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THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXIII No. 4 December 2012

**APOCALYPSE
Edition:**



THE LAST DAY...

Before December Break

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Senior Kelly McDonough took this photograph of firefighters putting out a fire. New fire fighters were learning how to skillfully and properly put out a boat fire. McDonough is an AP Photo student as well as a volunteer firefighter.

NEWS BRIEFS

Fall blood drive

According to the Red Cross, someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds. Unfortunately, after Hurricane Sandy hit Long Island, several blood drives, including Schreiber's annual fall drive, had to be canceled. The fall blood drive was originally scheduled for Nov. 15 and eventually took place in the gym on Nov. 28.

"Key Club typically runs one blood drive a year in the spring. Student Council was running this blood drive, but we decided to work together and join forces since this drive was re-scheduled twice due to the hurricane and the nor'easter," said health teacher and key club adviser Ms. Janine Kalinowski, who organized the event.

"As a result of the hurricane, many area blood drives were cancelled. Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss and Assistant Principal Ms. Julie Torres approached me about helping out," said Ms. Kalinowski. "Given the urgency for donated blood, I was happy to step in with these last minute efforts. So many people have helped in many different ways post Hurricane Sandy—this was one of my ways of giving back."

The blood drive was open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. so that students and teachers could volunteer or donate blood during

their free time during the school day. Even freshman students, who weren't old enough to donate, got involved.

"Ms. Dietz and I worked together to gather volunteers. Volunteers from Student Council, Key Club and a few recruited students from my health classes dedicated their off periods to working the registration table, walking students back to class, answering questions, keeping donors company while they sat and recuperated post-donating," said Ms. Kalinowski.

There were 45 student donors and 20 adult donors. In all, 65 people registered to donate and 53 out of those people were able to donate.

"Given scheduling this drive with less than a week to promote donations, I consider it a success!" Ms. Kalinowski said. "It felt great to help," said freshman Annie Kline, who volunteered, "I can't wait until I can donate blood!"

The Key Club also decided to hold another blood drive in the spring.

~Ali Goetze and Ruthie Gottesman

Food donations collection

This winter, the Tri-M Music Honor Society did their share and worked to give back to the community at the Winter Concerts. In the charitable spirit of the season this group, led by choir teacher Mr.

John Spiezio III, organized a food drive.

"The food drive is for the Interfaith Nutrition Network," said club vice president senior Kimberly Suzzan. "The officers are planning this event so that we can give back for the holidays."

The Interfaith Nutrition Network provides food for the hungry and homeless on Long Island. Feeding more than 7,500 people every week at a total of 19 soup kitchens, this organization relies on support from drives such as this one.

"When Mr. Spiezio introduced the idea of a food drive to us, we all agreed to choose a local organization as opposed to a nationwide group," said senior Julia Bain, co-president of the honor society. "When we think of hunger, a lot of the time we think of different states and other countries, but there are people and families on Long Island and even in Port Washington that struggle to afford food especially during the holiday season and after the damage done by Sandy."

Club members were glad to participate and help their community.

"It's nice being able to reach out to the community and I'm glad that we are getting the opportunity to help out," said sophomore Kim Winter.

Tri-M collected food donations on the nights of both Winter Concerts on Dec. 18 and 19.

~ Tessa Peirls

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Harry Paul

Students in the main hallway look at the mural. Recently, the mural has created controversy after students created a petition against the image of Obama in the mural.

Depiction of Obama in mural stirs controversy

BY Ana Espinoza
Assistant News Editor

In the three years since the wall mural on the first floor was painted, students have become accustomed to seeing it on their daily walks between classes. It features an image of President Barack Obama, along with depictions of the Statue of Liberty and the American flag.

A group of students, led by sophomore Jacob Bloch, recently took action against the mural by way of a petition in an effort to create a tolerant, non-partisan environment for staff and students of all political standpoints.

Port Washington is a traditionally liberal area of the country, and the majority of Schreiber students with set political preferences identify themselves as liberals or Democrats. Conservative students are in the minority.

“Let me make this clear,” said Bloch. “This isn’t a partisan issue; this is an issue of fairness. In a case just this past election at a polling station in Philadelphia, it was ruled by a judge that a mural depicting President Obama must be covered because it is prohibited by law, being that it can influence voters. Is it possible that placing a mural of a currently serving politician, while having no precedent for this, may look like an endorsement of an ideology to some still undecided and unsure minors?”

Bloch created the petition, and the document was sponsored by fellow sophomores Ryan Capps, Noah Hirsch, and Andrew Varvaro. Sophomores Michael Falzone and Joshua Curtis also supported the petition. The group visited Principal Mr. Ira Pernick to discuss the issue, and the petition received close to 100 signatures before it was turned in.

“They had a concern about the potentially political message that the mural was sending,” said Mr. Pernick.

The petition asserted, “We do not see a free learning environment, where students can develop their own political ideas. What we do see, however, are students and staff walking down the hallways, recognizing Democratic ideas as the only ones celebrated, and consequently, Republican ideas are shunned. Therefore, we have one simple request. If there is to be a mural of President Obama, we call for an

additional mural, portraying a Republican president. We see it as only fair that both political parties be represented.”

Other students have agreed with the fundamental concerns of the petition.

“I think it’s entirely inappropriate for a controversial sitting politician to be in a school mural. It gives the appearance of an endorsement of his views. Figures from history who get commemorated generally have widely agreed upon legacies. Obama is far from being at that point, and this mural gives the impression that history has been settled on his side,” said senior Robert Gray on his Facebook timeline.

The petition also cited the Dignity Act and requested the painting of a mural of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, or Ronald Reagan to rectify this issue.

“I don’t see how you can demand a piece of art to be created. You’re degrading the artist who created the mural by demanding that someone else create some equivalent Republican version of it,” said junior Simon Shapiro.

Schreiber graduate Nick Gardella (‘10) designed the mural upon President Obama’s victory over Senator John McCain in the 2008 presidential election. Gardella, along with a group of fellow students, painted the mural during the spring of 2009. He worked with Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald to create the mural.

Wall murals at Schreiber are usually student-designed and always approved by school administration before they are painted.

“The wall was called ‘We have a dream’ from the concept that we are all different, but come to school to reach our dreams and in today’s day and age where someone can become whoever they want to be,” said Gardella in the 2010 *Port Light* Yearbook.

“We want murals to have a positive message and be inclusive of all students,” said Mr. Pernick.

On Dec. 13, Gardella visited Schreiber to discuss the matter with Mr. Pernick. He shared that the mural had no intended political message.

However, the situation has nonetheless attracted considerable attention from the local community and online media. On Dec. 11, a conservative news and opinion website, *Breitbart.com*, published an article about the petition by Schreiber students. The article included quotes

from Bloch and Hirsh and asserted that the mural was an example of “blatant left-wing indoctrination in public schools.”

“I opposed this article because I respect Schreiber and its staff. I think calling Schreiber a ‘hostile environment’ is hyperbolic and although the concerns of the petition are legitimate, this should not be a game of mud-slinging,” said Gray on his Facebook timeline.

By Dec. 12, the article went viral on Facebook as current and graduated Schreiber students posted statuses voicing their opinion on the mural.

As of press time, senior Michael Krellenstein’s status opposing views expressed in the article received 127 likes and over 100 comments.

“The school community—teachers, parents, students—was somewhat concerned about the way the school’s been portrayed online—it’s incited

anger, frustration, and even emotional outbursts,” said Mr. Pernick. “However, I’m confident that we will get through this.”

The petition has also created conflicting viewpoints among students and staff.

“The mural recognizes the election of the new president Barack Obama along with exploring themes of diversity and community,” said art teacher Ms. Miranda Best. “The mural marks a moment in our national history in a respectful and appropriate way.”

“In the past, the school administration had us read parts of the Code of Conduct,” said Bloch. “But, they are not exempt from it. We hope to ensure that the environment of this public learning institution will always be open and that the real political decision making will be left to the students, not the administration.”

Students and staff reflect on shooting in Newtown, Ct.

“It breaks my heart to hear about the 20 children and six adults who were shot. To think about the losses these families have, especially during these holidays is just so cruel. What that man did to those people of Newtown will never be forgotten,” said senior Kelly McDounough.

“I was disappointed in my own reaction to what happened,” said physics teacher Mr. John Schineller. “When I heard, it was through a student’s cell phone, and I think I was so disaffected by it at first that I realized I didn’t have a sense of how significant it was. It’s so sad that it’s hard to connect with it and still function.”

“With all these recent shootings it is apparent that something has changed or is changing in society. Perhaps mental health should be re-evaluated and budget cuts should not impact students access to mental health,” said senior Miles Kurtz.

“I was appalled and felt that immediate action had to take place to prevent tragedies such as this,” said junior Nate Krantz.

“What happened in Connecticut was an appalling tragedy,” said sophomore Wyn Stopford. “What makes it even more disturbing is how easy it was for Adam Lanza to do what he did. There is no need for anyone to own the kind of weapons that he had in his possession. This is only further indication of how important it is that the subject of gun control be addressed. We cannot delay the issue any further.”

~Reporting by Harry Paul

New booth added to campus security

BY **Areeb Azan**
Contributing Writer

At the moment, there is a security booth in construction on Campus Drive by the entrance to the parking lot of Schreiber. The booth is the newest security development for the school and is expected to increase the school's safety and security.

"It will be beneficial. It will give better vision for cars to slow down and obey the speed limit," said security guard John Holze. "It is also a good vantage point for seeing the field and Campus Drive."

Administrators and members of the district's Emergency Preparedness Committee developed the idea for a security booth on Campus Drive. It is funded by the Department of Buildings and Grounds budget.

The school is prioritizing the reduction of the amount of students walking off campus.

"The booth will increase the presence of security on campus. I think it'll make security look more unified and

"We felt the need to maximize the security of our building and deter potential threats such as trespassers, gangs, or even terrorists," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller.

professional," said junior Simon Shapiro.

Two committee members, Robert Seiden and Catherine Moody, contributed to the development of this project. Both can be credited for their push over the last 7 or 8 years for the installation of a booth.

The purpose of this structure is to maximize the building's security and to

make the jobs of the security staff run more efficiently.

"The security booth will provide many positive functions that will only benefit our school. The reason why this structure is being built is we felt the need to maximize the security of our building and deter potential threats such as trespassers, gangs, or even terrorists," said Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller, head of the security department of the school and a leader of the district's Emergency Preparedness Committee. "And even though we are settled in a community that thankfully has no threats like terrorists or gangs, this building will provide a plan for the future of our school's security so that we can be prepared for any situation of that sort."

At the moment, the security guards are stationed in their patrol vehicles, but with the installation of the booth, they can station themselves inside the heated/cooled structure. This provides them with a suitable post that will allow them to direct traffic, monitors students leaving or entering campus, and welcome visitors to the school by showing them where to go.



Claudia Varner

The base for a security booth on Campus Drive has been built. Plans for a security booth have been discussed by administrators for years before the booth came to fruition. The booth will act as a permanent post for security staff.

"Although the structure provides increases in security, students will still continue to walk off unlawfully. "However, this will make it harder for them to do so" said Mr. Miller.

"Although students who do walk off illicitly will be upset, it will only benefit us in many ways," says freshman Diego Espinoza.

Music students perform at All-State level

BY **Stacey Kim and Sally Kuan**
Staff Writers

This year, three students were invited to perform at the annual All-State Conference. Each year, the New York State School Music Association, or NYSSMA, organizes the musical conference, where over 7,000 students from all over the country audition for 890 positions in eight All-State ensembles. This event is held between late November and early December. Seniors Halam Kim and Minah Kim, and junior Ethan Usoskin competed on Nov. 29 and Dec. 2.

These students were selected from among those in the state who scored 100 on the NYSSMA solo examination last spring. From there, they were chosen from among all of the students who auditioned throughout the entire state. Students auditioned with level 6 pieces from the NYSSMA manual and they needed a recommendation from the director of their music ensemble. Once they arrived at the conference in Rochester, they each had to audition for the seating within the orchestra, chorus, or band.

Once the students were accepted to participate in the All-State Conference,

they began to practice with music that was sent to them by mail.

"It should be noted that All-State music is some of the most challenging and rewarding music to prepare and perform," said band teacher Mr. Mark Brenner. "This program seemed to maintain the consistent high standards of NYSSMA All-State festivals."

Usoskin placed first chair, first clarinet in the entire symphonic band. He had a very long solo in addition to a cadenza in one of the performed selections. In addition to his selection to the All-State festival, Usoskin will go on to participate in the All-Eastern performing ensemble, which will perform this spring in Hartford, Connecticut.

"Basically, Ethan was considered the best clarinetist in the state," said choir instructor Mr. John Spiezio III. "We are very proud of these three musicians."

Senior Minah Kim who went to All-State for flute was also in the symphonic band. Senior Halam Kim performed viola as part of the Symphonic Orchestra.

"Last year I was in String Ensemble which is a smaller group. I really liked being in a large, full orchestra this year. Rehearsals were really tiring, but I enjoyed the experience and the performance," said

senior Halam Kim.

The students worked with renowned All-State Symphonic Band and All-State Symphony Orchestra conductors Mr. Anthony Maiello and Mr. Kenneth Kiesler in an ensemble with the top musicians from last spring's NYSSMA solo festival. There were also five vocalists from Port Washington selected as alternates for All-State. Seniors Julia Bain, Laura DeBruin, Gisella Snailer and juniors Amelia Pacht and Emily Weinstein were selected as alternate vocalists for All-State.

Students rehearsed in their respective ensembles for over 8 hours every day. During breaks in between performances, students socialized and went to a symposium with booths from music conservatories and instrument companies. Students had the opportunity to try out instruments and speak to admissions officers from prospective schools. After three days of rigorous rehearsal, the ensembles performed at Eastman Hall.

"I, and all the teachers, are extremely proud of all musicians, and their representation at All-State is a positive reflection of their achievement and the quality of the music program at Schreiber High School," said Mr. Spiezio.

District superintendent appointed

BY **Lena Kogan and Rachel Kogan**

Staff Writers

For four months, the Port Washington School District was without an official superintendent. Former superintendent of schools Dr. Geoffrey Gordon resigned this summer after ten years with the district. Now, the district will continue through this year as a familiar face takes the position of superintendent.

On Oct. 12, the Board of Education approved the resignation of interim superintendent Dr. Kathleen Mooney, who subsequently accepted the position as superintendent.

"Dr. Mooney endured and excelled at what was perhaps the longest, most difficult interview in the history of education. Throughout her 13 year tenure at Port Washington schools, Dr. Mooney has conducted herself with grace, dignity, and a style all her own. There was simply no better candidate for Superintendent of all schools in Port Washington than Dr. Mooney," said Board of Education President Ms. Karen Sloan.

The Board of Education ran the search for superintendent, which is the only district position filled in this manner. Human Resources Administrator Ms. Elaine Fenick and Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Mr. Michael P. DeStio, both of whom also offered input on the subject, aided the administrative part of this search. In the mean time, the school district had appointed Dr. Kathleen Mooney as interim superintendent.

In October, the BOE sent out a letter to the community describing its plans for hiring a superintendent.

The Board of Education posted the opening in several places, one of which is a website used nationally for all educators seeking employment. This enabled thousands of educators nationwide to get the news about the job offering. The application deadline for the candidates was on Nov. 15 and the Board of Education received over forty applications from which to choose. Ever since this deadline, the BOE has been going through the search process and examining the candidates for the position.

To qualify for the job of superintendent, a candidate needs to have a vast amount of experience in the field of education. Furthermore, he or she must also have knowledge of our school curriculum and personnel, as well as in various school processes such as budget maintenance.

"Most importantly, a candidate that has complete confidence in their ability to work within the system before us to move Port Washington forward into the new era of education," said Ms. Sloan. "We will absolutely not settle on anyone that we believe to be less than the best."

Many expressed their appreciation and approval of this decision by the BOE.

"I congratulate the BOE on its decision to commit to a superintendent who embodies intelligence, integrity, and compassion," said Christine Vasilev, president of the Port Washington Teachers Association. "Though challenges there are and challenges there will be, the board's decision to put stability and experience first goes a long way to helping us all work together in the interest of education."

Heat lost in hurricane aftermath

BY Madeline Fagen

Staff Writer

Catastrophic Hurricane Sandy continues to affect our school more than a month later.

"We have been addressing an ongoing heating issue in parts of the school since Hurricane Sandy," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "The storm damaged a section of our heating system."

The heating in the A and B wings were

"Temporary heating units may not have been the most convenient solution...The goal was to keep classrooms warm so students could concentrate, and that was all the school could do to try to achieve that goal," said Mr. Dave Albury, head of custodial staff.

not functioning in the weeks after the hurricane.

"The problem was identified and is being resolved," said Director of Facilities Mr. James Ristano. "Temporary heating units were installed in the meantime so classes can continue."

"Temporary heating units may not have been the most convenient solution, but it was the best one possible for the



Claudia Varner

A generator with fuel is set up on the field next to the track. Concerns were raised about the safety of a fuel tank so close to the school, but the school had to obtain temporary heating units to heat classrooms in the A wing. These classrooms lost heating during Hurricane Sandy, and heating was restored after a month.

problem at hand. The goal was to keep classrooms warm so students could concentrate, and that was all the school could do to try to achieve that goal," said Mr. Dave Albury, head of custodial staff.

There are varying opinions on whether the school's attempts to keep the students safe and concentrated are effective.

"I was in A7 in math. The smell was horrible and it was hard to concentrate," said junior Dillion Drukker. "We were all worried that the fumes were hazardous to our health. Personally, I would've rather been cold than injured by the fumes."

"I trust that the school is trying as hard as they can to fix the heating problem and keep the students safe," said freshman Tori Finkle.

The temporary heating units in each classroom run electrically, ensuring

that there were no gaseous fumes being produced in the building. But the generator positioned on Campus Drive that runs the units does in fact run on diesel fuel.

The district hired a private company to properly and safely install the generator and heaters.

"We do not think students or staff are in any danger," said Mr. Pernick. "We will continue to monitor the situation."

"I'm sure if school administrators thought that the heaters or generator were any sort of threat to the students, that we would not be in school," said freshman Elana Israel. "Our district would never take that risk."

The districts ordered new parts for the school's original heating system from the manufacturer. The parts did arrive

on December tenth, and custodians and heating service men began repairing the heaters only to find that there were additional problems with the heaters. Because of this additional problem, the temporary heaters continued to be used until the heating was able to be completely fixed a few days later.

"I hope that once the heating problem is resolved school life can finally completely return to normal after Hurricane Sandy," said freshman Maddie Rosenbaum.

The generator and temporary heaters were removed from the school grounds, and the heating problem has been officially resolved.

The generator and temporary heaters were removed from the school grounds, and the heating problem has been officially resolved.

Oldest amateur performing arts organization revived for 2013



Courtesy of Ms. Anne DeAcetis

The Port Washington Children's Show performs *Alice in Wonderland* in 1973. This year, the play troupe will produce *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*. This will be the first performance from this play troupe since 1994.

BY Ana Espinoza

Assistant News Editor

This year, the Port Washington Children's Show will return to the stage for the first time since 1994 with a production of *Alice in Wonderland*, a stage adaptation

of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*. The play troupe will hold auditions from Jan. 7-10, from 6 - 9 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and final performances will take place on March 21, 22, and 23. Community members of all ages, including Schreiber students, are

Series programs.

"I can't wait to put the Children's Show back on the map in Port Washington," said Ms. Von Roeschlaub. "This is a remarkable activity that brings families and neighbors together, not only in the audience, but as part of the production itself. It's all about collaborating across

welcome to participate.

The show will be directed by Ms. Diana Von Roeschlaub, who grew up performing in the Children's Shows and the Port Summer show. The story was originally adapted by Play Troupe President Ms. Pamela Meadows for a 1973 Children's Show production in order to accommodate more young performers. Ms. Sandra Ehrlich will act as Executive Producer.

Ms. VonRoeschlaub has worked with children at the Parent Resource Center, Port Washington and Herricks elementary schools, and Hofstra University's Saturday

generations, telling a wonderful story, and having fun. I can't wait to get started."

The show traditionally stages adaptations of children's literary classics and original scripts. The production is also inter-generational—teens, parents, and grandparents alike are invited to become involved.

There are roles available for those with special dance or music experience, as well as for newcomers who would enjoy being part of a group. There are also opportunities to design or operate puppets for the show. Due to production expenses, there will be a moderate participation fee, but sponsorships are available for families in need.

The group's last production was *The Emperor's Tales*, adapted by Play Troupe Vice President and current Port Washington Public Library Media Librarian Tony Traguado. It went on to tour the UK in 1995.

The Port Washington Children's Show is a tradition that dates back to 1947, when Main Street School Principal Charlotte Merriman, and Elmer Tangerman, supported by wife Molly and daughter Judith, partnered to create it. The Greater Play Troupe itself was founded in 1927, and it is recognized as the oldest chartered amateur performing arts organization in New York State.

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Point

Counterpoint

Should religion influence winter holiday celebrations in school?

BY Emma Brezel

Staff Writer

The holiday season is my favorite time of year. The holidays conjure up memories of walking through Manhattan on a snowy evening and gazing at all the lights and holiday displays. I love the smell of the street cart offering roasted nuts while drinking peppermint hot chocolate.

But, above all, I love listening to the sounds. Although it is the normal sounds of the Manhattan hustle and bustle, there's something more jolly about the chaos. In the background, you can hear the bells of the Salvation Army Santas and the horse drawn carriages and sometimes even a Christmas carol being sung.

At Schreiber, this kind of cheer and holiday spirit is much more subdued. Especially in the past few years, there has been an obvious effort by the school to make any holiday activities, like window painting, as nondenominational as possible.

"For Hanukkah my parents got this pair of really expensive white gold hoops and I had to pretend like I didn't even like them because I wasn't allowed to show any religious affiliation at school," said senior Jamie Weiss. (*Mean Girls* reference for all of you who didn't get that.)

With the commercialization of Christmas and the mixture of the religious winter holidays, winter festivities have become more secular than ever.

For many people, the winter holidays represent a time of cheer and a time to tell the people around us that we care. Activities that might be seen as religious, like sending candy canes or sparkly decorations, are just a way of elevating the joy and spirit of others and not as religious symbols.

Christmas and Hanukkah decorations no longer represent such strict religious traditions, but ones that can be shared by everyone.

These festivities are just innocuous fun and should be promoted at school because they boost student moral and promote friendship.

"Holidays, in terms of celebrating in school, is all about merriment and the joy of the season, not religion," said senior Allegra Maldonado.

I appreciate the efforts by the administration to make the school comfortable for students of all religions. It is important that all students at Schreiber feel safe to express themselves.

But, the bottom line is that in the real world, we aren't so sheltered from religious themes and we must learn to coexist.

The day after Thanksgiving ends, it seems that we are bombarded with Christmas everything, from TV advertisements to window displays to

Christmas movie marathons. Students are bound to be influenced by religious influences in the community.

While walking on Main Street, one sees business owners hanging up their Christmas decorations and putting up signs for their Christmas promotional deals.

If the school is looking to promote religious equality, then religion should not be stifled in the holiday activities and decorations. We do not need to become overly politically correct, so eliminating the religious aspects of winter holiday celebrations would be a step in the wrong



Zareen Johnson

direction.

When school attempts to make holiday celebrations religiously neutral, students could come to the conclusion that expressing their religious beliefs to others is not appropriate in school.

Schreiber should promote cheerful winter celebrations, and if religion is a part of this, it may be more of a positive influence than a negative one.

BY Natasha Talukdar

Assistant Opinions Editor

During the cold winter months, holiday themed events and celebrations become a common tradition for many schools, including Schreiber.

While the festive decorations of Christmas trees and menorahs may be a regularity and a joyful thing for many students, this type of tradition doesn't belong in school.

Think back to the days of elementary school. Did you ever feel left out from hearing that some of your friends were

getting presents for Christmas, or a gift a day for Hanukkah?

Even at a young age, many students may have felt alienated that some of their friends were celebrating holidays that they normally did not celebrate due to their religion.

Schreiber hosts multiple events that incorporate religion with school celebrations.

"I think Schreiber does a very good job of creating a pluralistic environment," said senior Leah Weingast. "I do

feel that religion and school are definitely separated, even when holiday celebrations take place."

The holiday celebrations that take place in school are not extremely serious or offensive, though.

For example, the choir goes caroling every year, and sometimes incorporates songs that are in Hebrew or mention Christian figures.

"I do not think that choir caroling and Hebrew songs should be a part of those celebrations because we are a public school," said Weingast. "The songs that do have religious ideals in them may be offensive to students who practice a certain religion. But I personally don't have a problem with a song like 'Frosty the Snowman.'"

Yes, this time of year is the most joyous and festive, and many students and faculty in our school look forward to the holiday break during the last few weeks of December. During this time, there is often a happier spirit in the air, both from the students and faculty.

The anticipation of getting tests finished, and for many seniors, their college applications out of the way, are often motivations for students.

Students should be able to enjoy this warm cheery period without having the issue of religion making them uncomfortable.

"The small celebrations that do happen and the songs that are sung are a nice little touch to the holiday season," said senior Ariana DiPreta. "It lifts up our spirits of being pressured by all of the tests that are given right before break. If something is made too religious, I can definitely understand how it can be seen as a violation of church and state, but I don't think that it's ever gone too far."

There are, in fact, many students who celebrate minority religions, and do not participate in the same holiday celebrations as the majority.

Some students may feel very left out and uncomfortable with other fellow students talking about their holiday plans. "Non-religious students would feel alienated when seeing their peers and teachers participating in holiday events," said junior Erica Andrew.

Religion does not have to be part of school events, as the holiday season is all about being together, and not necessarily having a reason to celebrate.

"The majority of both religious and non-religious students alike celebrate a winter holiday in our school," said senior Ariana DiPreta. "I think it's all about the idea of the holiday; the giving, caring, and living aspect."

Religious holidays should be spent at home, and not expressed in major school events. Students should feel comfortable in school, especially during the winter holiday period.

Schreiber Speaks

"Having influence of religious holidays is great for students to learn about other religious celebrations, especially during this time of the year."

-Priyanka Ninan, junior

"Holidays are about coming together. Religion should not be an interference during the winter season."

-Dana Majewski, senior

Students' concerns are vital to administrators

BY **Amelia Pacht**
Contributing Writer

With recent debates about contentious topics such as cutting school breaks and altering the Senior Experience policy, students may feel ignored in the decision-making process.

However, students' concerns are of the utmost importance, and should always be considered as administrators design policies for the student body. Many students are not satisfied with the new policies that are going into effect this year.

For example, administrators have altered the rules of Senior Experience again and again. While the student perspective

might view these changes as unfair, the staff says that these new regulations are not meant to serve as a punishment.

"I think it is better that the students do not make all the decisions for the entire school because, while our ideas should

be heard, we are not the ones who are best to make all the policies," said junior Rebecca Schaub.

When AP tests end, teachers would have the opportunity to teach their senior students more current or more applicable knowledge.

Yes, change is hard, especially when we

in the '09-'10 school year. This decision was not necessarily expressing the desires of the students at the time, but as years have passed, we see that it was the right decision to be made in terms of the safety of the students.

"We are trying really hard to listen to both teachers and students when it comes to creating meaningful programs," said principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

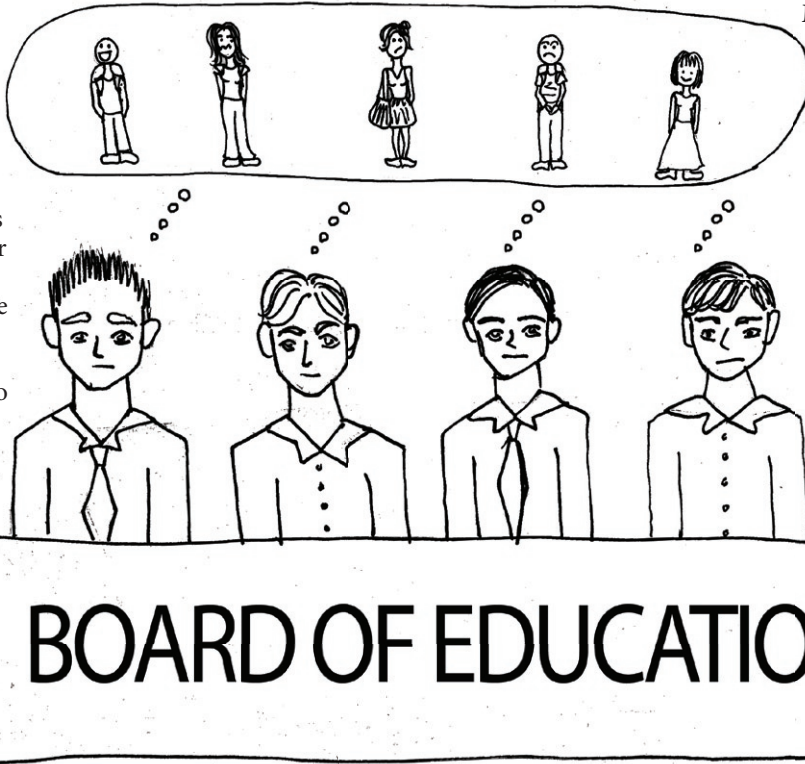
Mr. Pernick shared that whatever the final decision about Senior Experience, the goal of the administration is to educate the students most effectively.

"I am pretty well connected to the student body and I meet with them often to discuss almost any topic," said Mr. Pernick. "I also respond regularly to student emails and tweets because I try to stay in touch with what students care about."

As principal, Mr. Pernick encourages students to contact him and express their ideas. Since this is a facility that is dedicated to improving the lives of its students through education, this mindset is extremely important in the decision making and policy formulation process.

According to the administrators, students' well-being

continues to be the number one priority, and the best way to help students is to promote learning. While the students may feel powerless, all policies are intended to help the students, not to remove their voice.



Jane Nolting-Kolb

think that we have no control over what is going on, but that does not mean that the students were not thought of in the decision making process, or that the changes will not be beneficial for us. One example of this in our school's recent history was the cancelation of Blue and White Night

School's influence in relieving student stress

BY **Maggie Golder and Lauren Livingston**
Contributing Writers

Have you ever felt that school was overly stressful? During midterm week are you cramming incessantly with no time for breaks? Are you spending your time hyperventilating and breaking down in tears?

If your answer is yes to any of the above questions you are suffering from a commonly known syndrome, stress.

Schreiber students suffer from stress in excess, and the teachers and administrators should try to do something to curtail it.

Stress can negatively influence your social, physical, and mental abilities; medical journals have shown that stress causes increases in blood pressure, breathing, and heart rate. Often, stress is brought about by accumulated workloads, evaluations, GPAs and college applications.

If your stress levels are increasing due to our schoolwork and causing a deterioration in your grades and health, then doesn't it seem logical that our school should provide us with stress-relieving programs?

There are many ways in which the administration could provide us with the means to cope with stress. Our school could incorporate an optional yoga class after school to teach breathing exercises and helps relieve stress before students have to go home to study and do more work.

We could also have a similar club designed specifically for resting, in which calming music could be used in order to soothe students' minds.

Music can also play a large part in influencing a person's emotions. Even listening to calming music can be relaxing.

Specifically, smooth songs without words, such as classical musical or jazz, can help to lower one's heart rate, lower blood pressure, and decrease levels of stress-inducing hormones.

In other words, it has the ability to reverse the effects that stress can have on the body.

Furthermore, not only could the school create clubs to serve this purpose, but they could also incorporate it directly into our school schedule as possible electives.

These types of 'rest and relaxation' periods could be an option for students who find themselves taking extremely difficult classes with no extra time on their hands to relax at home.

With students who fill up their schedules with many work-intensive classes, the elective could be seen as an active attempt to cope with stress while also lowering their potential workloads.

Many students agree and have suggested similar programs.

"I think that a room, like the commons, could be set aside for relaxation on students' off periods instead of for eating and socializing," said junior Stephanie-Anne Thomsen. "That way the program wouldn't get in the way of

other classes."

However, some argue that these ideas are a little farfetched. They say that most of the ideas cannot be practically implemented into the school schedule.

Although schools recognize that their students are under a great deal of pressure, they also might not want to take responsibility of relieving our stress for us. They might realize that their own efforts may not meet the needs of their students.

"My worry is that people will use these classes or rooms as just another opportunity to socialize instead of using them for what they're there for," said junior Cassandra Lammers.

It is a very real concern, and may be a major reason as to why this issue hasn't been fully addressed.

This, however, doesn't mean that students should let the stress pile up and get out of hand. There are many little things that students could do on their own time to manage their own stress.

Of course, it could simply be relaxing to do yoga at home. You could also always take five minutes out of your day to meditate.

These actions would serve as a break to keep your mind off of school, or whatever it is that is causing you trouble, and it wouldn't be very time-consuming. They are great ways for even the most busy students to relax.

With or without the school's help, you do not need to be hindered by your stress.

Bungee-jumping off the fiscal cliff

BY **Will Berger**
Contributing Writer

If you have been watching the Washington news coverage, you have probably been alerted to the apocalypse known as the "fiscal cliff."

Don't let the hype scare you; it's just a combination of automatic tax hikes and spending cuts that can easily be averted if our nation's leaders demonstrate basic intelligence and 7th grade level maturity. Unfortunately, that would be expecting too much from them.

This is not uncharacteristic of our politicians; they have stooped to similar levels of incompetence before.

During the debt-ceiling crisis of 2011, Congress realized that if the Treasury could not borrow more than its limit—the debt ceiling—the government could not make necessary expenditures.

Debates culminated in the Budget Control Act of 2011. Three days after the act was passed into law, Standard & Poor's downgraded the nation's credit for the first time in history.

On Jan. 1, the Bush Tax Cuts expire, the Alternative Minimum Tax thresholds are reverted to 2000 levels, the Payroll Tax Cut will expire, emergency unemployment benefits end, \$984 billion in defense and non-defense spending will be cut, and we will all be crushed in a fiery mass of ash and bone by an asteroid hurtling towards earth.

You might be saying: "How can we avoid this cluster of incompetence, stupidity and space rock?"

Well, unfortunately we can't.

While our so-called leaders may dump out a compromise at the eleventh hour, the problem is not really the fiscal cliff, but who's been in charge of it.

Our politicians are playing a game of chicken; they are waiting until the last minute to do anything.

Why do I sound so defeatist? Well, it's because we've seen this scenario play out before. Congress knew that we were going to break through the debt ceiling in April 2011, soon after they passed the last part of the 2011 U.S. federal budget.

The Treasury Department predicted that the U.S. was going to run out of cash to pay all its bills on Aug. 2, 2011.

So when did Congress reach the deal that resolved the U.S. debt ceiling crisis?

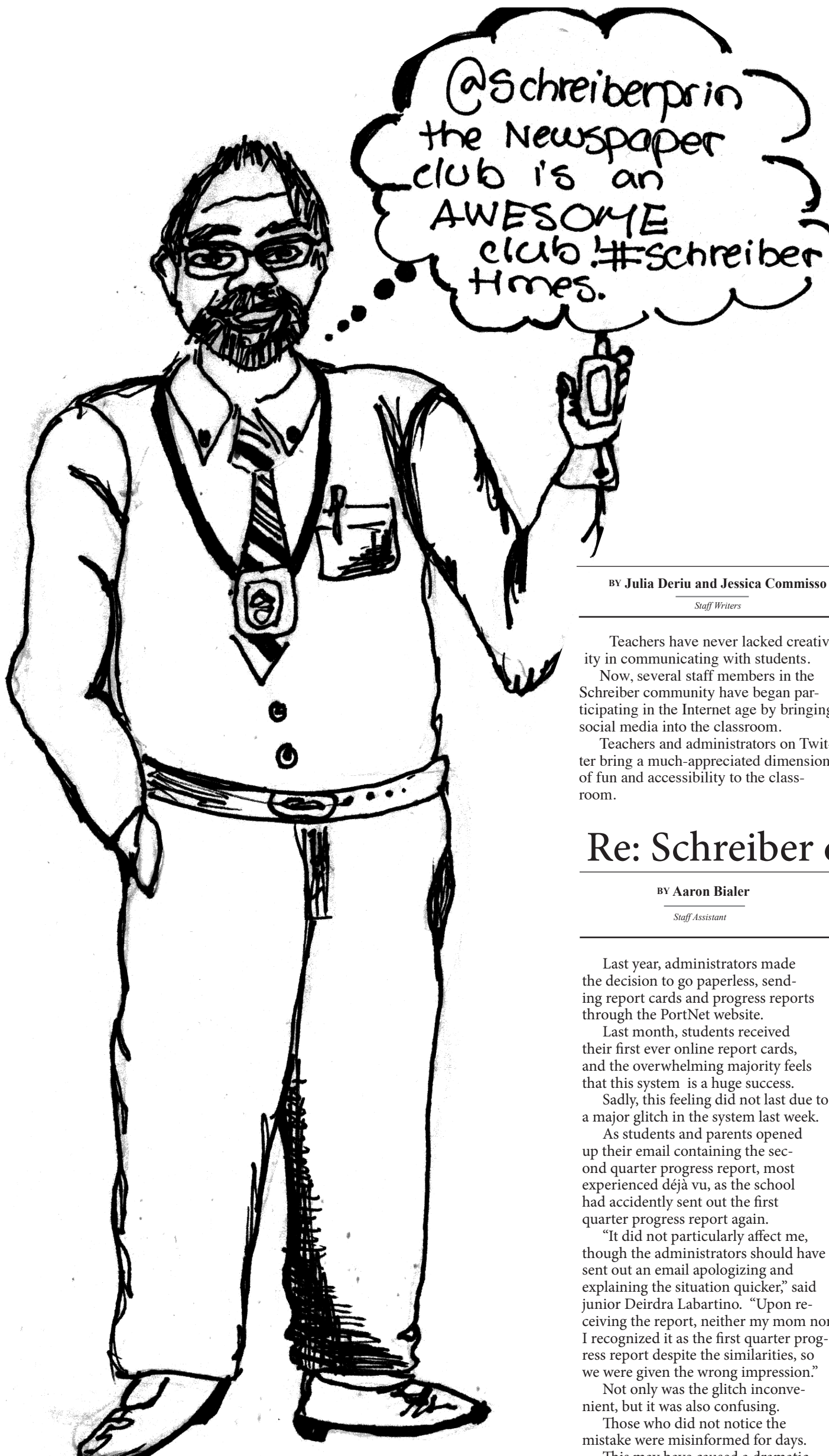
Like most students, they handed it in the night it was due, Aug. 2. And, like anything turned in at the last minute, it received poor grades in the form of a stock market crash and a credit downgrade of the U.S. government for the first time in its history.

The best idea I've heard this week has been from Mr. Warren Buffet.

"I could end the deficit in 5 minutes," Buffet told CNBC. "You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting member of Congress are ineligible for re-election."

It would be interesting to see that get passed through Congress.

Teachers on Twitter are #helpful #amazing and #cool



Ignacia Roman

Schreiber staff members who can be found on Twitter include Principal Mr. Ira Pernick (@SchreiberPrin), and social studies teachers Mr. Craig Medico (@MrMedicoInfo), Mr. Jeremy Klaff (@SocialStuds), and Mr. George Muhlbauer (@MrMuhlbauer).

For example, during Hurricane Sandy, spending a week without electricity strained communication between students and school officials.

Mr. Pernick's Twitter account was filled with tweets from students looking to receive immediate responses to pressing questions, including many about when school would re-open. Other teachers use Twitter as a productive means to share enriching information with their students outside of the classroom.

"I joined Twitter because I thought it would be a good way to review for the Regents," said Mr. Klaff. "Also, I wanted to share interesting tidbits of history. I don't use it to communicate with students, because I feel it's unfair if I'm not on it all day."

Furthermore, these days students are always on the Internet, tweeting or chatting on Facebook.

"Klaff knew that most of us would be on the computer, especially on Twitter, so I feel that using Twitter is a great mode for teaching students," said Pepe.

But if you're looking to have a chat with a teacher, this is not the place to go.

"I don't think it's a good way to have constant communication with students, because not every student uses Twitter," said Mr. Klaff. "If students want to talk to me they can find me and talk to me in person, I'm not going to tweet to them."

Still, Twitter has proved to be extremely beneficial for many reasons, and is now an overall positive influence on students and teachers alike. Social networking keeps students informed in a fun way.

BY Julia Deriu and Jessica Comisso

Staff Writers

Teachers have never lacked creativity in communicating with students.

Now, several staff members in the Schreiber community have begun participating in the Internet age by bringing social media into the classroom.

Teachers and administrators on Twitter bring a much-appreciated dimension of fun and accessibility to the classroom.

Re: Schreiber digital revolution

BY Aaron Bialer

Staff Assistant

Last year, administrators made the decision to go paperless, sending report cards and progress reports through the PortNet website.

Last month, students received their first ever online report cards, and the overwhelming majority feels that this system is a huge success.

Sadly, this feeling did not last due to a major glitch in the system last week.

As students and parents opened up their email containing the second quarter progress report, most experienced déjà vu, as the school had accidentally sent out the first quarter progress report again.

"It did not particularly affect me, though the administrators should have sent out an email apologizing and explaining the situation quicker," said junior Deirdra Labartino. "Upon receiving the report, neither my mom nor I recognized it as the first quarter progress report despite the similarities, so we were given the wrong impression."

Not only was the glitch inconvenient, but it was also confusing.

Those who did not notice the mistake were misinformed for days.

This may have caused a dramatic impact on the lives of some students.

Despite this glitch, the new system is still much better than the old.

"I am thrilled with the way the system has worked thus far," said principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "I anticipated more problems than have surfaced. I think the community has adapted very well."

Additionally, the reduced paper usage benefits the environment by saving trees.

"I like the fact that the school is going green and saving on paper," said math teacher Ms. Tina Marie Gallagher.

Students and parents are also happy with the new system.

"The new system is much better. Not only is it cost-efficient, wasting less paper, but the grades arrive much faster, getting rid of the long wait," said junior Isaac Maraboli.

Students receive their report cards almost instantaneously.

"It's nice knowing that now I am always going to be the first person to receive the report card," said Ms. Susan Rosenblatt, mother of junior Eric Rosenblatt.

For teachers, the adjustment was quick and straightforward.

"The system is very much the same from a teacher point of view. It's a little bit easier submitting everything in one place online," said biology teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty.

The implementation of new report card system was an overall success despite the recent progress report glitch.

Editorials

Controversy over mural in school hallway

Recently, a three year-old mural that had previously received little attention from the Schreiber community has drawn fierce criticism from a group of conservative students.

These students and the signatories of their petition to amend the mural have interpreted its portrayal of President Barack Obama as an inappropriate endorsement of his political views.

The Schreiber Times believes that the apolitical message of the original artist is clear, and that the school should respect the artist by leaving his original work intact.

President Obama does not appear on the mural as our current president, or as a Democratic president; he appears on the mural as our first black president. America has elected a president whom it would have subjected to segregation within his own lifetime.

This is not an issue of partisan politics

Mr. Obama's presence on the mural is a recognition of what is undeniably a landmark in our nation's history.

It is likely that students would not object to a mural of John F. Kennedy not because he is another respected president in our nation's history—not because he was associated with the Democratic party during his tenure.

The Schreiber Times believes this message is clear in the mural's current state. It was suggested that President Lincoln, a Republican president, be positioned in the mural juxtaposed to President Obama to balance the effect of the mural.

Firstly, the ideals and policies that the Republican party supports are not directly aligned with those held by the Republican party in the nineteenth century — to append the mural with a symbol of conservative ideas, as the students' petition suggests, would only politicize an apolitical work of art.

This would completely alter the implications of the mural in a way that is directly contradictory to the original artist's intentions.

The students behind the petition argue that the mural contributes to a learning environment that is hostile to conservative students.

The Schreiber Times believes that the school, with its diverse staff of teachers and student body, promotes an atmosphere that is welcoming to students of all political ideologies and is in no way hostile to students holding minority beliefs

Although our own inquiries into the matter have demonstrated that conservative students at Schreiber are certainly in the minority, we do not believe there is any sort of institutional hostility akin to what is implied by the petition and its authors.

Anyone can take offense to anything. That does not mean that everything is offensive.

The message behind the mural is clear, and The Schreiber Times believes this controversy is much ado about nothing.

The school should defend the integrity of the mural and respect the artist by keeping it as it is.

Letter to the Editor: Solutions to parking issue

Many students rely on the Monfort parking lot as a place to park in the morning. The issue is that parking spots fill up quickly, and there is no other place to park. If a student is caught in the teacher parking lot, which is usually empty, they will receive a punishment from the school. Also, if students are caught in the nearby Rite Aid parking lot, there is a chance that his/her car will be towed. The school should allow students to park in the teacher's lot as there are several open spots throughout the day.

If this was the case, students wouldn't have to rush in the morning to get a parking spot before their peers.

Another solution could be to allow certain students access to the Monfort Lot instead of students as whole.

For example, a positive reinforcement of "Student of the Month" could be to exclusive access to the parking lot. The three seniors who receive Student of the Month will be given the privilege to park in the teacher's parking lot for a period of time.

Because there are certain spots open in the teacher parking lot, the school can afford to give a few vacant spots to students.

These solutions would be helpful in solving the problem of senior parking.

~Ben Rosen and Michael Lewis

Letter to the Editor: Custodians' hard work

Every day the Schreiber custodians put in tons of extra hours before and after school in order to keep our school sanitary and hygienic. Without these hardworking employees, students would get sick from the germs that they are surrounded by each day. Schreiber custodians should be commended for all of their hard work that often goes unnoticed.

Schreiber's bathrooms normally would be messy and filthy, but since we are lucky enough to have janitors who are so conscientious, the bathrooms are spotless. Also, one of the janitors goes around to each table in the cafeteria with large groups of students with a cardboard tray and asks if anyone has garbage.

After school ends, the custodians take out the trash, sweep under the desks, and make the classroom into its original form.

Since the custodians work after school ends, all of their hard work is overlooked because few students are in the building.

The custodians deserve much more credit than they currently receive. Every day students should take the time to recognize what they do for us.

~Kirya Ades-Aron and Emily Perlman

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on January 3! All new writers are welcome!

Times Policy Statement

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

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

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

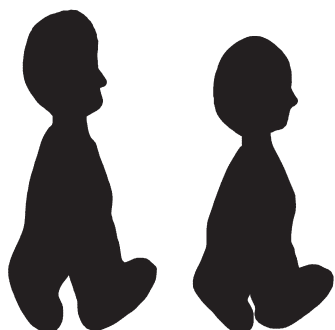
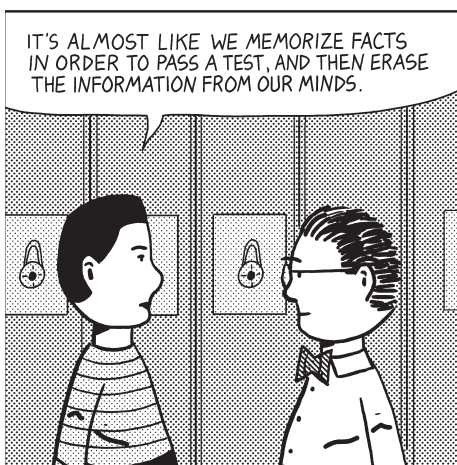
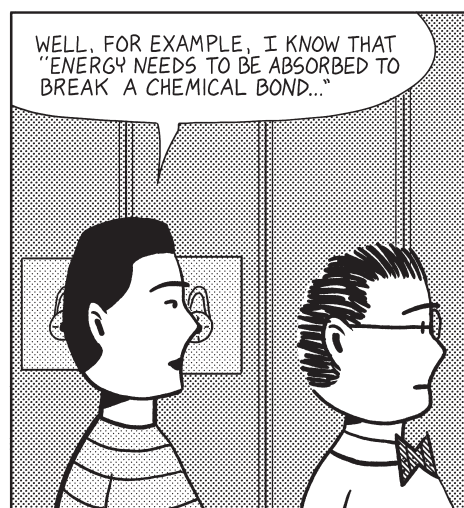
We will print letters to the editors if judged to be of sufficient quality and importance on a space-available basis. We will not print letters that are obscene, libelous, or contain unfounded charges. The Times reserves the right to shorten letters if doing so does not alter their meaning, and to choose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

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

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

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

The Hart Knock Life



Hurricane Sandy havoc still felt two months later on Long Island

A long rebuilding process is still ahead for those affected by the storm

BY Daneilla Philipson

Features Editor

Homes are warm and sparkling with holiday lights, but it was not so long ago that Long Island neighborhoods were completely in the dark. Residential areas including Long Beach, Island Park, and Oceanside, were blanketed in darkness for six weeks following the wreckage of Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Marla Ezratty, a science teacher at Schreiber High School and a resident of Long Beach since her childhood, said that Sandy was the second biggest storm she had ever seen.

"It started on Sunday and the biggest issue was that, as prepared as you try to be, you are never really prepared for the damage of a storm like that one," said Ms. Ezratty. "The first storm that I remember was back when I was a kid and the flooding was so bad that my neighbor took his canoe and was rowing down the streets to check on everybody and make sure the families were okay. That type of camaraderie existed after Sandy and it was nice to feel the community come together, especially since it's been continuous two months after the storm."

Long Beach is not the only area still dealing with the massive cleanup after



Harry Paul

Science teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty is a resident of Long Beach and is still dealing with the aftermath and clean up of Hurricane Sandy.

the storm. Areas such as Oceanside, Island Park, Staten Island, and parts of Brooklyn, among other places, are still in the midst of repairing. It will take months of work before these areas are back up and running.

"The first wave of damage came from the water, especially since many apartment buildings had underground parking garages that flooded with water," said Ms. Ezratty. "The second wave of dealing with the damage was removing the mounds of trash, throwing away ruined appliances, cutting out carpets, and ripping out sheetrock to prevent against disease, mold, and back water."

A major issue across beach communities has been removing sand that blanketed the streets after high tides demolished the sand dunes.

"The sand is slowly starting to move back," said Ms. Ezratty. "One major issue is that the sand, due to the sewage system failure, needs to be sterilized or replaced. People are still working on moving cars and trash, which couldn't really happen until the majority of the sand was moved

out of the way."

As of now, the majority of the trash is housed at Nickerson beach where it sits idly before taking a trip up to Albany. Once in Albany, the trash is burned, but this is a slow process.

"The amount of damage is contingent to the large amounts of sand that were moved in such a short period of time. After the storm, sand completely blanketed the streets and waves pushed cars blocks away from where they were parked," said Ms. Ezratty.

"The monstrosity of the hurricane was the result of many things," said Ms. Ezratty. "First of all, it was a full moon, and it was high tide, then there was a storm surge, and to top it all off the wind strength was between seventy to one-hundred miles per hour. The first high tide was on Sunday and it breached by 4:30 p.m. and the the bay overflowed. We lost electricity immediately. Then, on Monday night all of the transformers blew at the sewage center, and that's when the problems really kicked in."

"It took three weeks before we were

able to flush our toilets," said Ms. Ezratty. "Hot water came back the following Tuesday, but even then none of the water was drinkable. I didn't have electricity back until the first week of December, and from there heat and gas followed by quickly."

Since then, the biggest reality check for many hurricane victims has been dealing with the insurance companies and FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was created to assist in natural disasters.

The majority of schools in Long Beach and Island Park have been displaced, with students relocated to other schools. In these situations, the makeshift schools are housing double the amount of grades that a typical school would hold.

"It's been difficult to get back into normal living after being displaced for so long," said Ms. Ezratty. "This whole experience has definitely made people aware of 1800s living. It makes you grateful for the little things. It is nice to come home, flip the light switch, and actually have the lights turn on!"

Sweet Alchemy by Amelia attracts anyone with a sweet-tooth

BY Maddie Cohen & Chloe Silver

Contributing Writers

The homey vibe and sweet aroma of freshly baked cakes are the hallmarks of Sweet Alchemy by Amelia, Port Washington's newest specialty cake shop. The warm smile of Ms. Amelia Monis, the owner and primary baker, greets you as you walk through the door of 142 Main Street, across the street from Edible Arrangements.

Sweet Alchemy is unlike any other bakery in town in that its primary business is creating gourmet cakes for birthday parties, bat and bar mitzvahs, weddings, baby showers, and corporate events.

We know what you're thinking: this sounds like a regular run of the mill bakery, but we promise you, it is not. The retail side of Sweet Alchemy by Amelia is made up of regular sized and mini



Harry Paul

Amelia Monis' homemade apple butter cupcakes have an apple cake base and are topped with whipped cream and apple cinnamon sauce.

cupcakes that are available at the store.

"This is the first cupcake place I have owned," said Ms. Monis. "I learned to bake at my mother's hip when I was a kid."

Sweet Alchemy does not have a set order list and the available cupcakes are baked fresh every day based on what Ms. Monis has in her kitchen. The cupcakes are either made from leftover batter of that morning's cakes or simply a recipe that the head baker was in the mood for.

"I make entirely new cakes for each event and no two customers get the same cakes, which is why the cupcakes are never the same either," said Ms. Monis.

The cupcakes are incredibly diverse, ranging from a decadent chocolate cake topped with whipped cream and chocolate sauce to the festive buttery vanilla apple cake with apple chunks. Other interesting flavors include dark chocolate cupcakes with orange marmalade and a chocolate orange shaving topping, pistachio

chocolate cupcakes, and tiramisu cupcakes.

"I love working at Sweet Alchemy. Amelia Monis, the owner, is amazing. She is teaching me all about the trade. Each day I help her make fresh cupcakes and custom cakes for the shop. My personal favorite is her vanilla apple cinnamon cupcake," said junior Carrie Rybecky, a employee at Sweet Alchemy.

In this Ace of Cake's-esque bakery you get the feeling that everything you buy is made especially for you.

Their extremely detailed cakes take on an almost whimsical feel. For example, a burger cake made for a wedding, looks good enough to fry on the grill. Your stomachs will be full of sugary, delicious cakes after a trip to Sweet Alchemy.

You can see Sweet Alchemy's specialty cakes at www.SweetalchemybyAmelia.com.

12.21.12. YOUR GUIDE TO THE APOCALYPSE

oday's the day: December 21, 2012. We've all heard the theories, read the articles, and seen the movies. Apocalyptic theorists suggest that the end of the ancient Mayan calendar, which correlates to today's date, suggests that today will be the end of the world, or at least the end of the world as we know it. These theories have pervaded the public mind, despite constant assurances by educated officials that they are complete nonsense.

"I don't think humans deal with uncertainty well," said social studies teacher Mr. Alex Seuplyvida. "We have a need for definitive beginning points, and it follows that we would need endpoints as well. Today, I think that we've become so removed from the 'natural world' that we have some subconscious fear that nature is going to get revenge on us."

NASA's 'ask an astrobiologist' program has reportedly received over 5,000 questions, many from frightened children, regarding the end of the world. In response, both a government blog (usa.gov) and NASA have released numerous statements and videos debunking these theories and governments in countries all around the world have taken action to placate people.

"I think that people are attracted to the idea of not just the 2012 apocalypse, but any apocalypse," said senior Alexandre Haussmann to *The Schreiber Times* in 2011, who acted in the film *2012* with his twin brother, Philippe. "There are always theories going around about the 'end of days.' Whether or not you believe in the apocalypse, it's still something cool to think about."

Apocalyptic Survival Guide

The school administration has not been extremely helpful to students who are wondering how to survive in the upcoming final moments of civilization. Fortunately, *The Schreiber Times* is here to help! First and foremost, proactive students will want to register for a TestTakers prep course to adequately equip them to pass humanity's ultimate examination. When infrastructure fails, electronics will be registered useless—so start trading Apple products and game consoles for nonperishable foods. Stock up on the lingering Hostess products since it has been proven that Twinkies, the worst food on Earth that are probably made out of plastic, do not ever rot.

Students with part time jobs should put in requests to their employers that they be paid in salted meats. In these last few hours, hug your parents as much as you can. Tell your teachers how much they bore you. *The Schreiber Times'* pub room (the Mac lab) has dozens of old issues of the school newspaper available for kindling available first come first serve, although priority is given to the newspaper staff. Please note that the easiest way to start a fire is with matches, so be sure to buy a lifetime's supply of those or the left-

over newspapers will be deemed useless. Most importantly, go to Costco and purchase as many pairs of socks and underwear as you can because we all know how cranky people are when they run out of clean clothing.

Everyone thinking that Hurricane Sandy was bad enough and that you have had more than your fair share of the storms for the year; brace yourselves. For those of you lacking homes equipped with *Wizard of Oz*-like underground bunkers, the only sure fire way to protect your house from imploding is duct tape. In the event of flooding, duct tape can help keep glass windows and doors from shattering and bringing water into homes. The Spider Man and peace sign printed duct tape rolls from Michaels have proven themselves especially effective. These festive tapes also help ward off looters who are deathly afraid of superheroes and symbols of harmony.

Since meteorologists, weathermen, and avid storm trackers are predicting that the massive waves and wind speeds will wreak havoc on homes, start construction on an ark for your family now, while there is still time. Unfortunately, sewing together all of your family's waterproof raincoats and tarps together will only create a temporary raft. Do not rely on this raft for protection against a twenty-foot wave.

Be sure to use the finest wood in building your ark. According to the Internet, the most reliable source, pressed cypress wood was used to construct Noah's Ark. If pressed cypress wood got Noah through forty days and forty nights, it will most likely (there's a 90% chance) save us from the apocalypse. Although duct tape is useful in saving your windows, it is not strong enough to hold your ark together. Elmer's glue should do the trick, though.

Stocking the ark is just as important to the survival process as building it. Load all of your livestock onto the ship in pairs or, if you do not own any animals, bring childhood stuffed animals onto the ark. Stuffed animals are versatile enough to serve as sources of companionship, warmth, and food if need be. If you actually own pets, try not to leave them behind. It will probably get hectic with

Last Words from *The Schreiber Times*

<p>"Guys, let's all sing a song together! I love you!" Hannah Fagen Editor-in-Chief</p>	<p>"Opinions, Out." Erin Choe, Hallie Whitman and Natasha Talukdar Opinions Editors</p>	<p>"If the world is ever repopulated by humans, I doubt anyone will ever be born who is as cool or as funny as me." Dan Bidikov A&E Editor</p>
<p>"Wee-tah-kah-loo-lo." (Furbish for Tell Me a Joke) Minah Kim News Editor</p>	<p>"It's been real." Katie Fishbin A&E Editor</p>	<p>"Last words are over-rated anyway." Penina Remler Assistant A&E Editor</p>
<p>"Peace." Jane Nolting-Kolb Graphics Editor</p>	<p>"Someone get me a cookie!" Jake Eisenberg Sports Editor</p>	<p>"Does anyone actually read sports?" Aaron Brezel Assitant Sports Editor</p>
<p>"I only loved one of you." Victor Dos Santos Assistant A&E Editor</p>	<p>"Liz Lemon would know what to do." Daniella Phillipson Features Editor</p>	

After serving you, our readers, since 1924 (First as The Port Weekly and later as The Schreiber Times,) we are saddened to know that this might be our very last publication. If the world really does end today, these are our last words to you.

all of those stuffed animals running around, so do not forget to load actual live animals onto the ark.

In the days leading up to the apocalypse, save as many toilet paper rolls, empty tin cans, and kitchen utensils as possible. Hurry to the apocalypse parties thrown around the New York area and collect empty bottles so you can combine them with the toilet paper rolls and tin cans to create makeshift instruments. After our modern devices stop working, humanity will no longer have the ability to listen to the synthesized, monotonous vibrations that we call music. Without electronics, how will we possibly find entertainment?

Old issues of *The Schreiber Times* can be crumpled into balls and used to play

sports after the earth eats your xbox, in addition to being folded intricately to create decorative origami for the ark and into paper hats to protect your head from the winter weather and rain. In the worst case scenario, *The Schreiber Times* can also be used for clothing. Have your fashionable friends and those who are FIT-bound to help you with this one. If you gather some arts and crafts supplies that have been sitting in your basement since the third grade, you can make clothing for others

will not be easy, but if you pretend to be a hamster and hide food in the non-existent "pockets" in your mouth, we guarantee you will survive the apocalypse. Hiding food in your mouth or sweatshirt pockets will also prevent

thieves from taking it. For extra protection, envelope all of your food and precious items in patterned duct tape since thieves hate this wonderful sticky product.

and trade sequined *Schreiber Times* tank tops for small berries and nuts to survive on.

Since food will become a scarce necessity, you had better stock up on it while you can. Although *The Schreiber Times* is not suggesting that you are a squirrel, hamster or other rodent like animal, their methods of survival seem to be particularly helpful. Hamsters, for example, have pockets on the insides of the cheeks where they can store food and save it for later. Talking with a mouthful of packaged granola bars or an unopened bag of Cheerios

By Dan Bidikov, Hannah Fagen, Minah Kim, and Daniella Phillipson

Apocalyptic Bucket List

1. Find the school swimming pool
2. Eat lunch on the roof
3. Speak in only hashtags for an entire day
4. Profess your deep love for a teacher
5. Run your own scantron
6. Hang out in the Social Studies teachers' lounge
7. Go inside the test vault
8. Give a Christmas gift to someone you've never met, who might not even celebrate Christmas
9. Take a bite out of your homework and hand it in
10. Play music over the PA system, prompting a dance party in the hallway
11. Run up a down escalator
12. Use mr. Perrnick's private bathroom
13. Buy a pug
14. Learn to play the ukelele
15. Unfriend all of your non-friends on Facebook
16. Ride in the security smart car
17. Replace all of your friends with furbies

Schreiber students select their two best dressed teachers

BY **Caroline Ogulnick**
Assistant Features Editor

Walking through the Schreiber hallways, some teachers look like they're strutting down the runway, and others, not so much. On Dec. 4, students marked their ballots to vote for Schreiber's Best Dressed Teacher. Polling took place in the lobby during 4.1/4.2, and drew a large crowd, with 247 students submitting votes. The ballot consisted of separate male and female categories, each containing five contestants. Students checked off one teacher from each category, or wrote in their own nominees.

This year's Best Dressed Teacher contest was very close, but English teacher Mr. Corey Block and health teacher Ms. Janine Kalinowski came out victorious.

Schreiber's first Best Dressed Teacher competition was in 2005, with a second competition in 2006. This has been the first best dressed contest since then. Even though it's been six years, many of the teachers that were nominated in the past appeared on the ballot this year as well. In 2006, Ms. Renee McClean of the Social Studies Department took first place for the women and Mr. Block won the title for the second time in the men's category.

The nominations for the women's category included Ms. Kalinowski, Ms. Marilyn Gonzalez, Ms. Renee McClean, Ms. Cherie Delio, and Ms. Jennifer Sacha. Ms. Gonzalez, who took second place in 2006, got the silver medal again for this year's Best Dressed Teacher contest. She was flattered, but surprised to see that she won second over the other contestants.

"I get my inspiration from whatever I see, and like to shop with my sisters, not my husband," said Ms. Gonzalez. "I always wear what feels right and what I'm comfortable in."

In the men's category, the nominations included Mr. Corey Block, Mr. Alex Sepulveda, Mr. Mark Reynolds, Mr. Joseph Corbo, and assistant principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald. Like Ms. Gonzalez, Mr. Sepulveda received second place for the second poll in a row. He was also pleased as a runner-up, and congratulates Mr. Block on winning.



Mr. Corey Block, wearing tinted aviators, poses for his photo shoot.

"When I go shopping I like to experiment," said Mr. Sepulveda. "I pick out things that look nice."

After the polling was taken, winners, Mr. Block and Ms. Kalinowski sat down for an interview.

Caroline Ogulnick: Where do you get your style inspiration?

Mr. Block: I get my inspiration from *GQ* magazine, *House* on Fox, Keith Richards, and Spencer Shay from *iCarly*.

Ms. Kalinowski: In all honesty, the sales rack. I hate fashion and gossip magazines and always shop with a coupon. I love Banana Republic, Ann Taylor Loft, and J.Crew because they offer teachers' discounts. All you have to do is show your teacher's ID.

CO: What is one thing you regret wearing in the past?

CB: I regret wearing a lot of things in the past, but even though I regret wearing them, they were in style during the time. I would say anything baggy, like cargo pants of the '90s.

JK: I think that the spandex and shiny pants of the '80s were a ridiculous trend, but now they're back in style. Also, I would never go back to wearing slouchy socks.

CO: If you could dress for one season, which one would it be?

CB: Fall. You really have the most options in the fall because you can layer. If you need to take off your jacket, you can, unlike the winter where you're stuck wearing it all the time.

JK: Summer. I love the summer because I can always wear flip-flops. They are cute and comfortable, and are perfect for the warm weather.

CO: What would be your ideal outfit during this season?



Harry Paul

CB: Dark washed, slim fit jeans, a collared shirt, and a blazer.

JK: I love to wear white during the summer. Navy and white is my newest combination.

CO: How does it feel to win Schreiber's Best Dressed Teacher?

CB: I appreciate that students are at least looking at me and acknowledging my style while I ramble on in class instead of looking out the window.

JK: Oh my goodness, I'm flattered. I like that students notice when I look nice and that I can still be professional while doing so.

CO: Do you have any last words?

CB: I really appreciate this honorable mention, especially since there are so many stylish teachers in our school.

JK: My motto is: "If you look good, you feel good," and everyone has their own way of looking their best.

With the handful of tasteful teachers in our school, Schreiber's Best Dressed Teacher contest proved that students really pay attention to how faculty members put themselves together. Having a stylish teacher in front of a dull black board definitely helps students keep their minds focused.

"I personally think having a well-dressed teacher is an

important factor because it portrays a positive outlook on the teacher and school as a whole," said junior Diego Hidalgo.

Well, Schreiber, you've decided this year's Best Dressed Teachers, but you'll just have to wait until next year to see if Mr. Block and Ms. Kalinowski keep their titles, or if two new teachers will come and sweep away their gold medals.



Harry Paul

Sporting a black top and bottoms, tall riding boots, and a white cardigan, Ms. Janine Kalinowski smiles wide as one of Schreiber's best dressed teachers.

KALEIDOSCOPE CORNER

Planes and Pilots

Erik Catalan

Pure
Love
Always
Never
Ever
Separate
And
Never
Destroy
Pure
I'm the
Love
Of
The

Photograph by Ethan Bookstein

The Schreiber Times Holiday Gift Guide

What to get ↓ The Techie



Nike Plus Fuelband

The Nike Fuelband is just one example of the wearable technology breakout in 2012. It tracks sleep, steps, calories burned and time. It syncs wirelessly with the iOS smartphone app and can even keep track of meals eaten to more accurately represent daily life. \$149 store.nike.com



Kensington KeyFolio Pro 2 Removable Keyboard

The iPad is the most popular tablet out there. The Kensington KeyFolio Pro 2 is a case and a keyboard in one. It fits all iPad generations and has special keys for actions such as increasing the volume and putting the iPad to sleep. \$59.35 amazon.com

What to get ↓ The Fashionista



Sephora Floral Fragrance Sample

Get five deluxe floral-scented perfume samples: Clean Warm Cotton, DKNY pureDKNY, A Drop of Verbena, Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue, Coach Poppy Flower and Jennifer Aniston's fragrance. Afterwards, you can get a full-sized bottle of your favorite free! \$42 sephora.com

What to get ↓ The Foodie



Chocolate Fondue Fountain

Who doesn't love to dip things in chocolate fondue? The perfect gift for any chocolate lover, this fountain works with any kind of chocolate there is, whether it be milk, white, dark, or a mix of all three. 49.99 sears.com



Cotton Candy Maker

This cotton candy maker turns your favorite hard candies (with or without sugar) into fluffy, melt-in-your-mouth cotton candy. All you have to do is plug it in, turn it on, pour delicious candies into the center, and start spinning colorful, carnival-style treats. \$39.99 bedbathandbeyond.com



Pigs in a Blanket Maker

Create everyone's favorite party snack quickly and easily. In just 5-8 minutes you'll have 9 delicious pigs in a blanket that everyone will love. 17.99 sears.com



Lisa Perry OP Art Coin Purse

Keep all your coins in one place with this super cute coin purse! It can also fit both credit cards and bills. \$30 lisaperrystyle.com



Minimergency Kit

This kit includes anything a girl might need at any time. It contains 17 must-haves: hairspray, clear nail polish, nail polish remover, emery board, lip balm, earring backs, clear elastics, mending kit, safety pin, double-sided tape, stain remover, deodorant towelette, pain reliever, tampon, breath freshener, dental floss and an adhesive bandage. \$15 pinchprovisions.com

~ Jenny Barshay & Jack Weinkelbaum

How to make a holiday gingerbread house

BY Charmaine Ye and Makenzie Drukker
Staff Writers

For the record, we did not think this would be that hard. We were wrong.

Gingerbread houses are a holiday staple, so when given the task of writing an article about holiday foods, choosing to make a gingerbread house was a no-brainer. We decided upon a simple, Level E (for “easy”) recipe from the Food Network. Before you go off and make your own, we want to provide you with a few tips to make your life as a gingerbread baker a little bit easier.

First, we gathered the ingredients and quickly realized that there is, in fact, a difference between refrigerated and room-temperature butter. Use room-temperature. It is really important. Refrigerated butter is very difficult to blend into the dough, so the butter needs to be soft. If your fingers leave imprints easily in the stick of butter when you pick it up, you can know that it is ready to use. Also, make sure to start the beater at a low setting, unless you want to create a white Christmas in your kitchen.

While the dough is “j-chillin” in the fridge, trace the templates for the walls of the house with a ruler if you are as uncoordinated as we are and can’t draw a straight line. This is not physics, so make sure you are using inches. Watch out for sharp edges when cutting the templates out.

When rolling out the dough, make sure there is a lot of flour on hand. Roll the dough using a wave motion, starting from the center, and working your way out. Cut out the gingerbread shapes and place them on a baking sheet. Make sure to reshape them on the baking sheet



Bakers beware: these before and after images of a gourmet gingerbread house illustrate what happens when the walls are not properly “glued” together.

because they tend to look deformed after being transferred to the sheet. If there is extra dough left, you can use it to make fun shapes. We chose a Christmas tree, featured in the picture, but other fun options include snow angels or, for the Jewish gingerbread house lover, a menorah.

While your shapes are baking, proceed to make the icing. Don’t eat all of it, because holding the walls of the gingerbread house together will require massive amounts of icing. Keep a knife, fork, and spoon around; they all come in handy.

Now for the assembly. Unless you are a teenage construction prodigy, this is the hard part. Spread icing on your chosen surface, but don’t go overboard or your house will cave in. Find a friend and have

him or her help you place the four base pieces in a rectangle. Spread icing on the seams, hold the pieces together and let it dry. Fan with a newspaper or your math homework, if necessary. You could also cheat by building around a plastic Tupperware container to hold the sides up.

Decorate the sides of the house and “lawn” with candy, and then decorate and frost the roof. Very carefully, place the roof on the house. Did we mention you should be very careful? Because you should.

Quickly snap a photo and upload it to Instagram, so people will think you are an extraordinary baker. Then step back and admire your creation before your gingerbread house implodes, because you probably used too much icing.

Homemade Gingerbread and Icing Recipes

Gingerbread:

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, at room temperature
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1/4 cup light molasses or dark corn syrup
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon ground ginger
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cloves
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons water
*1 helpful and/or determined friend
*physics and/or construction skills
*lots of time

Icing:

1 pound (3-3/4 cups) powdered sugar, sifted if lumpy
1 to 2 large egg whites, or substitute 4 teaspoons packaged egg whites and 1/4 cup water
1 teaspoon almond extract, vanilla or lemon juice

In a large bowl, cream the butter, brown sugar, molasses, cinnamon, ginger, cloves and baking soda together until the mixture is smooth. Blend in the flour and water to make a stiff dough. Chill at least thirty minutes or until firm. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Roll gingerbread dough out to edges on a large, rimless cookie sheet. Place paper patterns (2 3x5 rectangles; 2 3x5.5 rectangles; and 2 pentagons: 3 inches wide at the base, 3 inches to the roof line, and slanted to a peak 5 1/2 inches from the bottom) onto the rolled out dough. With a sharp, straight-edged knife, cut around each of the pieces.

Bake at 375 for fifteen minutes until dough is firm. Mix icing ingredients.

Furbies make a comeback this holiday season after years in hibernation

BY Minah Kim
News Editor

U-nye-loo-lay-doo? is Furbish for, “Do you want to play with me?” Children across the world are answering yes to this Furby revival this holiday season. With plush fur, LED eyes, attitude and persistence, and an iPhone-era twist, Furby appeals to (and will annoy) this new generation just as it did 14 years ago.

Furby entered society in 1998 and was met with instant demand worldwide as a toy/pet that could interact with and learn from its owner. There were over 40 million Furbies sold from 1998 to 2000,

but most children who wanted a Furby when it was released in 1998 now recollect horror stories of the “demonic and crazy thing” that would never stop talking and cackling.

A few quintessential ‘Furbish’ characteristics persist with this Furby reincarnation—the most notable being its lack of an off switch. As with the original Furby, Furby 2.0 is programmed to be ‘born’ speaking only Furbish and to learn English over time. Through Furbish and the new LED light eyes that display the Furby’s emotions, Furby is able to express contentment when you tickle its tummy and discontent when you pull its tail. The only way to stop it from talking in its



www.toysrus.com

Furbies, a popular toy of the 1990s, are making a comeback.

feature of this new Furby is increased interaction through an accompanying iPhone app. Through this app you can feed Furby, make a sandwich for Furby, translate what Furby says, and access a complete Furbish dictionary. The pantry has dozens of food and non-food items like dirty socks and worms to feed Furby, and Furby will return an empty soda can or vomit back onto your iPhone screen. Furby also makes appropriate sounds when eating food; it chomps on crackers and slurps on smoothies and depending on the personality of your Furby, it will sometimes spit back green vegetables.

Taking care of and playing with Furby is as demanding as you want it to be, and parents can buy their children Furbies as low-maintenance pets. It is as persistent and attention seeking as a golden retriever, but it will stop bothering you at any time you choose when you throw a blanket on top of it. It’s easy to get attached to Furby. Despite the fact that it is made of plastic, metal, and fur, Furby makes you feel like a neglectful, sadistic owner every time you throw the blanket on it to put it to sleep or feed it a moldy sock just to see it vomit. Additionally, you can feed the Furby its vomit afterwards and it will vomit again in a different form.

Furby comes in a multitude of color variations and the most popular colors, hot pink and teal and black, have been sold (to uninformed and foolish buyers) on eBay for over \$1,000 within these first months of Furby’s release. Most stores including Target, Amazon, Walmart, and Toys ‘R’ Us retail Furby at \$59.99.

squeaky voice and dancing around is to “put it to sleep,” by leaving Furby alone in a dark place. However, this is no easy feat. Often, telling Furby “time to sleep” will be met with “big joke!” and even the slightest disturbance will be met with incessant chattering.

Needless to say, Furby loves interacting with its owner and this is a selling point, as the Furby has been marketed as a toy whose personality develops differently depending on how it is treated by the owner.

New features of the Furby include singing along to songs and dancing in sync with the beat. Furby will actually remember the tune of the song after hearing it, and you will undoubtedly hear Furby singing to itself even after the song ends.

The most remarkable and noteworthy

SIGI_SQUAD by Chris



Chris Goh

arts & Entertainment

The Hobbit is an unexpectedly slow journey

BY **Ben Lerner**
Staff Writer

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey takes place in the fantasy world of Middle Earth, inhabited by recognizable races such as orcs, druids, elves, dragons, Dwarves, wizards, and the like. The story revolves around Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), a hobbit who remembers how he was once convinced by a wizard, Gandalf the Grey (Ian McKellen) that he must help the Dwarves reclaim the treasure and kingdom that was stolen from them by a vicious dragon, Smaug. Baggins agrees to join a group of Dwarves on their adventure, and the ragtag group of thirteen Dwarves, a wizard, and a hobbit venture off to the mountain of the Dwarves to reclaim the stolen treasure and defeat the dragon.

The entire movie is about how the team gets from point A to point B. The introductory scene is wonderful, because it not only neatly explains how the dragon conquered the Dwarves, but also because it never showed you exactly what the dragon looked like; only split-second glimpses. The actual image of the creature that was breathing vast clouds of flames upon the city was left to your imagination.

The rest of the film did not follow this example. In an effort to spread a relatively short book over three movies, many small details were magnified and given loads of unnecessary exposition and backstory. Tolkien fans may enjoy the roundtable discussion between the elves and the wizards, but it served no purpose other than to show a couple fan-favorite characters and to name-drop others that only fans of the books will appreciate. Many of the enemy encounters that

the characters faced were similarly superfluous. They didn't further the plot, bring the characters together, or give some of the less prominent Dwarves a chance to shine. They were simply nuisances.

The only significant conflict, between Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage), the leader of the Company of Dwarves and his rival, an Orc chieftan, made Thorin a bit more sympathetic when we learn of his tragic past and motive to reclaim the Dwarf kingdom, but it merely built up to a pseudo-climax that gave the illusion that something significant had happened over the course of the movie, when in fact, nothing particularly important came to pass.

Speaking of unnecessary, the CGI in this movie was borderline gaudy. The humanlike characters, namely the Dwarves, elves, and wizards, were portrayed with extensive makeup and

costumework, which added to the fantastical charm of the movie. Others, particularly the Orc chieftan and the entirety of the Goblin race, did not mesh well with the rest of the characters. They looked too out-of-place. Some scenes that relied wholly on CGI, such as the chase through the Goblin lair, stood out as particularly fake, and as a result the tension was noticeably depreciated. Scenes that took advantage of New Zealand's lush scenery, however, stood out as fast-paced, engrossing, and often gorgeous to look at.

Although their quest wasn't particularly riveting, the characters themselves were enough to keep viewers' attention. Freeman played an excellent nervous, reluctant-yet-bold Baggins, and McKellen was as likable and grand as ever. Andy Serkis' performance as Gollum was the most memorable; the scene in which he and Baggins exchange riddles to decide

Baggins' fate was intimate, dangerous, and exciting.

Although I personally may have underappreciated this movie, to me this felt too much like a prequel that sets everything up without resolving anything. At almost three hours long, if you're not completely enamored by the source material, you may find yourself zoning out from time to time. Still, you might want to go see it in 48 frames-per-second simply for the novelty of watching a movie whose cinematography is as real-looking as a daytime soap.

Disclaimer: I had never seen or read anything associated with the *Lord of the Rings* franchise before seeing *The Hobbit*. It might be the first of three movies, but it deserves to be judged by itself. Much of the talk surrounding *The Hobbit* has surrounded its frame rate of 48fps, while I saw it in 24fps. If you choose to see it as Peter Jackson intended you to see its 48 fps, in Digital 3D, then you may experience the film differently.



Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) embarks on a journey to take back the Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the treacherous dragon, Smaug. Adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* series, *The Hobbit* is director Peter Jackson's latest attempt to keep his adaptation of Middle Earth alive. The film, while beautiful looking, is unfortunately very poorly paced and tonally inconsistent.

Avoid paying for *Playing for Keeps*

BY Victor Dos Santos
Assistant A&E Editor

Playing For Keeps is the latest and laziest effort from Italian director Gabriele Muccino, previously known for his work on Will Smith films *The Pursuit of Happyness* and *Seven Pounds*.

A frustratingly bad new romantic-comedy film of questionable family appeal, the film stars Gerard Butler as a retired soccer player who had a wife and kid and whom he, at some point, inexplicably lost. His loss is not important—all that really matters is Butler's character decides he'd like to rekindle his relationship with his son by coaching his soccer team. The catch? Every soccer mom wants to date Butler's character.

The movie is riddled with issues, and it especially struggles to find a consistent tone. This movie has no idea what kind of movie it actually is.

At times, it tries very hard to be a touching story about a father trying to connect with his son, but these heavy emotions are interrupted by flashes of Butler's character, George Dryer, dating soccer moms.

Whoever wrote this film didn't feel it was appropriate to give any of these characters some sort of backstory. We, as an audience, are constantly being told that Butler's character screwed up at one point and how that screw-up resulted in his divorce.

Yet for some strange reason, what that screw-up was is never actually revealed and only exists to make the audience feel sympathy for Butler and strangely not the ex-wife, played by Jessica Beil.

Scene after scene, you see Beil complain to Butler's face about how he's either five minutes late or "not being there". Those scenes don't progress the plot in any way; all they do is make us think that whoever wrote *Playing For*



teaser-trailer.com

George Dryer (Gerard Butler) tries to reconnect with his son and ex-wife (Jessica Beil) by coaching his son's soccer team. *Playing For Keeps* features a great cast reading lines from a script that is both tonally inconsistent and painfully unfunny.

Keeps was some misogynist who's had one too many women complain to him about his tardiness.

We cannot forget the subplot involving the soccer moms who all want to date Gerard Butler. There's no underlying reason for them to want to date him other than to have a nice story to tell their friends.

The problem isn't so much that those scenes convey a misogynistic attitude, it's that, again, they never amount to anything. Those scenes aren't funny, they're not adding any substance to the film itself or its characters—they're just

there.

Playing for Keeps is two hours of nothing but vapidly and poorly developed characters. It is most likely the worst

movie to come out this year and may end up being the last we see of Gerard Butler.

Homeland concludes season two on a high note

BY Susan Maroney

Contributing Writer

One of the most exciting and gripping television shows in recent memory has just finished its second season. The writers and cast of *Homeland*, the thrilling drama series that was inspired by an Israeli series, *Hatufim* (Prisoners of War), have proven capable of continued success this past fall.

The show stars Claire Danes as Carrie Mathison, a CIA officer, and Damian Lewis as Sergeant Nicholas Brody, a veteran and former prisoner of war who Mathison believes to be a brainwashed spy. The intense and dramatic nature of *Homeland* is captured in its advertising slogan: "The nation sees a hero. She sees a threat."

There is never a dull moment, and the action is visceral, ranging from shootouts to chases. However, *Homeland* is not all action. There is also heavy drama and a layered story.

Homeland's plot is extremely complex, and builds up slowly. When Brody returns home, his children barely remember him. His wife (played by the up-and-coming actress Morena Baccarin) struggles to hide the affair that she had while he was away. The plot thickens as Brody's political career takes off, providing for new twists and struggles left and right. All the while, Brody is hiding the fact that he is Muslim from

his family throughout season one. The secret is leaked in the most dramatic way possible, matching the show's high intensity.

Claire Danes plays Carrie very well, showing the characters vulnerability and frailty that comes as a result of her bipolar disorder. From the nuances in her dialogue to her more outlandish actions (setting up surveillance cameras on Brody's house without permission), her mental state comes across perfectly on camera.

Homeland is very different from most action shows, perhaps due to the influence of the Israeli series that inspired it. However, viewers should stick with it, as it is captivating and mysterious, giving an interesting twist on modern day political issues. Our current President also watches it, if that would persuade you any more. If you are to watch one show this month, be sure to catch *Homeland* on Showtime.



screenrusher.com

In *Homeland's* second season, Carrie (Claire Danes) and Nicholas (Damian Lewis) have developed a romance after collaborating to figure out al-Qaeda controversies.

3.14 stars for *Life of Pi*

BY Jesse Epstein

Contributing Writer

Life of Pi, starring Suraj Sharma, is a must-see for anyone who enjoys pondering the meanings and morals of life.

The film begins with older Pi introducing the viewer to his younger self. The premise of the plot revolves around the life of Piscine "Pi" Patel, a teenaged Indian boy named after his uncle's favorite swimming pool, as he travels across the Pacific Ocean by boat.

Accompanied by a live tiger, Pi uncovers many mysteries throughout his journey. The film, based on Yann Martel's novel of the same name, contains an incredibly moving story that one will not stop watching for even a second.

Director Ang Lee, deserves recognition for carrying out this complex plot in such a comprehensible manner. The film contains several educational aspects, but they are presented in a attractive manner for its viewers.

Though the beginning of the film comes off as slightly tedious, once the plot develops, viewers may find themselves

more accepting of the characters and develop a sense of emotional attachment through Pi's adventures.

The power of Pi's faith is essential to the story; it is the driving force behind both his own will for survival and of his feline companion. Born in India, Pi is unwaveringly loyal to Hinduism, but this does not stop him from exploring the roads of other religions throughout his journey.

The film is filled with metaphors and symbolism. These symbols enlighten and ease the viewers on the conflicts between clinging to hope, forfeiting mental strength, and the struggle between different types of people on their lifelong trails of survival. Ultimately, the movie illustrates the relationship between humans, animals, nature, and faith.

Life of Pi is most certainly a must-see. The film expresses valuable lessons in an intriguing, yet informative style. The additional 3-D enhancement helps to draw positive attention to the film; unlike most movies, the three dimensional illusion creates even greater attachment between the viewers, the movie, and its characters.

12/12/12 concert raises money for Sandy victims

BY Katie Fishbin

A&E Editor

A once in a lifetime date should be accompanied by a once in a lifetime event.

Celebrities from all across the globe came together at Madison Square Garden in efforts to support the victims of Hurricane Sandy and to entertain a live crowd of fans and millions who tuned in to the televised-live event.

Through their collaboration, they were able to raise an astounding \$14.7 million for over 140 community organizations in hopes to help rebuild areas severely devastated by this disaster.

The bulk of the concert was classic rock.

New Jersey native and rock legend Bruce Springsteen performed classics such as "Wrecking Ball," which rocked the house and inspired local citizens at the concert.

His performance of "My City of Ruins" was specifically directed at the denizens

of the beautiful Jersey Shore, which was damaged by the hurricane. He also collaborated with rock star Jon Bon Jovi in a crowd-rousing rendition of "Who Says You Can't Go Home."

Former Beatle and rock legend Paul McCartney united with the living members of grunge band Nirvana in an all new song, "Cut Me Some Slack" in a show-stealing performance.

Other rock legends were also involved, such as Eric Clapton, who expertly performed classics from his rock band Cream, and Roger Waters of Pink Floyd fame.

The musical performances were not limited to classic rock. Alicia Keys touched concertgoers and people tuning in through television or radio with her performance of "No One." Kanye West brought his signature outrageous style to the concert as well.

However, the lengthy performance and outfit choice was somewhat out of place and detracted from the rest of the concert.

While the classic songs rocked the Garden, there was also a message present throughout the concert. Millions of dollars were raised to give aid to victims.

Each artist made a point to thank the many dedicated and selfless volunteers who helped throughout the disaster.

Performers praised the nurses, doctors, and interns who worked tirelessly and took heroic action to ensure the livelihood of those in need.

The artists' cause resonated with the audience. Some Schreiber students were able to appreciate the concert live.

"It truly was amazing to see such rock legends coming together for a great cause," said senior Nikki Egna, who attended the concert.

The tickets may have been prohibitively expensive, but interested individuals who could not see the concert in person could watch it on TV or online.

The celebrity-packed concert was entertaining, and helped raise millions of dollars to aid its cause.



Bruce Springsteen performs alongside fellow rock star Jon Bon Jovi. The star-studded 12/12/12 concert amazed viewers both live and on television while raising millions for charities in support of Hurricane Sandy victims.

Mars attacks with exciting new beats

BY Allison Yu

Contributing Writer

Bruno Mars has a tendency to release singles that instill a desire in all who listen to sing along in a matter of seconds.

His latest album, *Unorthodox Jukebox*, is packed with catchy tracks that are even better than the loveable singles that he released during the last year. Most, if not

all, of his songs deal with the themes of love and relationships.

With a hasty look at the title of his most recent single, "Young Girls," one would assume it is another crooning song designed to get a young girl's attention.

However, it is less flashy and more heartfelt than listeners would assume. "Locked Out of Heaven" and "Moonshine" are more about one specific girl, and how she supposedly makes him feel "on top of the world."

The lyrics may be ridden with clichés, but the songs are still very catchy. Other lyrics can border on sexual, especially in his song "Gorilla."

Bruno Mars's style ranges from modern pop to vintage, and the contrast is present between tracks like "Treasure" and "Moonshine."

The new album features a track called "When I Was Your Man," which takes on a more somber tone.

It speaks of the regret felt as he discusses the things he could've done to try and keep his relationship in tact for as long as possible. It is a heartfelt tale of

struggle to keep his desired woman out of another man's hands.

Each song reflects Mars' love life. "When I Was Your Man" stood out among the rest.

"When I Was Your Man" is just one of the many tracks on Mars' album that show he's evolved in terms of his pop sensibilities.

Most of the tracks featured on this new album feature interesting beats with lyrics that are more aggressive and introspective as opposed to the tracks featured on his first album.

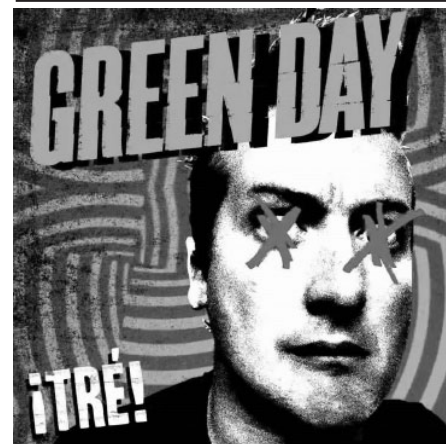
In the end, while it is a catchy new album from the "guy who played Little Elvis in Honeymoon in Vegas" it really isn't anything we'll remember within a few years or so. It's nice to see that Mars is getting a bit more introspective and showing the side that's brooding.

Unfortunately for Mars, until he has something slightly more interesting to sing about, *Unorthodox Jukebox* will end up being just another light hearted male pop album.

Green Day: Tre!

BY Dan Bidikov

A&E Editor



Punk rock is a dead genre. No one has made actual punk music for decades. However, iTunes has mislabeled Green Day as punk since their first album, *39/Smooth*. While that might have passed as punk rock, the group has watered down their sound so much that with their latest album, *Tre!*, they can officially be classified as pop.

Do not be alarmed—this article is not going to be a whiny diary entry about the lack of guts of most popular musicians. This is a review of an album which, while not bad, suffers from false advertising. Green Day promises its fans gritty, anti-establishment punk when all it has to offer is overproduced pop-rock.

The last in a trilogy of albums geared to teach Spanish-speakers basic arithmetic, *Tre!* sounds almost exactly like the rest of Green Day's music.

Even the individual tracks have difficulty separating themselves from others.

The record, when taken from start to finish, sounds more like one forty-five minute unit of boring four chord rock and faux-controversial lyrics than individual songs.

In *Tre!*, Green Day has attempted to balance out edgy rock with mellow lost-love tunes. The album opens with a ballad, "Brutal Love," which is not as dynamic or as soulful as intended. The next dramatic love song, "Drama Queen," falls flat.

Boring vocals and uninspired lyrics detract from the catchy-yet-generic melodies.

There are a few more sentimental tracks on *Tre!*, and they all suffer from the same problems.

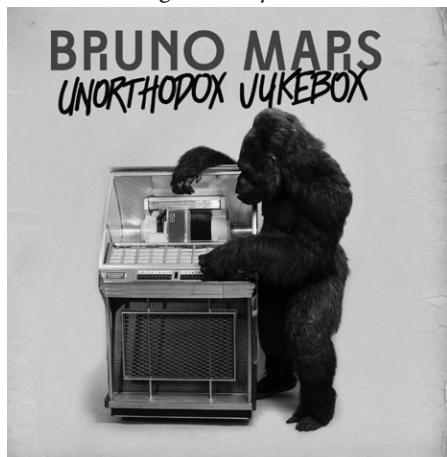
First, they do not make sense in context—sappy crooning emotional pieces clash with the harsh rock of tracks like "A Little Boy Named Train."

However, Green Day never reaches an extreme of roughness or tenderness in their sound. *Tre!* is extremely modest. Lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong's interesting vocals have added a unique element to all of Green Day's albums.

The talent of the band members can not be discounted. Typically, bassist Mike Dirnt backs up each track with a strong underlying bassline. However, his performances in *Tre!* are bland.

The songwriting is also weak, and funny characteristic quirks have been replaced with generic "meaningful lines." *Tre!* is devoid of the classic Green Day character that has made their older music at the very least entertaining.

There is none of the signature style that separated Green Day from previous musical efforts. In *Tre!*, they do not stand out among other middling pop rock bands.



mtv.com

iCarly signs off with an iGoodbye in its final season

BY Zoe Mankes and Jesse Baer

Contributing Writers

For a handful of kids out there, *iCarly*, a Nickelodeon show about a group of teenagers with a popular webshow, has been the epitome of young-adulthood for years now. The show's avid fans have seen all of its characters grow throughout its five season run. The show's series finale, titled "iGoodbye," provides dedicated *iCarly* fans with closure as their favorite childhood star, Miranda Cosgrove, says her final goodbyes.

The episode focuses on the Internet icon's departure from her beloved long running web-series when her father, who is in the military, comes to visit. Until this episode, he had never appeared on the show. He presents Carly with the opportunity to move to Italy, to where he has been transferred.

For those of you wondering if she changes her mind at the last minute and decides that she wants to stay in town, you're wrong. She actually leaves, and her departure is as heartbreaking and touching as possible for an avid *iCarly* fan.

Carly's final goodbye is tear-inducing as we see her struggle to say adieu to her closest friends, Sam (Jennette McCurdy) and Freddy (Nathan Kress). Her sad goodbye will resonate with the fans who have stuck with these characters and seen them face the highs and lows of being a teenager.

The bitter-sweet 'iGoodbye' was emotionally satisfying for those who have watched the show from the beginning



theexpressionist.com

Carly (Miranda Cosgrove) struggles facing that her cyber life is coming to an end. After several successful seasons, the characters of this Nick classic unfortunately must be separated as Carly is moving away.

and cherished each moment the character spent with one another. After five seasons on Nickelodeon, this "kids show" concludes with the growth and maturation of the *iCarly* cast. *iCarly* was a show that provided a half an hour of fun and laughs that will remain a small piece of their childhood.

Hoodie Allen v. Macklemore



bestfan.com

BY Penina Remler

Assistant A&E Editor

Times have changed in the music industry. No major record label producer could have imagined the latest conflict at the top of the hip-hop charts. The dispute is between Ivy League graduate Long Islander Stevie Markowitz and well-off Seattleite Ben Haggerty.

These men may not seem like rap stars, but under their performance names Hoodie Allen and Macklemore, they have been taking the hip-hop world by storm, with their independent acts inspiring other budding rap artists.

Both have built highly dedicated and at times obsessive fanbases to help expand their popularity. Hoodie's "HoodieMob," which stretches internationally, has felt attached to its favorite artist because he personally responds to their tweets, Facebook messages, and emails. The night of the release of *All American*, his recent iTunes project, Hoodie posted a message to all his fans on Facebook.

"I don't care about the money here," said Hoodie. "I really just want to shock the world tonight. All the labels and the blogs who overlook us, who think this is just a fad, tonight we finally get to prove them wrong."

The nonbelievers were proven wrong, and Hoodie instantly topped the charts.

Macklemore's music speaks to the independent hip-hop social movement. One of his albums, *The Heist* has put him on a national stage, while his other record *Thrift Shop* spins on pop radio nationally.

His story is one of his darkest days as an addict and his path to overcoming these obstacles. His fanbase, referred to as "Shark Face Gang," has allowed him to embark on one of the most successful independent music tours in the past decade as he is currently in the midst of "The Heist World Tour."

Hit singles "Thrift Shop," "And We Danced," and "Wings" are eclectic both sonically and visually as Macklemore and his producer, Ryan Lewis, work tirelessly on their own to create the perfect visual.

At first glance, Hoodie Allen and Macklemore are white rappers, the most paradoxical of all in the music industry. Yet their movements stand for something much more than that.

It is tough to step away from their appearances as white rappers, but they have achieved success based on the quality of their music. Hoodie Allen and Macklemore speak to the value of being an independent artist and continue to impress us with their success.



hypeexpedition.com

Though Macklemore (above) and Hoodie Allen (top left) appear very similar in appearances, one will find different, but favorable traits in both of the composers' albums.



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Athletes of the Month

Jameson Santelli

BY Aaron Brezel and Martha Horowitz
Assistant Sports Editor and Contributing Writer

Most see bowling as a casual hobby that can only be enjoyed at a birthday party. However, after being introduced to the sport by his father when he was nine years old, junior Jameson Santelli has devoted himself to becoming an elite bowler.

"My dad constantly pushed me to practice and become better," said Santelli.

Santelli joined the boys bowling squad as a freshman. In his sophomore year, the bowling team finished a forgettable second to last in their conference. Now a year later, they have jumped out to a 2-2 start, ranking them third in the conference, right behind bowling powerhouses Garden City and Manhasset.

Much of this success is thanks to Jameson, who has used his talents to lead the Vikings to success in the competitive Nassau County Conference I, routinely bowling 200-plus points per game.

To hone his skills, Santelli has actively participated in the sport outside of the school team. He has played in several leagues at the closest bowling alley, Herrill lanes, including a father-son league with his dad.

"For me, just bowling in the winter was not enough. Participating in outside leagues helped me improve and become the bowler I am today," said Santelli.

His personal records include an impressive 288 in a single game and a three game series of 696.

Santelli's teammates attest to how his presence affects the team.

"In a typical scenario, we could be down by 20 points in the last frame. At this point we know that Jamo is the one to count on, not only to get a strike, but also to get those crucial extra pins. Without his averages, we would be nowhere near the top of the standings," said junior Murphy Siegel.

Much like an elite scorer in basketball, "Jamo" is looked upon by his teammates to either provide crucial last second points, or to push a team behind for good.



Santelli practices at Herrill Lanes.

Claudia Varner

Carly Grieco

BY Eric Schissel
Contributing Writer

Flexibility, strength, and athleticism are just a few physical characteristics a gymnast must demonstrate in order to be successful. However, one can argue that the attitude of the competitor is equally responsible for his or her success.

Gymnastics captain senior Carly Grieco embodies both the physical and mental qualities needed for success.

Having a talented gymnast and a dedicated and emotional leader as a captain is important to a team's success. Grieco has recognized this and was honored to take on this important yet difficult responsibility.

As a senior, she feels that it is important to be a leader and to guide her younger teammates.

Her team-first mentality has been one of the reasons her team has been successful over the past few seasons.

Grieco feels that it is her job to help the younger girls by giving them important tips.

"I tell them just to always do their best, and to practice hard," said Grieco. "Gymnastics isn't an easy sport so if you want to get something, you need to set goals and work towards them."

Sophomore gymnast Sam Hoffman has appreciated

Grieco's dedication and her attitude.

"Carly has been such a great friend and mentor. I'm not sure how far we would have made it without her," Hoffman said. Among Grieco's greatest accomplishments is her election to the position of team captain.

"I've done gymnastics ever since I was little and it's always been a sport that I've loved. It's great to see all my hard work pay off now that I'm a senior," said Grieco.

Grieco loves being around her teammates on and off the floor.

"I love the team because we're all friends no matter what grade and we really are a family," said Grieco. "We bond so much not just at practice but outside of school as well. I will definitely miss the team but I'll come back to visit."



Grieco practices her form on the balance beam as she prepares for competition.

Chole Silverstein

THE WRITING CENTER

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—David Hare



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Sports 2012: A year in review, and a look ahead to 2013

National Championships, broken records, and dazzling season starts highlight 2012

BY **Eric Fishbin and Jake Eisenberg**

Staff Writer and Sports Editor

These past twelve months have been tumultuous for the world of sports. The teams from Super Bowl XLII, the New York Giants and the New England Patriots, had a rematch in Super Bowl XLVI, Lebron James finally won an NBA title, and the San Francisco Giants took home their second World Series in three years. Additionally, the realm of baseball saw its first Triple Crown winner since 1967. The Summer Olympics took the stage at the end of the summer across the pond in London, England, and Michael Phelps became the most decorated Olympian of all time. Put the numbers in the books, and the stories in your memories—the year of 2012 was one to tell your grandchildren about.

NFL:

The New York Giants entered the 2012 postseason at 9-7, squeezing their way in. Cruising past the Falcons to start the playoffs, the Giants went on to face the number one seeded and defending champion, Green Bay Packers. They rolled over the Packers, and, with some unintentional help from 49ers kick returner Kyle Williams, and an overtime game-winning kick from Lawrence Tynes, the New York Giants went to the Super Bowl. Big Blue, in a rematch of the 2008 Super Bowl

against the then undefeated New England Patriots, once again overcame their underdog status to win, taking their second in five years. Once again, Eli Manning was the MVP.

Now, this season, while there isn't a clear powerhouse in sight, there are many issues. Controversy arose over the replacement referee's officiating abilities, as well as "Bounty Gate," featuring the New Orleans Saints. Commissioner Roger Goodell came under fire on both issues, but, they have since been resolved. Thus far, the Denver Broncos, New England Patriots, Atlanta Falcons, and Houston Texans have booked their trip to this season's postseason, with two weeks to play.

NBA:

Think back to 2010, the offseason of "the Decision." LeBron James took his talents to South Beach, teamed up with Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh, and subsequently lost to the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Finals. This past season, James finally won his first NBA title, hoisting the Larry O'Brien trophy over the Oklahoma City Thunder. James also won the league MVP, and took home a gold medal with USA Basketball in the London Olympics. This trio of awards, championship, MVP, Finals MVP, and gold medal, has only been obtained once before—by Michael Jordan. Let the "greatest player ever" arguments commence.

Now, in the 2012-2013 season, Dwight

Howard has gone to the Lakers to play with Kobe Bryant and Steve Nash, but has a winning percentage only slightly higher than his free throw percentage. The New York Knicks are atop the Eastern Conference at 17-5, with Carmelo Anthony leading the charge and Imam Shumpert and Amar'e Stoudemire providing reinforcements. With their 9-0 home record, don't be surprised when more teams are added to the "Knicks Tape."

MLB:

The San Francisco Giants defeated the Detroit Tigers in four games during the 2012 World Series. Pablo Sandoval, the MVP, stayed hot throughout, as he became the fourth player ever to hit three home runs in a single World Series game. For the Tigers, powerhouses Prince Fielder and Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera were held to just one hit in eight at bats during Game 3.

New York Met R.A. Dickey won the NL Cy Young Award, and emerging superstar Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels won the AL Rookie of the Year award. Amidst offseason moves, things for the 2013 season already look interesting.

NHL:

Goalie Jonathan Quick made save after save as they knocked off the number one seed, Vancouver Canucks, and then the St. Louis Blues and Phoenix Coyotes. Despite making it to the Eastern Conference Finals, the New York Rangers were denied a

championship berth by the New Jersey Devils. Finally, the Los Angeles Kings took home their first Stanley Cup in franchise history, defeating the Devils in six games, 4-2. Currently, the NHL is locked out, with games cancelled as far as Jan. 1.

2012 Summer Olympics:

Closed by British superstar Paul McCartney, the 2012 London Olympics was one to remember. The United States led all countries in all medal categories, and won the overall medal count by over 15 medals.

Notable victories were claimed by the "Fierce Five" of Women's Gymnastics (Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Kayla Ross, Jordyn Wieber), and by Men's Basketball, led by superstars LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, and Kobe Bryant. The team was coached by Duke Basketball Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, who also became the NCAA Basketball leader in Wins (currently 936) this past March.

Finally, swimmer Michael Phelps became the most decorated Olympian of all-time, passing former Soviet Union gymnast Larisa Latynina (18), winning six (four gold, two silver) medals for a career total of 22.

As 2012 comes to a close, the doors to 2013 open with more records that were made to be broken.

Calling the Shots

BY **Jake Eisenberg**

Sports Editor

To achieve greatness through cheating is like winning a game of Monopoly by taking money from the bank, or getting an A+ by copying the answer key. Despite all of the consequences, cheating is still prevalent in today's world, especially in professional sports, namely Major League Baseball (MLB).

Every year, the National Baseball Hall of Fame accepts new members. These members are the pinnacles of baseball achievement, as voted on by the members of the Baseball Writers of America Association.

Among the members of the Hall of Fame are the all-time leader in wins, Cy Young (511); the Sultan of Swat, Babe Ruth (714 home runs); and the first African-American major league player, Jackie Robinson. Players are eligible to be on the Hall of Fame ballot beginning five years after they retire. Not for the first time, record-shattering players appear on the ballot: this year—the all-time leader in home runs, and baseball history's most decorated pitcher. But, they won't be joining the ranks of baseball's finest.

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens appear on the ballot for the first time this year. The home run king and most decorated pitcher, respectively, along with Jose Canseco, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire, are the poster boys for baseball's "Steroid Era." The "Steroid Era" (late 1980s-present), despite being littered with astounding professional accomplishments, is marred by the possibility that players used performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs).

The guidelines for electors to admit

players to the Baseball Hall of Fame are as follows: impact of player on the field, in the game of baseball, and for his team, integrity, character, and sportsmanship.

"No one would dare say that Bonds, a seven-time National League MVP with 762 home runs, isn't a Hall of Famer," said Thom Loverro, a columnist for The Washington Examiner, in a column explaining his decision. "Nor would anyone say that Clemens, with 354 career victories, 4,672 strikeouts and seven Cy Young Awards, shouldn't be enshrined in Cooperstown. The same goes for Sosa, who finished with 609 career home runs, including 243 of them from 1998 through 2001. Except they cheated—all of them. And this Hall of Fame is not just about numbers. Three of the six criteria for election to Cooperstown are sportsmanship, integrity and character. Bonds, Sosa and Clemens fail on all three counts."

Both Bonds and Clemens underwent federal investigations and trials about their perceived PED use. Bonds "escaped" conviction of usage, but was found guilty for obstruction of justice for giving an evasive answer under oath during a trial in 2011. Clemens, in his most recent court appearance in April of 2012, was acquitted of all 13 perjury charges held against him.

In short, while the rains of a steroid use conviction never did fall, it will be a long time before the clouds of doubt pass over. Sosa, despite never going to trial, was caught red-handed using a corked bat during a game in 2003. Other notable players that were either caught, admitted to, or accused to have taken steroids include Alex Rodriguez, Andy Pettite, Jose Canseco, Rafael Palmeiro, and Manny Ramirez.

It is very difficult to envision these play-

ers cemented among the all-time greats like Christy Mathewson, Ty Cobb, Joe DiMaggio, or Nolan Ryan. The ballot this year contains a total of 37 names, including 24 on the list for the first time. Those inducted are players who appear on 75% of ballots, as written out by the 500-plus members of the BBWAA.

While they should not be enshrined, the baseball "Mecca" of Cooperstown is also a museum depicting baseball's history. There are sections in the museum for the Black Sox scandal of 1909, Pete Rose, the All American Girls Professional Baseball League played during World War II, the Negro Leagues prior to Jackie Robinson's breaking of the color barrier, and more. And, there should be one for the "Steroid Era" as well. Despite the marring of the perfection of the game, there is no argument that it happened.

This past season, San Francisco Giants player Melky Cabrera was batting .346 with 11 home runs and 60 runs-batted-in before admitting to taking a type of steroid. Had he not formally removed his own name, Cabrera would have been eligible for, and won, the National League batting title.

Cabrera has since served a 50-game suspension, and Commissioner Bud Selig has increased penalties for the breaking of the MLB drug code. Previously, suspensions were so miniscule that it was fiscally intelligent to risk steroid use, for hopes of greater achievement and a larger contract.

And, despite his suspended

status, still received the same World Series bonus check of \$377,002.64. Since much of player's salaries in contracts are guaranteed, to go for broke to break records seems like a decent idea, aside from the negative moral implications. The league needs to increase the magnitude of the suspensions for breaking the rules that keep baseball pure.

They say "cheaters never prosper," and yet, in professional sports, the idiom has changed to read, "cheaters always prosper, until they get caught." And that just cannot be. Cheating, not only in baseball, can never be worth it enough to give it a shot.

Cheaters always prosper, until caught?

SPORTS TRIVIA CORNER

What Schreiber teacher received the Warren King football award for team MVP in high school?

By: Technology teacher Mr. Ray DiGiacomo won the award for Garden City football 1974-1975.

Boys basketball looks for winning formula

Second year junior Ryan Kriftcher leads scoring early into season

BY Seth Barshay

Contributing Writer

In order to inspire the boys basketball team, Head Coach Mr. Sean Dooley gave his players an article to read at the beginning of this season.

"Tough players come to work every day to get better and keep their horizons short. They meet victory and defeat the same way. They get up the next day and go to work to be better than they were the day before," said ESPN analyst Jay Bilas in his college basketball article "Toughness."

It appears that the players took the article's lessons to heart.

On Dec. 7, the team participated in the 54th annual Fritz Mueller and Arnie Simms Invitational Holiday Tournament. Led by captains seniors Joey Alagna and Josh Gordon and junior Matt Siegel, they won their first game in the tournament against Manhasset.

With the game tied and 57 seconds left, Gordon scored the final two of his seven points on a layup to give Port the lead and eventually a 51-46 victory.

"The way the team pulled out the win on Friday was by playing tough," said Siegel. "Giving it our all to come back from the 15 point deficit. We went full speed with no slowing down and worked together as a team. Not a single person hogged it or took unnecessary shots."

Siegel finished the game with 10 points, while junior Ryan Kriftcher led the team with 19.

The win against Manhasset advanced

Port to the final round of the tournament, where they faced Hempstead. The team started strong, going up 25-19 at the end of the first half, but ultimately lost by a score of 48-39.

For the second game in a row, Kriftcher led the team in scoring, this time putting up 14 points. The next leading scorers were Gordon and Alagna, contributing nine and seven points, respectively.

"We played hard and we played good defense, but we couldn't really score in the fourth quarter, and our players getting into foul trouble hurt us," said sophomore Noah Linder.

One important event to look forward to is the upcoming Coaches vs. Cancer Fund-raiser on Feb. 1.

Created by Coach Dooley two years ago, the event raises money for cancer research. Last year the teams raised well over \$1,000, which was all donated to the American Cancer Society to help fight the disease.

This year's event will feature a game against conference rival East

Meadow High School.

Certainly the team faces challenges, most notably the fact that many of last year's team members graduated and there are only five returning players on the 2012-13 team roster. But the early returns look promising, with the returnees stepping up and new players playing important roles as well.

"We hope to make the playoffs this year and have a better record than last year," said Gordon. "We have to play as a team and play good defense. And hopefully Joey takes ten threes a game."



Elana Galassi

Junior Al Ashmawy takes the jump to start the game against Manhasset. The Vikings won the game by a score of 51-46.

Girls volleyball reaches county semifinals, players receive awards

BY Dan Miranda

Sports Editor

The girls volleyball team wrapped up the 2012 season with a loss to Massapequa in the Nassau County semifinals, but not before completing the season with individual accomplishments. First year Head Coach Mr. Bryan Patterson finished the season fourth in the top conference in Nassau County with a 7-9 overall record (6-8 conference).

"I've played alongside many of these girls for four years and have seen extreme improvement," said senior Sarah Roberts. "We had an amazing season this year and I see great potential in the returning players."

All-County and Conference awards were plentiful. Junior Megan Murphy was the only player on the team to win All-County recognition. Junior Kristin Cangemi and senior Deidre Hansen both won All-Conference honors. Murphy also took home an All-Tournament award for the playoffs.

"The girls who received awards worked really hard throughout the season. Making it to the semifinals against Massapequa was a great accomplishment," said senior captain Tori Lehrer. "Hopefully the team will succeed next year."

The team will graduate four seniors this spring.

Captain's Corner: Taehoon Kim and Christian Castillo, Wrestling

BY Aaron Brezel

Assistant Sports Editor

Aaron Brezel: So Taehoon, Christian, it's good to have you guys here

Christian Castillo: It's good to be here, man.

Taehoon Kim: It's great to be here.

AB: How did both of you get involved with wrestling?

CC: I started in the PYA Youth program when I was in fourth grade, because my dad wrestled.

TK: Let me tell you something. Wrestling is the fight between two essences. It's a fight between souls. This isn't funny. Wrestling is a sport that tears you down and shows the world who you really are. When you take the souls of two wrestlers and put them in the ring, you find out who the better man is. You understand what I'm saying?

AB: Sure, sure... Is that why you got involved with the sport?

TK: Yes, because you can see my essence.

CC: I think he means he wanted to get in touch with his true colors.

AB: I'm not sure many of our readers realize how grueling of a sport wrestling can be. Could you guys walk the reader through a typical practice on the team?

CC: In reality, it's an all day thing. It's like #basketballneverstops, but actually, wrestling never stops. When you go home, basketball stops — it's done.

TK: Wrestling never stops. I wake up in the morning and I do 15 pushups with one hand.

CC: You have to be watching your

weight all the time.

AB: Speaking of watching your weight, I have heard the term "cutting weight" a lot. I can tell it has to do with losing weight, but can you guys tell me what it's really about?

CC: It's not as bad or unhealthy as it seems. We do eat, just not as much. It's all about portions. You don't have to starve yourself before a match. It's all about being smart and using your head. For example, I come into the season weighing 165 and you can feel good and feel strong, but then say you cut down to 154, so you lose a couple pounds of fat. After that, you feel lean and faster. It's not even unhealthy, you feel more in shape afterwards, especially if you lose the weight over the course of months.

TK: It's like lifting a heavy weight, putting that weight down and then lifting a lighter one. Lifting the lighter weight is much easier. That's the mentality.

AB: Eloquently stated. Your first game was against Westbury, correct?

CC: First match.

TK: Don't call it a game. You "play" a game of basketball. You don't "play" wrestling. Wrestling is not a game.

CC: That's what I'm taking about. *high-five*

AB: Oh right, I almost forgot about the warrior mentality.

CC: Our first match was against Westbury, and we beat them 57-23. We pretty much killed them.

AB: Did you guys win individually?

CC: We were both victorious.

AB: Any other matches to boast of?

CC: Our first tournament was Dec. 1 in the Hank Paris Tournament. We took

third as a team. Overall, we had four finalists and two champions. We also had the Andrew Pierce tournament on the eighth. Two finalists and one champion, which was yours truly.

AB: Oh well, mazel tov!

TK: Mazel tov to you too.

AB: After these first couple matches, how do you feel about the talent going into the season?

CC: We are very young this year. We only have four starting seniors, but at any given time we could be replaced. We have two eighth graders on the team, my brother is one of them, and a bunch of freshmen and sophomores.

AB: So there is a lot of promise for the future?

CC: Yeah in two or three years we are going to be really good.

AB: Coming into this season, did the team have holes to fill?

CC: No, even last year our team was very young. We did have our heavyweight D'aversa graduate so that was a big loss.

AB: Do your coaches deserve a lot of credit for your early success?

TK: Yeah, definitely. All of our coaches bring a ton of experience and skill. In a sport like wrestling, you need good coaches because it's such a technical sport.

AB: How did the team do last season? Did you guys make the playoffs?

CC: Wrestling is both a team and individual sport. As a team last year we were in the 'A Bracket' and lost in the first round to Locust Valley, which is a very good team. They ended up losing to Wantagh; they were the number one team in the state last year. This year I think we can do much better than that.

TK: Individually, at the end of the season we all participate in a tournament where the top forty in each weight class go on to Counties. I think we had ten or eleven All-Conference guys and seven went on to Counties. Christian won All-County, which is top six in the entire county, which was really impressive.

AB: Do you think you can repeat that success?

TK: Absolutely.

AB: Does the team have any pre-game rituals before every match?

CC: Just getting in the zone.

AB: I know that every team has their little quirks. Is there anything in particular you guys do to loosen up?

TK: There is nothing funny about wrestling.

CC: In reality, I think we are a pretty funny team when we're not practicing. We are like one big family. We hang out often right after practices and matches. I know our team is pretty clever with the "shabooyahs."

AB: What's a shabooyah?

TK: Let's demonstrate.

CC: SHAAAABOOYAH, SHA, SHA, SHABOOYAH! ROLL CALL!

AB: You can stop now. I think I know what you're talking about.

TK: By the way can you cut that first part about the essence? That sounds pretty stupid.

CC: You sounded like you were trying to be funny.

AB: I agree! Thanks for taking the time to sit down with me.

CC: Yeah man, take it easy.

TK: This was fun.

VIKING SPORTS

Portettes, cheerleaders gain new roles with varsity status *Programs provide entertainment for football, basketball intermissions*

BY Dan Miranda

Sports Editor

In the 2009-10 school year, the Portettes and the cheerleaders became parts of varsity athletics program for the first time.

In the past, the two had merely been classified as “clubs” rather than “sports.”

“The cheerleaders wanted to be part of a sports team and plus they were working specifically at sporting events, so it made sense,” said Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon. “It would have been easy to keep them as a club, but making them a varsity team gave them another place to showcase their talents.”

Thanks to a push from then-Club Advisor (now Head Coach) Ms. Robin Cooper, the Portettes also attained varsity status.

“It wasn’t really fair to classify us as a club when throughout the year we put in as much time and effort as a sports team does in their season,” said senior captain Arianna Kosloff.

Being a part of the athletic program meant that both teams would have to get cleared by the health office, would be included in captains’ meetings, and would be funded by Schreiber’s Athletic budget. This meant better uniforms and increased exposure for both the cheerleaders and the Portettes.

“Both groups are now being viewed not just as a ‘sideline attraction,’ but a ‘main event,’” said Ms. Joannon. “I think when you look at the football games, people look for the Portettes, people look for the cheerleaders. From a personal perspective, it’s nice that people don’t get up at halftime, and stay in their seats to watch the performances from both groups.”

Many students have begun to ask what the difference is between the two groups,



Elana Galassi

The Portettes have always performed in a Rockette-style kickline, but now will have additional dance performances at basketball games in the winter season.

which have a number of similarities in their practices.

The Portettes perform their kickline routine at football and basketball games; the cheerleaders attend and cheer at both as well.

Both wave pom-poms in parades and at town events, like Pride in Port, the Memorial Day Parade, and the pep rallies in

the fall and spring.

“The best moments this fall have been performing for the Pep Rally and for the first half of the football game,” said senior cheerleading captain Kela Yankana.

Although neither group officially plays in games, both teams practice and hold tryouts.

Both of these sports are require large time commitments for the athletes involved.

Unlike any other sport, both teams compete across all of the different athletic seasons.

Despite their apparent similarities, the two teams have many distinguishing differences.

The cheerleading team has gone from cheering with pom-poms for the home team to a more “competitive cheer,” which includes stunts and some dance routines.

“Our cheerleaders are moving toward the competitive cheer status, although they’re still cheer-

leaders. New York State is including competitive cheer as a recognized sport beginning next year,” said Ms. Joannon.

This represents an important step for the cheerleading program, which will be able to perform and compete just as the gymnastics team.

The Portettes have always been a kickline, but have transformed from being a part of the band to becoming more of a dance group.

“Once the Portettes came under the ‘athletics’ umbrella, we expanded their role during the basketball season to half-time dancing. Then last year, we expanded it further to one minute dances for grade levels between the third and fourth quarters,” said Ms. Joannon.

The cheerleading team practices in the Commons and the Portettes in the cafeteria. While the cheerleading team reports “no real conflicts” regarding practice space, Kosloff and the Portettes believed that the improvement in status from club to team would lead to better practice space, but it has not.

“It’s just difficult with thirty girls to practice in small spaces. We always end up rearranging the cafeteria because we have no room,” said Kosloff.

While the two groups are different in many ways, there is a mutual appreciation between those involved in both athletic activities.

“I truly believe that both the Portettes and cheerleaders have a mutual respect because they know how much work and effort needs to be put into it. The hours of practice and the chemistry involved applies to both groups,” said Ms. Joannon.



Elana Galassi

The cheerleading team now performs at halftime during football and basketball games. It will be involved in competitive cheer next year.