vending choices that are consistent with the newly signed Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act, which requires the USDA to update the national nutrition standards and regulate the sugary beverages and unhealthy snacks found in vending, a la carte items, and elsewhere on school grounds," said the District Nutrition Committee member.

Administration

While the school administration has many other issues to deal with, it still focuses heavily on the overall health and wellness of students.

In conjunction with the District Nutrition Committee, the administration sets guidelines for everyday practices to adhere to a district-wide promotion of nutritional awareness and healthy habits.

According to Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss, non-healthy food items (i.e. bake sales, candy, soda) may not be sold until 30 minutes after the last lunch period and instead, non-food fundraisers are encouraged.

Classroom celebrations with unhealthy food items as well as the use of food as a reward are also discouraged. Although the administration has not changed in its views on nutrition from year to year, it has implemented a salad bar in the hope of directly helping students make healthy choices for lunch.

By supporting the creation of the Healthnuts Nutrition Club and by encouraging parents and faculty to follow health-related guidelines, the administration is taking many proactive steps.

"As society becomes more aware of food and nutrition issues, so does the Schreiber community," said Mr. Weiss.

Café additions without additives

BY **Nicole Zwiener**

Contributing Writer

The cafeteria is filled with information about how to make healthy choices when deciding what to eat for lunch.

The salad and sandwich bars in the cafeteria provide healthy, inexpensive choices that will benefit the body and take a load off the wallet.

The sandwich bar is located on the right side of the cafeteria and has various options from which to choose. For bread, students can choose from a wrap, fresh roll, whole wheat or white bread.

For protein, students can choose from Boars Head turkey, salami, ham, or roast beef. And for added taste, students can add lettuce, tomato, peppers, mayo, mustard, and a variety of dressings and cheeses.

There are no added oils or fats of which students are unaware. These sandwiches are normally \$2.50 (extra \$0.50 with cheese).

Due to the efforts of the Nutrition Committee and administration, the salad bar is a popular new feature that has just been added to the cafeteria. The salads are just as good as restaurant salads and are definitely cheaper.

The cafeteria offers a variety of choices of salads—the classics that everyone can enjoy such as Greek, Caesar, harvest and BBQ. These tasty and delicious salads start at \$2.75.

The make-your-own option is priced at \$4.00, and students can pick four toppings, including chickpeas, peppers, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, and other healthy options.

The administration thinks that this addition is beneficial to the students and faculty.

"We love the salad bar!" said Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss. "Students really seem to be taking to it to the point that the cafeteria is struggling to keep up with demand. The faculty seems to like it too."

Being a double does not always cause trouble

BY Georgia Goodman and Alexa Pinto

Staff Writers

Don't worry, you're not seeing double. As you walk down the halls, you're only seeing the many pairs of twins that attend Schreiber.

Although twins may not dress and accessorize in the same way as they used to in elementary school, they still sometimes cause confusion in the school community.

There has been a general increase in the number of twins or siblings walking around the hallways. While there are only a few twins in the senior and junior classes, there are about eight sets of twins and one set of triplets in the sophomore class, and more than ten sets in the freshman class.

The Spirit Week Committee jokingly used the high number of twins to set up an event for the school's most recent pep rally. In the wheelbarrow race competition, the Joutovsky twins of the senior class triumphed over the Haussman twins of the sophomore class. This gave the Joutovsky twins an opportunity to work together in front of the entire student body.

"Together, we were one, and we won, together" said the Joutovsky twins in unison.

The school does not have a policy regarding putting twins into separate classes. Although there is no set rule, guidance counselors usually meet with the students and their families. Whether or not the twins feel comfortable in a class together is the make-or-break point for creating their schedule.

"Whether it involves twins, triplets, or siblings, what we try to do is find the best format for their schedule. We want to know how they are different and have them work towards enhancing those differences and individual strengths," said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy.

Some of the twins in school face slight conflicts when and if they are put into the same classes. Because the students are identical, teachers often get their names confused.

At times, this may be humorous, but many students feel uncomfortable with their siblings in the same class. They want to build their own identities instead of becoming known simply as "the twins."

Freshmen twins Darby and Dillon Drukker prefer to not be in any classes



Loren Giron

Working together, seniors Boris and Lenny Joutovsky defeated sophomore Haussman twins in the wheelbarrow race during the October pep rally. Their matching outfits attracted attention from the student body.

together, yet the girls feel that there is an advantage to having a sibling or twin in the same school.

"We would rather not have classes together because we see each other enough at home," said Darby Drukker. "It does benefit us, because you're never alone. They're always there to help you."

Although sophomore twins Taylor and Jacob Eisenberg don't have any classes together this year, they seem to feel the same way. Last year, when the two sophomores were freshmen, they were both in band. It did not matter that they were in the same class, but Taylor feels that, as a general principle, teachers often treat one differently when he or she is by himself.

"A lot of the time, twins are compared in terms of grades. My teacher probably thinks of me more as an individual in a class without my brother in it," said Eisenberg.

The views of some teachers differ from students regarding this topic. Spanish teacher Ms. Nancy Zove teaches a pair of twins the same subject during different periods. She would rather twins be in separate classes than be together.

"I think, personally, twins should spend more time apart in school to develop their independence and own

personalities," said Ms. Zove.

Although health teacher Ms. Pat Kosiba has never had twins in the same class, she feels she has confessed that she is already "name challenged," and that this has been a common problem among her students in all classes.

"The only issue I would have with twins in the same class is that if they were identical, I would have trouble telling them apart," said Ms. Kosiba.

AP European History teacher Mr. Alex Sepulveda agrees with Ms. Kosiba. To him, teaching twins together in the same class is not a hardship. Sophomores Emily and Lani Hack are in one of Mr. Sepulveda's classes, and they are the first set of twins that he's ever taught at the same time.

"I mix them up all the time," said Mr. Sepulveda. "I always confuse them, yet it is fine. When twins are in different classes, it is easier for me to pick up on some characteristics to help delineate between the two."

When it comes to it, twins will often face conflicts when in the same class, or even school—names and faces are routinely confused. However, twins have the choice and can decide for themselves how they want to identify themselves and whether or not they want to bring their family life into the classroom.

Quest for a new principal

BY Reid Mergler

Senior Features Editor

With the retirement of Principal Mr. Jay Lewis last summer, the district has begun searching for a new principal to lead the high school.

While Interim Principal Dr. Frank Banta fills the void temporarily this year, the selection committee will spend the upcoming months finding the perfect match.

"All of us have worked very hard to make Schreiber one of the best high schools in the United States. Therefore, we are looking for an outstanding educational leader who is either proven to be a very successful principal in the past, or has the growth potential to lead such a high achieving district," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon. "As you can tell from the teachers we have hired, we only hire the best people for our students and community."

The process to accomplish this task involves many stages. First, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kathy Mooney received approximately 40 applications.

Next, the assistant superintendents interviewed the top 16 candidates. This stage is known as the screening process, and helps with selecting those most suitable for the position.

"Stage 3 is that the committees of parents, administrators and teachers are selected, briefed by Dr. Mooney, and interviewed," said Dr. Gordon. "If any candidates are selected by the committees, then they are interviewed by me, a committee of students and the Board of Education."

Finally, if a candidate has a significant consensus of support and passes a background check, then in accordance with state mandate, Dr. Gordon makes a recommendation to the BOE. The BOE has the final approval power.

"One reason that our schools are so highly rated and getting stronger in student achievement is that we have a rigorous selection process to pick the very best candidate for our students and community," said Dr. Gordon.

The process involves three different committees to include multiple perspectives. Whether one is a teacher, administrator, or parent, each has expertise to make the decision.

"With a position as important as High School Principal, I look for a candidate whom all three committees support," said Dr. Gordon. "Parents want someone who communicates well to parents and students as part of the home-school partnership. Administrators want a colleague with whom they can share ideas and who is of the highest professional level. Teachers want someone who supervises them to be a real educational leader."

Recently, the assistant superintendents screened 16 applicants and have recommended five candidates to be interviewed.

Although this process is demanding, it has been used in the past and has proven to be thorough and beneficial, according to Dr. Gordon.

"I am very proud, that while no system is foolproof, this model has worked tremendously well for our district," said Dr. Gordon.

Twin Talk with Mr. Klaff

Senior Features Editor and identical twin Reid Mergler interviews A.P. U.S. History teacher Mr. Jeremy Klaff about his view on twins at Schreiber. Last year, Mr. Klaff became a father to twins, Brendan and William Klaff.

Reid Mergler: How do you try to grade twins differently?

Jeremy Klaff: I don't look at twins as being the same person, especially if they are fraternal, of course. When you are grading papers or tests, you only see the name at the top, and not the face.

RM: As a father of twins, do you think Schreiber should encourage separation in classes or keep twins together?

JK: I have had twins in the same class, and also in different classes at the same time. I think it should be up to the luck of the schedule, as I think twins should be treated like everyone else. If there is a class that they fall into at the same time, I don't see why the school would pull one twin out and rearrange their schedule based on DNA.

RM: Do you think you can tell the differences between your identical students and how long does it usually take you?

JK: To be honest, I still have no idea which Mergler is which Mergler. I have a good idea who the Eisenbergs are.

RM: What do you think of the increased prevalence of twins at Schreiber?

JK: I have thought about this, and here is my biological explanation. Let's say one person has the twin gene. They have two kids. Now these two kids have the gene. Each of these kids have 2 kids — now 4 more people have the gene! I think it's only a matter of time before twins take over the world.

RM: Any additional comments?

JK: I encourage twins to get different haircuts for the first day of school.

RM: Thanks so much and good luck with your twins!

JK: No problem Reid. Wait...which one is Reid?

arts & Entertainment

The magic comes alive but the plot fails to impress *A poor script and average acting make the third Narnia nothing more than a family movie*

BY **Katie Fishbin**
and **Lily Weisberg**
Staff Writer & Contributing Writer

Based on the fantasy series by C.S. Lewis, the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Voyage of the Dawn Treader* is a magical adventure. Through special effects, this unrealistic plot line feels real despite the fact that it takes place in a far away and magical land. In addition to these life-like effects, the actors greatly enhanced the viewing experience.

In this sequel to the prior *Chronicles of Narnia* movies *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *Prince Caspian*, the setting starts off in the real world, as always. In this film, though, we first see the two younger siblings Edmund (Skandar Keynes) and Lucy (Georgie Henley), along with their dreadful cousin Eustace (Will Poulter).

Eustace's negative attitude toward his cousins leads to an unexpected adventure. While teasing both Edmund and Lucy about their discussions of Narnia, something strange occurs.

The painting in their room becomes a bridge into their fantasy land, Narnia. Although this transition occurs quickly, we had expected something out of the ordinary.

Like the other *Chronicles of Narnia* movies, this introduction instilled a sense

of thrill.

A new journey was presented, and it was the characters' duty to fulfill their positions in this land. They must complete a voyage for the survival of Narnia. With the help of both recurring and new characters, the children's long lasting battle was a fight for peace throughout Narnia.

Throughout the movie, the characters are at sea with a courageous crew led by Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes). He is vital in this story and very close with Edmund and Lucy.

The ship sails from island to island to fight the evil forces and collect the seven swords.

All we are told is that the seven swords can do great things when they are aligned together. These tools are associated with seven men who had a very close connection with Prince Caspian and his father.

With determination, the Prince sets out to track down these tools with the help of Lucy, Edmund, Eustace, and the rest of the crew.

Because the characters are in a very different land, the special effects are a vital aspect of the movie. The technicians must create amazing vistas and yet sustain



Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes) and Edmund (Skandar Keynes) have a friendly discussion as they prepare for their mission to save Narnia from evil.

a reasonable amount of credibility. Due to the fact that the plot line is extremely enchanting, in order to visualize it, the setting must be flawless.

The set directors did a great job creating the backdrop and using the special effects in order to make the movie come to life. The movie is even a semifinalist for an Oscar nomination for its special effects. We would suggest watching the movie in 2D because 3D does not add positively to it at all.

In addition to the scenery and effects, the costumes and makeup were very well done. Many people had to look like fantastical creatures, and through the use of makeup, this was achieved well.

Along with the immortal creatures, the extras were perfectly dressed to give off the right effects. Overall, this aspect of the movie was very enjoyable.

However, the movies are rather immature compared to the books. While they do mostly follow the plot lines, the concepts are "dumbed" down to appeal to the younger audience. This takes away from the likeability of the movie for older viewers or fans of the books.

The casting was very well done. Each character fit in his or her role and portrayed the characters accurately. Since the first movie, each actor has become better and more experienced.

Unfortunately, the way the characters are portrayed in the movie works to the actors' disadvantage. There is not a lot of character development so it is difficult for these actors to fully embody their roles.

After a very weak sequel, this movie opened to low expectations. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* was the best of the three, and *Prince Caspian* was the worst. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* could not return to the glory of the first movie but was definitely a big step up from *Prince Caspian*. It was still a good effort, but if it were to be the last movie of the series, there are some plot lines that are left hanging.

Although not a great film, it was an enjoyable and light-hearted family movie that was a change from the normal action or comedy one found in theaters. Similar to *Harry Potter*, the fantasy genre captured our interest and allowed us to escape from reality for a little while into the world of Narnia.

While we do wish the movie well because of its "feel good" vibe, it is in no way comparable to the Potter series. We would not necessarily recommend it for thriller fans, but if you are looking to spend a pleasant two hours relaxing in the movie theater, this would be a good choice for you.



Lucy (Georgie Henley), Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes), and Edmund (Skandar Keynes) discover more about the adventure they have embarked on Narnia.

Franco gives a winning performance in a touching movie

BY Jess Greenwald
Staff Writer

127 Hours is the true story about Aron Ralston, an outdoorsman who in 2003 had his arm pinned to a boulder while rock climbing in the Utah desert. The film takes you through the nerve wrenching, hard to watch 127 hours of Ralston's survival while isolated and deserted with limited food and water.

Directed by Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire*) *127 Hours* could have been an incredible movie but unfortunately loses some of its appeal from a disjointed and slow buildup which deals with a lot of split screen angles which become nauseating after awhile.

These problems come about as a result of Danny Boyle's directing. Some of his

camera work and visuals are both frustrating and irritating to watch and take away from the rest of the film. Although a good film, *127 Hours* could have been much better movie in the hands of a different director.

The film starts with Aron Ralston's weekend hiking trip through the Utah desert. There he meets two young women and ends up acting as their tour guide for the day. As a surprise Ralston decides to take the young hikers to an underground lake which lies beneath the Utah Mountains.

In one of the most memorable scenes of the movie, Ralston shows his tour group that while climbing and pushing through the mountain crevice they can simply let go and fall the long way down into the lake. Although an incredibly awesome scene, the movie does not actually start

until Ralston actually gets trapped in the desert.

It almost seems as if there are two separate movies: one before the accident and one after. They seem to be very separate and distinct from one another and don't flow together smoothly.

Although the first part of the movie was a slow build up, *127 Hours* picks itself up in the second act and becomes an intense and gut wrenching drama that keeps you on the edge of your seat.

James Franco gives his greatest performance to date as Aaron Ralston, a young enthusiast, in over his head outdoorsman. Without a strong lead performance, the movie would have fallen flat on its face. Luckily Franco saved the movie with what is sure to be an Oscar-nominated role.

The film mainly deals with the psychological aspect of Ralston's 127 hours in the Utah desert. *127 Hours* is a one man act that has very little supporting roles. Most of the film deals directly with James Franco and the videos he makes on his camcorder while pinned to the boulder. This gives the movie a very isolated and claustrophobic undertone.

The film takes you through Ralston's gradual slip into insanity where you see certain flashbacks and hallucinations that



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The audience is able to experience Aron Ralston's (James Franco) journey through Utah while getting insight into his personal memories and the lessons he has learned.

take you into the characters past. The movie also takes you through the brutal realities of the situation such as when Ralston has to drink his own urine in order to stay hydrated.

127 Hours is not for the light hearted or for the squeamish. As many know Aaron Ralston resorted to amputating his right arm with a dull knife in order to free himself from the boulder.

Do not think that knowing what happens will ruin the movie. Knowing what happens in advance actually makes the film even more difficult and unsettling to watch. As a warning the bloody graphic detail of Ralston's escape is sure to turn some viewers off.

For those who have the stomach to get through the last part of the movie, *127 Hours* will make you leave the theatre glad to be alive. Although there are some annoying aspects of the film, *127 Hours* is a must see.



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Aron Ralston (James Franco) made many mistakes with his ex-girlfriend Rana (Clemence Poesy). After his accident, Ralston re-evaluates what went wrong in the relationship.

Dark and sinister, *Black Swan* has twists and turns that shock the audience

BY Victor Dos Santos
Staff Writer

Darren Aronofsky has always been known for making movies that can really mess with your head, both visually and mentally. He manages to do exactly that with *Black Swan*, the new film starring Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, and Vincent Cassell. After watching this movie,

you are probably going to want to take a break from psychological thrillers.

The film tells the tale of Nina Sayers (Portman), a kind hearted and seemingly innocent ballet dancer. After landing the role of the Swan Queen in her company's production of *Swan Lake*, she is overwhelmed by the stress of preparing for the upcoming show.

In addition, a new member of the company, Lily (Kunis), is "following" her,

which causes Nina to change into a totally different person than she was before.

Black Swan can be seen as both a character study of Nina, as well as Aronofsky's sick, twisted vision of *Swan Lake*. Aronofsky uses a tremendous amount of symbolism referring to the ballet. He also incorporates a fantastic musical score by Clint Mansell, which is very subtle at times but at other times, it is music directly from *Swan Lake*.

This makes the movie a bit predictable if you're familiar with the story of *Swan Lake*, but Aronofsky manages to take that story and film a mind-bending, intense, psychological thriller out of it. He manages to keep the beauty and true meaning behind *Swan Lake*.

Aronofsky also allows us to see Nina's character at the brink of insanity and what is truly happening inside of her head. There is a great depth to her character, thanks to the screenplay by Mark Heyman and Andres Heinz, which really allows the audience to get to know more about her character and understand how a person acts when under an immense amount of pressure.

The thing that makes it most interesting is that you see her as just a normal girl who is gradually becoming more and more insane, and this progression is extremely well done.

Another great thing about *Black Swan* is how Aronofsky never allows you to actually understand what is going on. You

are in a state of confusion and you are constantly thinking about what you just saw. It is something Aronofsky manages to do well with all of his psychological thrillers and this is what makes them seem intelligent. This style allowed for greater insight into Nina's confused psyche.

The cast of *Black Swan* did a terrific job. Portman, especially, should receive a nomination for her role because it is this film that really shows what a great actress she can be.

Kunis is fantastic in this movie as the seductive Lily. Her character is very believable and she does a great job with it. Even Winona Ryder as Dying Swan is great in the small role she had.

The music by Mansell is amazing and even touching. His music fits every scene and while most of his music is from the score of *Swan Lake*, he adds his own little touches to it.

He manages to make scenes more suspenseful as well as dramatic. The music used during the end scene was perfectly composed by Mansell, and it really makes you appreciate the scene and understand the meaning behind it.

Overall, *Black Swan* is a beautiful and brilliant retelling of *Swan Lake* from the mind of Aronofsky and an extremely well done character study.

It has fantastic performances, terrific music, gripping drama, and some scenes that will have you covering your eyes as well as at the edge of your seat.



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Lily (Mila Kunis) stays focused to get into her role while everyone around her is loud and chaotic. Kunis gives a flawless performance and truly captures the essence of Lily.

MTV brings back quality TV after years of trashy programs

BY **Dan Bidikov**
Contributing Writer

MTV (aptly renamed from MTV: Music Television) has been suffering a bit of an identity crisis lately. The American television network has been broadcasting neither music nor what many people would qualify as television. With televised blunders like *Teen Mom* and *Jersey Shore*, it has grown increasingly difficult to take MTV's network lineup seriously.

From glamorizing teenage pregnancy and underage sex, encouraging alcoholism in youth, and poking fun at Italian Americans, the network has put out content full of shock value but lacking in depth.

Although its programs receive astronomical ratings (more than six million people watched the season finale of *Jersey Shore*), they haven't exactly reached the zenith of critical praise.

Nor has the network been classified as family friendly. Their televised romp of self-described "guidos" has been controversial to say the least. Despite the outcry, *Jersey Shore* is both wildly popular and, to many, wildly entertaining. It has become a driving force in pop culture since its inception and has been the basis of advertising campaigns for unrelated products like pistachio nuts.

MTV, at least, seems to be aware of its credibility deficit. Recently, the network has been trying hard to undergo a "renaissance" of sorts. Its flagship series that is leading the way for, hopefully, more

shows to come goes by the name of *The Buried Life*.

The Buried Life is a reality documentary in which a group of four 20-somethings attempt to complete a bucket list while improving the lives of people along the way. The program is motivational and clever. Its content provides a sharp contrast to the other shows MTV is airing, and marks an upward trend for the network.

Although this is an honorable effort on MTV's part, it must be asked: why?

With highly successful shows on air that catch millions of viewers, why risk drops in revenue and losing a huge audience with a delicate venture like *The Buried Life*?

World of Jenks is another show that really seems to have an impact. In it, young filmmaker Andrew Jenks chronicles the lives of various people in what most would consider an exciting profession, such as a



The *Buried Life* crew films their journey as they try to cross off an item from their bucket list. This show demonstrates MTV's move toward interesting and worthwhile shows.

2010: A year for the ages

BY **Bethia Kwak**
Assistant A&E Editor

To say the least, this was a year of surprises. From popular summer movies to smash hits in the winter, there was never a dull moment in 2010. There were highs and lows in entertainment and unexpected stars emerged.

Even though Ke\$ha stormed into the mainstream with her song "Tik Tok" in 2009, no one could have foreseen the recognition she would earn in 2010. There was never a moment when one of Ke\$ha's songs was not on the charts.

Unexpectedly, Arcade Fire came out with one of the most praised albums of the year, "The Suburbs" which was unique and artistic. The band proved, as it wanted to, that it was an "album band," rather than a "single band." The music on "The Suburbs" could not be appreciated unless it was listened to all at once.

We also faced the end of a generation when *Toy Story 3* was released. The movie was one of the highest grossing of the year and touched the hearts of many. *Inception* was the hit of the summer, dazzling the audience with its twisted plot lines and successful cast.

The much-anticipated seventh *Harry Potter* movie, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was recently released and has topped the box office ratings. Fans await the bittersweet end to the series as another cultural era ends with the release of the eighth and last movie this summer.

A new winner was crowned on *American Idol* when Lee DeWyze narrowly defeated Crystal Bowersox. The Cowell-era

also ended when the now-ex-judge Simon Cowell left the show to start his own talent show, *The X-Factor*.

Glee also reached out to millions of viewers when the second half of its season started in the beginning of 2010. Since then, the show has grown into a cultural phenomenon bringing a more realistic twist to the popular *High School Musical*. Its second season is well under way and the show shows no signs of stopping due to its high ratings.

It would be impossible to sum up 2010 without mentioning the Internet sensations. Facebook has become embedded into most of our lives and its creator is benefiting from this more than ever. The hit movie *The Social Network* proved still-further the rampant success of Facebook and how quickly the site achieved its omnipotence.

Other websites have also reached high recognition. YouTube, as always, provided a basis for people to have their 15 minutes of fame. The most famous video watched this year, as most of you have probably seen, was "The Bed Intruder Song," while an array of popular songs racked up millions of views with their music videos. The website also provides artists with a free venue from which to reach out to their fans and show their creativity. We saw the ultimate example of this with the band OK Go, which achieved fame after releasing viral and quirky videos.

2010 was an unforgettable year with talented celebrities delighting us and incompetent figures providing blunders. We can now only await for the surprises next year will bring us.

rapper, a professional poker player, a surfer, and many others. At the end of most episodes, you come to realize that these people who seem to lead such exotic lives are very similar to regular people. They all have normal problems.

This show is the first on MTV that really does not glamorize fame and money as most other shows tend to do. Both of these shows are very interesting and both have a deeper meaning. They are a far cry from what we are used to on MTV.

One thing that MTV has needed to bring back is music. TV shows like *The Seven* and *MTV Unplugged* are featuring different artists in an effort to get music back on MTV. While the music on MTV is still very limited, look for it to increase

in the future as MTV slowly incorporates music back into its repertoire.

Perhaps MTV is trying to improve its image. Or maybe, MTV wants to reverse its corporate greed. In a bizarre fantasy, it has come to the conclusion that putting out the highest possible quality content is more important than resorting to dramatic stunts for ratings.

If we are lucky, MTV has come to terms with its power to shape entire generations and hopefully it would like to provide stable role models for the children of the future. And maybe Mike "The Situation" will come to his senses and realize that naming his abdominal muscles was not the brightest idea.

WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

Tablets

Ever since the release of the iPad, companies have joined the race to create the best tablet yet. Other than the iPad, choices include the Dell Inspiron Duo and the Lenovo Ideapad, both of which include full keyboards.



Netbooks

Now becoming old technology, netbooks do not provide the multimedia services and features that are available in newer tablets, especially now that netbook/tablet hybrids are available.

Motion controlled gaming

XBOX 360 and Playstation 3 have just successfully followed in the footsteps of the Wii, creating their own motion controlled gaming systems.



Nintendo Wii

With the new technologies available in motion control gaming from overall better systems, the Wii seems to be getting more and more outdated as other systems catch up.

Pillow Pets

The most comfortable product on the market right now, pillow pets are appealing to both young and old. Different pets include lady bugs, pandas, and bees.



Snuggie

Losing its initial appeal, many customers have found out that the Snuggie is not as convenient as advertised. Pillow pets are comfier and a much better alternative.

Music Box

The lost legend makes a comeback with his first posthumous album



By Bethia Kwak
Assistant A&E Editor

To say that Michael Jackson is talented would be a huge understatement. Known as the “King of Pop,” he has touched the hearts of many with his passionate songs and strong messages. His dancing amazed us and his singing left us speechless. Jackson was constantly on the front page of gossip magazines, being criticized for his “alleged” crimes. One of the most recognizable musicians of all time, Jackson has sold 750 millions records worldwide.

A year ago, tragedy struck as the legend passed away. What shocked most of us was that he was on the brink of a comeback with his worldwide tour.

Now, he would never be given the chance to prove to the critics that he still had “it.” Ever since his death, there were talks of releasing posthumous albums of unreleased songs.

Controversy has been surrounding *Michael* ever since the announcement of its release. Rumors were speculated that some of the songs were not even sung by Michael Jackson. Jackson’s family has accused the record company of fraud, claiming the voice sounds nothing like Jackson. Celebrities like Will.I.Am have even released public statements calling the release disrespectful.

Upon comparing the album to other artists’ albums, *Michael* is well done, as expected, but it lacks that special pizzazz that came with previous Jackson albums like *Thriller* and *Bad*. There was clearly a reason why these songs were unreleased.

Jackson has always been known as a perfectionist and the album definitely missed his touch as it was far from perfect. It is highly unlikely he would have ever approved of *Michael*. The movie, *This Is It*, would have been hated by Jackson as well. It displayed videos of sloppy rehearsals which Jackson probably would have cringed at if knowing it was released to the public.

The fact that this album, the movie, and even video games are being put on sale just seems like a way for the record company to milk money out of Jackson’s death.

And unfortunately, we should expect even more of these albums to be released.

There were many collaborations within the album including the highly hyped “Hold My Hand” featuring Akon. The song gives off a sense of hope and is suited for radio play, but it doesn’t quite have the pounding effect that songs like “Man in the Mirror” and “Heal the World” had.

One song that stood out in an unconventional way was “Breaking News.” Jackson’s lyrics hold too much truth and the content is very similar to Britney Spears’ hit song “Piece of Me.” The song reflects on his struggles as a celebrity that is always under the harsh limelight. With lyrics like, “They wanna see that I fall ‘cause I’m Michael Jackson,” he puts a clear message across that he knew people always wanted a scandal from him.

Catchy songs like “Hollywood Tonight” and “Behind the Mask” hook the listener in. While they have the stylistic beats and make you want to dance, the songs are just not comparable to the brilliant “Billie Jean.”

Regardless if the songs were truly sung by Jackson, the vocals were done beautifully. As a fan, I thought the singing sounded authentic. Songs such as “Keep Your Head Up” and “(I Like) The Way You Love Me,” featured Jackson’s angelic vocals.

It is unfortunate that Jackson received a lot of the recognition he deserved as a performer after his death. Suddenly, people who just simply saw Jackson as “that pedophile” claimed they loved his music all along. He should have always been remembered and seen for the standards of



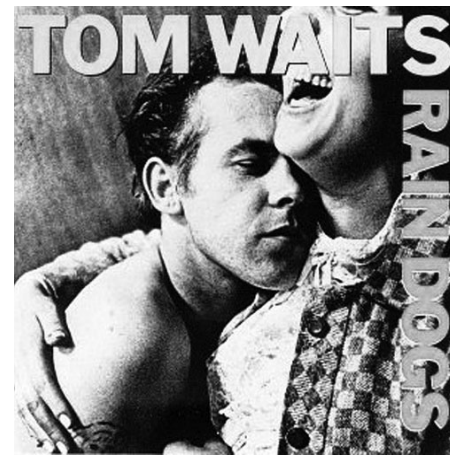
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Michael Jackson’s first posthumous album, *Michael*, is flawed and not up to his perfectionist standards; however, Jackson’s electrifying vocals made up for it in many songs.

music he left rather than the rumors that were spread around about him.

We should not focus on whether the death was a “murder” or not, or if it could have possibly been a suicide but instead, honor the life he lived. Michael Jackson was a figure who inspired us all with his music.

Classic Album: Tom Waits: *Rain Dogs*



by Kerim Kivrak
Staff Writer

Tom Waits’ raspy voice is one of few in music that is entirely unmistakable. This, coupled with his distinctive use of instrumentation, made his 1985 album *Rain Dogs* a unique masterpiece.

At this point in his career, Tom Waits already deeply invested his experimentation with different styles of music, leading him through a variety of different instruments and recording techniques. Waits blatantly rejected the soulless, mechanical direction that music, with the help of new technologies such as drum machines or synthesizers, had been moving towards. When urged by his producer to use a drum machine, Waits said he would rather hit objects around the studio with a two-by-four to obtain the sound he wanted – and that’s exactly what he did.

Several of the tracks on *Rain Dogs* are

simply percussion accompanying Waits’ vocals, but in this case, “percussion” entails an almost overwhelming variety of instruments brought out of their usual position in the background. Waits does, however, make full use of collaborating guitarists Keith Richards and Marc Ribot on tracks straying from percussion or the piano.

Rain Dogs is best remembered for being the pinnacle of Waits’ musical experimentation. *Rain Dogs* marked a distinct turning point in Waits’ career. He began to drift away from his previously prominent use of the piano. In *Rain Dogs* alone, there was polka, gospel music, ballads, gritty blues-rock, country and “a New Orleans thing with a trombone” – each not without Waits’ own personal contribution to the genre.

Above all, Tom Waits is a purveyor of bardic urban tales of bizarre and grotesque characters in an equally bizarre setting. Waits would later clarify the metaphorical significance of the title, explaining that the characters he described in the album were akin to the directionless, disoriented dogs that would roam the city streets during a storm. Waits drew most of his inspiration and imagery from New York, walking around the city with a tape recorder to capture its essence and inject it into his music.

Tom Waits’ style on *Rain Dogs* is incomparable to even his own work. It would almost be sinful for any fan of music capable of enduring (or even enjoying) Waits’ rugged voice to ignore *Rain Dogs* – Waits’ unrivaled magnum opus.

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Girls gymnastics enters new season with new team

With early victory over Roslyn, team looks to send gymnasts to state qualifiers

BY Will Zhou

Sports Editor

The varsity girls gymnastics team has seen a large increase in popularity in the 2010 winter season. Although the past season only had a team of 12 girls, this year, the team finds itself with about 25, with many younger students filling the ranks.

This year, the only two seniors, Dorothy Kim and Sherry Kim, are also the co-captains.

"Both are very responsible athletes," said head coach Ms. Melissa Havern. "They are good role models for the team, and their work ethic is admirable in school and during gymnastics practice."

The new members of the team, albeit young, bring new talent and potential.

"The freshmen as well as other new girls on the team this year are extremely talented and we definitely want to be on top of our conference this year," said D. Kim. "We want to try to get in the high 130s or low 140s and possibly send a gymnast to the state qualifiers."

The Lady Vikings compete in Conference II, alongside rivals Cold Spring Harbor, which placed at the top of the conference last year, Roslyn, Garden City, and Great Neck South, among other schools.

Last year, the Vikings came out of the season with a 5-5 record, which they look to improve upon this season.

The best way to do that is to train hard and make sure everyone is in top condition for competition through safe training and careful practice.

"It's important that we minimize injuries this year," said D. Kim. "That really hurt the team last year."

The team's first meet was on Dec. 16 against Roslyn. Although the team fell short of its goal of scoring in the 130s, it was off by only a few points with a score of 124.75, cleanly beating Roslyn's 117.3.

At the meet, junior Jessica Megdalia scored first in uneven bars with a score of 6.1, over Roslyn's best of 5.5. On balance beam, sophomore Carly Grieco scored a 6.5, with co-captain senior Sherry Kim taking second with 6.2.

"Jess is a very strong junior," said Coach Havern. "She competes consistently in three events, the vault, floor, and bars, and is one of our stronger competitors. Carly also performs very well at competitions; she's someone who really puts her heart into it."

Of course, the overall success could not have been met without the help of both Havern and assistant coach Ms. JoAnn Patterson.

"Coach Havern really helps us to push ourselves during practice," said sophomore Emily Hack. "She and Patterson give us good workouts and make sure we do our best."

The girls' next meet will be against South Side on Jan 5.



Elana Galassi

Senior co-captain Sherry Kim poses on the balance beam at the Dec. 16 meet against Roslyn. Along with senior Dorothy Kim, she plans to bring the team to state qualifiers and to prepare the talented underclassmen on the team.

Captain's Corner: "KC" Ozcayir

BY Dan Miller

Assistant Features Editor

Dan Miller: Mr. Ozcayir, I appreciate you penciling this interview into your unbelievably tight schedule.

"KC" Ozcayir: No problem.

DM: How do you feel about the team's 0-1 conference record?

KC: We're getting better. We're a new team and we are just starting to get used to the new offensive system, which is pretty complex and not easy to learn.

DM: What do you feel the team needs to improve on to turn the season around?

KC: We have to limit turnovers and have more energy on the court. Some more Kanye on the warm-up CD would also be a huge help.

DM: Is it true that Paul Tasnady is responsible for the team's warm-up music?

KC: Yes, DJ Pauly T is the team's music guru. I selected him because if Murph did it, we'd be listening to "What is Love" over and over again. Paul has a pretty good taste in music, though.

DM: How much training do you do to prepare for the season?

KC: Individually, I usually go to the weight room or just run in my neighborhood a lot. Subway before practice also helps me prepare. As a team, we just try to go as hard as we can in practice. If we improve together, we'll win

together.

DM: What aspects of your game have you been working hardest on this season?

KC: I've been focusing on the 360 degree through-the-legs acrobatic dunks that I usually do. Just kidding. I've been working really hard on my one-on-one defense in the post and becoming more of a team-oriented player.

DM: What are the chances we see a Murph-to-KC alley-oop?

KC: Any time that Murph and I step on the court together there is a very high chance of that happening.

DM: When the fans have a "white out," what does that do for the team?

KC: Seeing that sea of white gives us more energy and that kind of atmosphere is great for the team. I hope we have more of those this season.

DM: How difficult is it to pull off a trick from NBA Street in a game?

KC: I mean, it's not that difficult; I could always throw the ball off of my opponent's head then jump off a teammate's back at the three-point line and dunk it. Actually, I'm pretty sure I'd get benched for that.

DM: So now that Amar'e has brought the Knicks back to a respectable level of play, how do you feel about professional basketball?

KC: Amar'e was one of my favorite players when he was in Phoenix and I've been a Knicks fan for a long time so I'm very excited about the NBA, especially here in NY.

DM: If you had to compare your game to a current NBA player's, which would it be?

KC: A combination of Turkoglu and David Lee, with maybe a touch of Kobe.

DM: Last but not least: LeBron, super-friend or supercoward?

KC: Supercoward but amazing player. Turkoglu is better though.

DM: I'm not going to start that debate. (Let's Go Nets?) But thanks for chatting with me today. I can't wait to see that dunk.

KC: You're welcome, Neville. Thanks for having me. I also can't wait to see my own dunk.

Varsity basketball faces tough season, looks to recoup from early losses

BY Dan Miranda

Staff Writer

Cheered on by an excited crowd of students dressed in white, the Vikings played their hearts out but fell just short to the Syosset Braves, on Dec. 9. After the first half, Port Washington was down eight; they never would come back.

On Dec. 13, while playing Malverne, the Vikings faced a similar outcome. Though they eventually ended up losing, there were several bright spots for Port during the game. The captains played with ease as junior Josh Feshbach and senior Michael Murphy both made their way into double-digit scoring.

To add to this successful play from the two starting guards, the Vikings showed real potential with their season-high 23 points in the fourth quarter. The thing going for Port right now is that they have yet to play a league match – the only games that mean something in the annual run for the playoffs.

Entering the Manhasset Tournament, the Vikings looked for a win; however they left without one. After a defeat to Hempstead on Dec. 17 at the tournament, Port experienced another nail-biting loss to a tough Roslyn team, 54-52, on Dec. 18.

Although the team has an unimpressive overall 0-5 record, it is scheduled to play just one conference match-up through Dec. 20.

On average, the Vikings have scored just around 45 points a game, or less than 11 points every quarter. This statistic sheds light on why Port has been unable

to pull of a win yet. Until Feshbach (9.8 points per game) and senior KC Ozcayir (9.6 points per game) step up to the plate, the Vikings will have difficult times sustaining wins.

While scoring has been a problem, Port will compete in Conference AA-II, one of the top league's in Nassau County. The road behind the squad was difficult, but it will continue to get harder.

Adam Epstein, '10 alumnus, played varsity basketball in Port Washington for four years, taking head coach Sean Dooley on the coaching ride of his career. Now at North Carolina State, Epstein watches from afar and remains faithful to the Vikings program.

"Dooley and Sutz will find a way to make the program work," said Epstein. "I'm aware that they already implemented a new offense for this season. In time, the offense will produce positive results."



Elana Galassi

Captain "KC" Ozcayir practices his shot. He plans to use the team's new offense and improve its record as much as possible.

Athletes of the Month

Taylor Titcomb

BY Chad Edelblum

Staff Writer

Junior Taylor Titcomb is a star runner for the boys varsity track team. He has been on varsity cross country and track since his freshman year. He began his running career back at Weber.

Although he is a naturally skilled runner, with hard work and training, Titcomb has transformed his gift of speed into something of great use. As a freshman and sophomore, his ability was slightly overshadowed by the likes of '10 alumni Marco Bertolotti and Jacob Levine.

Titcomb has qualified to race for states every year including this year where he led the team. Taylor was All-Division, All-County and All-State as a junior and looks to lead a young team to a state title.

"This year we have a very strong distance team and a couple very good sprinters so I am pretty optimistic about this season. I feel we could make a good run at states with our team," said Titcomb.

He was also the MVP of the cross country team as awarded by Coach Jeremy Klaff. Titcomb was able to run a 5K race in 16 minutes and 14 seconds.

"Taylor runs some of the most grueling workouts of any athlete in the county. An above-average runner in the schools' best mile time would be his workout mile time four consecutive times in practice. He has such a great work ethic which makes him one of the top runners in the state," said Coach Klaff.

Along with cross country, Titcomb

competes in winter and spring track. His abilities in cross country translate well to track as he leads the 4x800 meter relay team to many victories. He also runs the one-mile run and at the last track event, he ran the mile in 4 minutes and 12 seconds coming in first in the event.

Although Titcomb did not run at his best during the winter track team's most recent meet, he plans to work hard to get back into top shape.

"I am going to work hard and am determined to be the best I possibly can be," said Titcomb.

It was also his first time running with a new team in the 4x800 relay. By the end of the season, he thinks that they will be one of the best 4x800 teams in the county.



Elana Galassi

Junior Taylor Titcomb is making waves in his conference, recording impressive times in several events.

Emily Rosenthal

BY Jacob Eisenberg

Contributing Writer

After contributing to the girls varsity lacrosse team's undefeated Conference Championship last spring and leading the soccer team to a fifth place finish this fall, junior Emily Rosenthal is poised for the 2010-2011 basketball season.

In the 2008 and 2009 seasons, Rosenthal scored 111 points and 142 points, respectively, and received All-Conference honors both years. Her overall goal is to score more than 500 points in her high school basketball career. She is well on her way, as she is just over halfway there with a current total of 253 points. Rosenthal will continue this season towards not just her personal goals, but desires for the team as well.

"I want to make it to the playoffs and beat our longtime rival Herricks as well as Baldwin who is state ranked," said Rosenthal. "All three would be great accomplishments for Port Basketball."

Rosenthal has already started the season strong, contributing to a 2-0 start by securing victories against Great Neck North and West Hempstead. She is currently the leading scorer on the team with 22 points, along with seven steals.

"Emily is a terrific athlete and her competitiveness is unmatched," said Head Coach Dennis Trottier. "She's a great teammate and mentor to younger athletes. It has been a pleasure coaching Emily for the past three basketball seasons and I believe she has a fabulous future ahead."

Rosenthal looks up to many different people in her life, and each and every one contributes to how well she succeeds in sports, as well as everyday life. Her parents have been the most influential by teaching her that with hard work comes great accomplishments. And, while many people help guide Rosenthal towards success, she, in turn, is a role model for the rest of her team.

"Emily is a role model for all of us; she is there to help us improve and encourages us to play to the best of our potential," said sophomore Ali Seltzer, one of Rosenthal's teammates.

Whether she is scoring points, or motivating her team to victory, Rosenthal will be an exciting player to watch throughout this entire basketball season.



Elana Galassi

Junior Emily Rosenthal focuses during practice, in preparation for the game against Herricks on Dec. 21.

Calling the Shots: Normally overlooked, free agency becomes dominant in sports

BY Brett Fishbin

Sports Editor

When you think of sports, the first things that should come to mind include scoring a touchdown, hitting a home run, or nailing a three pointer. However, there is a force that controls the state of professional athletics that dominates any possible on-the-field accomplishment: free agency.

About 25 years ago, it was typical for an athlete to play on one team for his entire career, with very little financial flexibility, but nowadays after about four years of service, a player is compelled to test the open market.

This is not to say there is anything wrong with a capitalistic approach to sports, and it is completely understandable for an athlete to want to be the most financially comfortable he can be, but there are several problems with this dangerous trend. While a free agent splash is an absolute thrill to a fan base, there are many problems with the system that can leave a franchise in absolute ruin.

In a system that encourages star athletes to have complete control over which teams they play on, it is incredibly easy to see athletes take advantage of their power, causing an unfair balance of power in a sport.

This season, for example, star basketball players Dwyane Wade, LeBron James, and Chris Bosh all signed with the Miami Heat, creating a team that will dominate

the sport for years to come. The problem with this scenario is not Miami winning, but the fact that players can use free agency to create dominant teams. The level of competition in an average game has gone down because of the imbalance of talent among teams.

Another scenario in which a player can abuse his powers with free agency

About 25 years ago, it was typical for an athlete to play on one team for his entire career, with very little financial flexibility, but nowadays after about four years of service, a player is compelled to test the open market.

is what Carmelo Anthony of the Denver Nuggets is currently doing. Anthony is set to become a free agent at the end of the season, and has made his intentions of departing from Denver quite obvious. Because of this, the Nuggets are doing all they possibly can to trade him in order to at least get something from his departure. But, Anthony is interfering with these efforts, stating that he will only sign with the New York Knicks. Because of this, Denver cannot trade with any team

other than the Knicks because the other team will know that Anthony will simply depart into free agency at the end of the season.

In the MLB, there is a reason why contracts have skyrocketed. It is because players are able to match teams up against each other in a bidding war, referencing past contracts of players of that stature. The culture of designing a winning baseball team has shifted from scouting young players, developing home-grown talent, and generating team chemistry to spending the most money available on a few key players.

Aside from players having too much power, the system of free agency has also had a sour effect on entire franchises. There are two basic scenarios by which a team can be torn apart from this system.

The first and most obvious one applies to teams such as the Texas Rangers, Cleveland Cavaliers, and Toronto Raptors. The thing that all three of these clubs have in common is that they all watched their best player walk away while receiving next to nothing.

While I am not discrediting a player's right to take the best deal available, I am simply stating that free agency should not have this huge of an affect on a team. The amount of wins that a team earns should not be so heavily reliant on how much money it is willing to spend on a core group of stars.

The best way to fight against this system has already been developed in the National Football League, and this is called

a franchise tag. Under this set of rules, a team is entitled to "franchise" one player per year, who is about to become an unrestricted free agent for a designated salary. This not only enables the team to prepare for the next season (with the knowledge that this player likely will not return), but it also enables it to have the opportunity to possess its star for at least one more year. While this rule certainly has its flaws, it is a great stride toward limiting the power that star athletes possess, and preventing teams from being crumbled from a star player leaving without any notice at all.

The next scenario in which a team's fortunes can be decided by free agency is a team centering an entire season (or multiple seasons) on the possibility of signing a star. The most obvious example that comes to mind would be the Knicks, who were willing to practically forfeit three entire seasons with the sole purpose of signing LeBron James. The Knicks were so certain that they could acquire this player that they almost gave up three full years of basketball just to attempt to sign one player. You do not need me to tell you how many things are wrong with this scenario, especially from a fan's standpoint.

Overall, I believe that commissioners in each sport should do everything they can to prevent this trend. Although there are players unions that will do anything and everything they can to prevent this system from ending, there are ways to negotiate. I hope that the future of professional athletics will slowly find its way back to the old ways. Except for Anthony, Go Knicks!

FIFA surprisingly chooses Qatar to host 2022 cup

By David Katz
Contributing Writer

Many thought that this was it: that 2022 would be the year that the United States would finally host the FIFA World Cup. Experts predicted the victory and the profound impact that it would have on both the youth and the culture of United States' soccer.

We sent billionaires, actors, and even former presidents to the voting convention all in the hopes of securing the honor of hosting the World Cup for the first time in more than a quarter century. However, on Dec. 2, the predictions were proven false and the hard work was for naught as we watched Qatar earn the honor of hosting in 2022.

Many were baffled by the outcome of FIFA's convention, but in reality, Qatar was awarded the 2022 World Cup for three major reasons. The first incentive was and is FIFA's continued goal to increase soccer's popularity worldwide. This past summer, it awarded South Africa the World Cup, making it the first African nation to host the event.

During the convention, FIFA also voted on making Russia the first eastern European nation to host the tournament in 2018. Finally, FIFA's decision to give Qatar the 2022 World Cup, which would make it the first Middle Eastern country to host the event, shows its staunch desire to make the sport of soccer more globalized.

The second major reason was Qatar's vast wealth. At first, FIFA was reluctant to give Qatar the World Cup because of its desert climate, where summer temperatures can reach an astounding 106 degrees Fahrenheit. FIFA's report on the country even cited, "A potential health risk for players, officials, the FIFA family and spectators."

However, the country's wealth gives Qatar the necessary funding to construct several air-conditioned and domed stadiums to house both the competitors and spectators for the duration of the competition.

Finally, the last reason why Qatar was awarded the cup was because of Mohammed Bin Hammam. Bin Hammam, a member of the executive committee and president of the Asia Football Confederation, represented Qatar in the convention, giving it the influence needed to sway the votes in its favor.

While the United States chose to send former president Bill Clinton and actor Morgan Freeman, Qatar chose a delegate with significant leverage in the international soccer community. This was just the advantage it needed to secure the World Cup.

For those of you who had never heard of the small nation of Qatar before it made headlines when it "stole" the 2022 World Cup from the United States' grasp, a brief summary of the nation may help put the three reasons stated above into perspective.

The State of Qatar is a desert-filled na-



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FIFA President Sepp Blatter shocks the world as he announces that the 2022 World Cup will be played in Qatar. Countries such as the United States were also in the running, and were disappointed that they lost their bid for the Cup.

tion located just north of Saudi Arabia that juts out into the Persian Gulf, and it forms a peninsula about the size of Connecticut. Qatar is one of the most oil-rich countries in the world, and this forms a cornerstone of its booming economy today.

At the moment there seems to be little that the United States can do to increase

soccer's popularity in the American culture.

American football has replaced global football in our society and the only thing for Americans to do now is hope for the honor of hosting the World Cup to come to them in 2026.



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VIKING SPORTS

An average day in the life of a varsity wrestler *Grueling practices and a rigorous diet ultimately pay off on the mat*

BY **Drew Friedman**
Sports Editor

Six minutes does not seem like a long time. That is, unless you're a varsity wrestler. If you are, six minutes, the amount of time allotted to each match, can seem like an eternity.

Each match is six minutes of battle, six minutes of pushing physical limits and then beyond in an attempt to prove that the Vikings want victory just a little more than the opponent does.

But, your preparation starts long before you ever get to see your opponent, long before you take your place on the mat. Weeks earlier, you committed yourself to a daily regimen that begins each day at the moment you wake up. Your friends can chow down on anything they want for breakfast, from maple syrup-soaked buttermilk pancakes to a nice big mug of hot chocolate.

But, it's your responsibility to follow a strict diet of carefully controlled portions, checking every single bite to make sure you don't accidentally jump a weight class.

You do the same thing at lunch. No high-calorie food for you, and definitely no sweets. You've got to watch everything you eat so you don't put on any body fat at all. The only weight you can have is muscle.

All day long, in every class, you're thinking about the practice ahead of you. You may love it or you may hate it, but you're definitely not going to forget about it. It's always there, waiting for you every day.

Then the school day ends and practice begins. Practice is where you prove to your coaches just how devoted you are. Practice is where you'll have a chance to demonstrate your skills through an array of physically and mentally demanding workouts and exercises.

The first exercise you take part in is a 10-minute run either inside the school building or outside on the track, depending on the weather. That's just your warm up. After you're finished running, you do a three-minute stretch with the en-

tire team in the wrestling room. Following that, you get into dynamic warm-ups which include sprints, cartwheels, and a series of takedown moves. You'll practice them until they become second nature.

Next are skill drills. One thing you'll be practicing this time are escapes because your opponent in a match isn't going to be kneeling there politely while you try to take him down. He's going to be all over you, and eventually he's going to put you at a disadvantage. You need to know how to get out of it.

Another thing you'll be doing during skill drills is practicing pinning combinations. Usually when you pin an opponent, it's not with a single move. You need to be able to perform a series of moves that will lead to a pin if you do them just right. If you don't, your foe may end up pinning you instead.

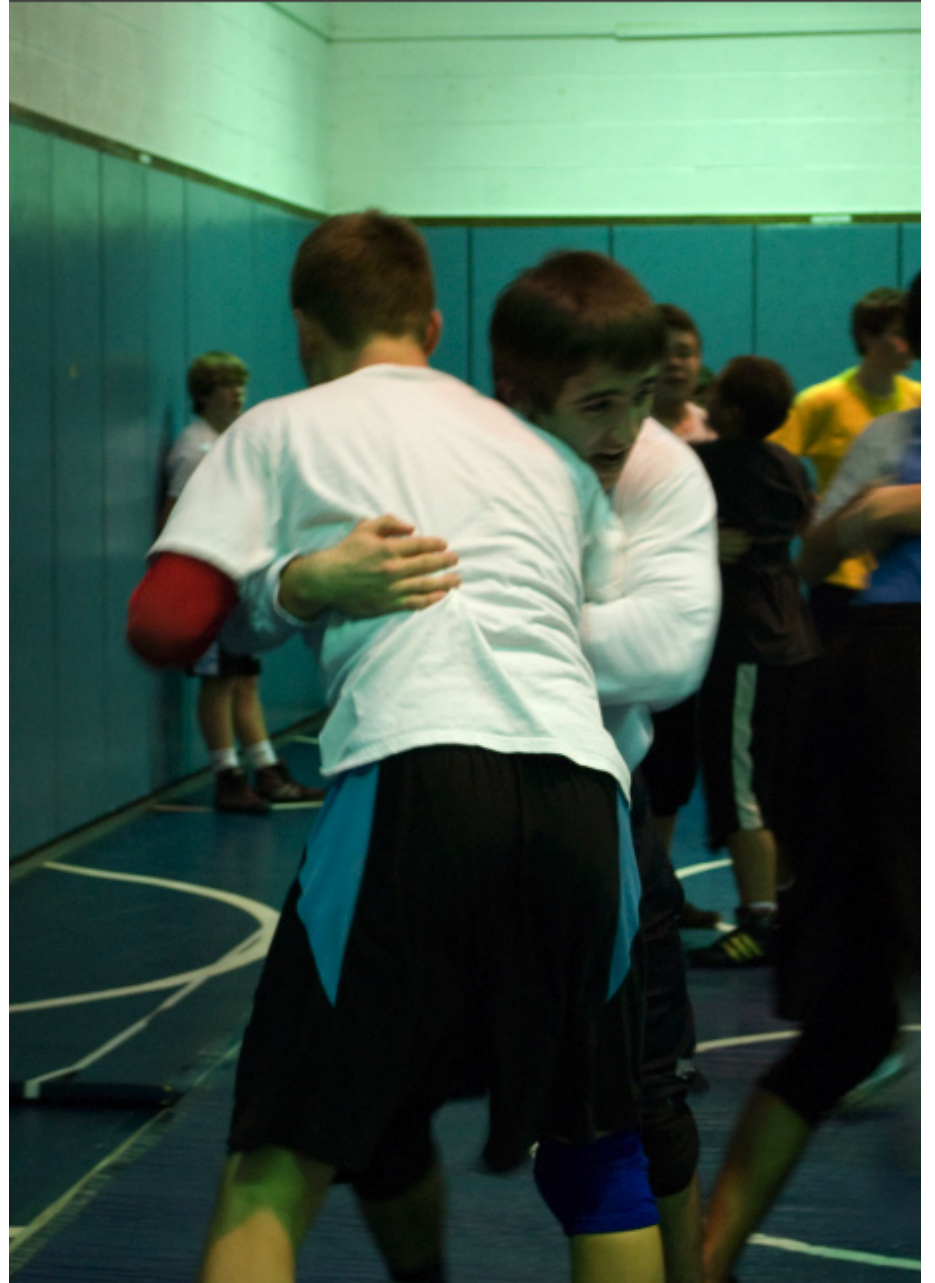
At this point, the coaches may go over some of the moves they have collected in the course of their successful wrestling careers. There's nothing like experience and they have plenty of it. If these moves have worked for them, they may work for you too.

The next part of the practice is devoted to hand fighting. If you know what you're doing, you can win a match with your hands by keeping your opponent from getting ahold of you the way he wants to. The keys to this aspect of the sport are speed and proper stance.

Of course, not every practice goes smoothly. Sometimes the coaches aren't happy with the amount of effort the team is putting in. Sometimes the guys aren't focusing the way they need to. At these times, you go into spinning. After a little of that, the coaches definitely have everybody's attention.

Next you "go live." This is the part of the practice that's the most demanding. You pair up with a partner in your weight class and wrestle in short bursts, trying to pin him down. This is as close as you can come to the intensity of a real match without actually being in one. It's a grueling series of clashes that show the coaches who's determined to get the upper hand and who's just trying to hang in there.

When you're done with that you go



Elana Galassi

Junior Noah Tanenbaum and sophomore Christian Castillo prepare for their home match on Jan. 5 against Long Beach. Going live is just one part of their training regimen.

into extreme conditioning, which consists of sprints, push-ups, sit-ups, foot fires, high knees, buddy carries, leap frog and whatever else the coaches decide to throw at you. It's during this part of the practice that you're in so much pain you think you can't move. This is what many coaches call "the pain zone." You feel like quitting but you don't, you can't. You push through somehow because you want to break that barrier so you can endure more pain than your opponent.

Finally, after weeks of this torture, it's Game Day.

The Vikings lace up their shoes, go out on the mat and stretch out. They prepare for six minutes of pure battle, pure intensity, to show the results of their hard work.

Varsity Wrestling Team Update

So far, the Vikings have wrestled in one tournament. The team had several third and fourth place winners, and senior Harry Weinstein made it all the way to the finals, where he took second. Overall, the team ended up taking third in the conference and sent seven wrestlers to the Nassau County Championship Tournament. The team roster is essentially the same as last year's with the exception of All-County contenders, '10 alumni Luke Klumpp and Mike O'Brien.

Despite the loss, Schreiber has a young and talented team this year. The team hopes that, under the leadership of captains seniors Boris and Lenny Joutovsky, Harry Weinstein, and Lev Pinkus, it will be able to do well in the absence of last year's stars. There is a lot of pressure on this year's wrestlers.

"But you've got to put all that out of your mind now because you're lacing up your boots and thinking about your opponent. Your match is just minutes away. You're a Schreiber Vikings varsity wrestler and you want to win this next match," said junior Wayne Baker.

 UPCOMING MATCHES 		
1/5	vs. Long Beach	4:30 PM
1/7	vs. Plainview JFK	4:30 PM
1/14	vs. Valley Stream	4:30 PM