

THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXIV No. 2 November 2013

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Yeon-Jae Jo

Senior and Digital Photography student Yeon-jae Jo took this photo of Baxter Pond for an assignment regarding the rule of thirds. This guideline assists students in creating balanced compositions.

NEWS BRIEFS

Allergy Awareness Week

Some students suffer from allergies, and most know someone who does. Allergies, whether they are to foods or plants, are at the very least an inconvenience, and in worst case scenarios, fatal. In order to educate students and faculty about allergies and their effects, administration designated the week of Oct. 7 as Allergy Awareness Week. In order to provide a safe and comfortable school experience, administrators have made appropriate changes for all of the students who have allergies.

“The school has been accommodating. Every year they set up a designated ‘peanut free’ table in the commons,” said senior Matt Brandes who is allergic to peanuts and some tree nuts. “Additionally, each year the nurses are re-introduced to me and other students with allergies so they know who we are.”

Allergy Awareness week gives teachers, nurses and administrators and opportunity to reinforce the message that allergies are to be taken seriously.

~Emma Rosenberg

Guest Speaker

Developer Sevak Avakians returned to Schreiber High School this year to talk about an Artificial Intelligence (AI)

that he created. With many students from various classes attending, Avakians was able to discuss much more than just robotics.

Unlike last year, Avakians did not use any technology to aid him in his speaking. No videos, no pictures; all eyes were on the speaker as he addressed the student audience.

In his presentation, he described how his AI (named GAIuS) was a program that could grow based on the knowledge inputted into it, making it somewhat of a self-learning AI for a variety of purposes.

Eventually, the topic of discussion shifted to the impact of artificial intelligence on the job market. Avakians believes that robots will replace people in certain careers, creating greater job competition amongst people in areas such as writing and art.

He provoked thought in students by challenging a quote by Albert Einstein that states imagination is the greatest thing in the world. Avakians wanted his audience to know that imagination is only great so long as it is possible. If it cannot be done, it will get a person nowhere.

Before he left, Avakians let students ask questions. While some asked about the AI he created, others questioned the future. After answering their questions, students were left with something to think about.

“He was a brilliant man. He had an amazing understanding of computers,

and he was very interesting,” said junior David Wolmark. “Overall, it was a very interactive and well-thought out presentation.”

~Ethan Bookstein

Robotics Grant

The robotics club has been selected, out of 20 high school teams, to receive a grant from the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (RECF). The RECF aims to increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The foundation encourages robotics and technology by supporting competitions, and providing program support and workshops. The grant requires teams to participate in at least one official event each season, and will allow the robotics club to cover the cost of the VEX Robotics Competition equipment.

“We are very happy that we got a grant and it allows us new equipment to help better compete in the competition,” said junior and robotics club treasurer Adam Hussain.

With the grant, the robotics team will also be able to extend its season by participating with other Southern New York State teams, at Adelphi University on March 8 as well as the East Rockways Invitational on Feb. 1.

~Rachel Cho

Staff Writers: Rachel Johnson, Lena Kogan, Lylia Li, Amelia Pacht, Sabina Unni. Contributing Writers: Emanuel Beys, Aaron Bosgang, Rami Chaudhry, Kyle Cohen, Mike Colonna, Neil Devas, Tori Finkle, Callen Gross, Adam Keltz, Sally Kuan, Eli Lefcowitz, Dylan Livingston, Shia Miller, Jesse Moskowitz, Emma Rosenberg, Delia Rush, Samara Walsh. Contributing Photographers: Jeremy Ettlinger, Jake Knatz, Natasha Mohan. Cover: Jane Nolting-Kolb, Brian Seo. Centerfold: Aaron Bialer, Dan Bidikov, Aaron Brezel, Ana Espinoza. Backpage: Eric Fishbin.

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Editors-in-Chief

Dan Bidikov
Aaron Brezel

Managing Editor

Penina Remler

Copy Editor

Aaron Bialer

News

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Ana Espinoza
Assistant Editor
Madeline Fagen

Opinions

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Michaela Gawley
Assistant Editor
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A&E

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Ira Pernick, principal
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Weber bans hard balls because of safety concerns

BY Maddie Cohen
Assistant Features Editor

To many kids at Weber Middle School, recess is a time to play sports with friends, play a fun game of tag or Frisbee, and just be a kid. Since the week of Oct. 7, Weber Middle School has brought about certain restrictions regarding recess rules. Hard balls such as footballs, soccer balls, and baseballs have been banned. In addition, rough games of tag and doing cartwheels have been outlawed.

Because the hard balls have caused several injuries to students at Weber, Nerf balls have been put in place of the hard balls to lessen the chance of getting hurt.

Some in the Port Washington School District may look upon this new rule as a smart decision. However, others say that the new rules are too strict.

The new rules at Weber Middle School have even drawn attention from national news stations.

Although the Port Washington School District said in a statement that the ban is only temporary, in order to protect students from injury while a construction project takes place, the students and parents of Weber Middle School were surprised at the initial announcement.

Many parents throughout the Port District believe that there is an unhealthy obsession with protecting our children.

“Who hasn’t been a kid before? Every kid has to bounce and expend their energy outside with friends. That’s a part of their everyday socialization. If they prohibit the use of hard balls, they are grooming the kids to become more attached to their electronics. They could lift the regulation for certain hours or days, at least. Every parent should consider that they were a kid once,” said Weber sixth grade parent

Ms. Mabel Fernandes. Some Schreiber students also oppose the ruling.

“I think that although it is a safety issue, banning almost anything active that students have the opportunity to do during recess is going too far. They need time to exercise and practice good sportsmanship,” said sophomore Jillian Keyes.

Weber administrators made the decision to ban hard balls because several students of Weber have been injured while playing sports during recess.

As soon as Weber announced the new rule, many middle school students had their own opinions.

“I do not think this new recess rule is necessary because I love to play actual sports and just run around with my friends at recess because it is a time for us to get away from school and be ourselves,” said 7th grader Adam Margolin of Weber Middle School.

Not only has the Port Washington Patch taken hold of this story, but there has been heavy media scrutiny from national outlets such as *The Today Show*, *Live with Kelly and Michael*, *Good Morning America*, and CNN. The story was even spoofed on *Saturday Night Live* as Seth Meyers said “a school in Long Island, New York has banned all footballs, baseballs, and other sports equipment over concerns that students would get hurt during recess, which is pretty much par for the course over at the ‘Oh Geez Be Careful! School for Weak Children.’”

Weber administrators feel it is their duty to decrease the number of inadvertently hit students sent to the nurse’s office.

At a school board meeting at Schreiber High School on Tuesday, Oct.



Jake Knatz

A group of middle schoolers plays with a Nerf football. New regulations require that middle school students play with Nerf balls instead of traditional footballs.

8, Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Mooney clarified the school districts decision by saying the hardball ban was only “temporary.”

After the continuous uproar concerning the new rules at Weber, many different opinions and thoughts have been circulating around the Port Washington School District.

The issue has recently subsided. People throughout the district have come to terms with the decision and understand the new rules are only in the best interests

of the students at Weber Middle School.

In fact, since many school districts are faced with similar situations as Weber because of limited field space, other schools may also begin to adopt the temporary rule of having Nerf balls during recess rather than hard balls.

“There is no specific timeline, however, once the construction project is completed and the field is restored, the recess time period at middle school will be restored to its usual practice,” said Dr. Mooney at a school board meeting.

Treehuggers install osprey nest



Michaela Gawley

The Treehuggers Club raises an osprey nest on the beach at Tom’s Point Marina. Retired Schreiber biology teacher Jim Jones came to the Treehuggers with the project. Superstorm Sandy took down many of the nests, but this osprey nest and others will be protected by New York State for the next two years. The finished frame will be covered with nesting material.

Students and staff celebrate National Coming Out Day

BY Rachel Cho and Ana Espinoza
Senior News Editors

Empowerment and equal rights were the words on everybody’s lips as the school came together to celebrate National Coming Out Day. On Oct. 11, the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), partnered with Long Island Gay And Lesbian Youth (LIGALY), orchestrated several events and activities to celebrate the nationwide day of respect.

“National Coming Out Day is important for Schreiber since it advocates safer schools for the whole student body, not only LGBT students,” said junior and GSA vice-president Olivia Mann. “Additionally, for those LGBT students, it illustrates the support system Schreiber’s GSA provides. National Coming Out Day’s purpose is to let students know that it’s okay to be gay, bisexual, transgender etc. and that there are students who are here to support you and understand your struggles.”

The GSA operated a table in the lobby during periods 3, 4-1, and 4-2 in honor of the event. The lobby was decorated with a garland of rainbow balloons, and GSA members distributed ally stickers, rainbow ribbon pins, and informational pamphlets. Many students continue to wear the pins on their backpacks.

GSA members and sophomores Ciara Amos, Lexy Cruz, and Rachelle Huitt were stationed at the table during period 4-2.

“I believe that National Coming Out Day is a significant day just because everyone has to realize that human beings are human beings no matter what you like and what you do. Everyone should be treated equally and fairly in life,” said Huitt.

The event is not only about LGBT youth coming out about their sexuality for the first time—straight allies are strongly encouraged to get involved and demonstrate their support.

“It’s not really about coming out but also supporting the LGBTQ community, and being accepting and tolerant,” said Amos.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the officially recognized National Coming Out Day. Traditionally, the date also marks the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

“I feel National Coming Out Day is a meaningful day because it brings awareness to the teachers and students,” said junior and GSA President Adam Harris. “It is a way to show pride in yourself that you’ve come out and also to other people that have come out.”

Faculty members also agreed with the purpose of Coming Out Day. “Those of us who embrace diversity, and not fear it, will be better suited for success, at all levels, in this rapidly changing world,” said ESL social studies teacher and GSA advisor Mr. John Davis.

PWEF grants new learning opportunities

BY **Madeline Fagen**

Assistant News Editor

Administrators gathered in the Schreiber Black Box Theater on Thursday, Oct. 17, for the unveiling of this year's Port Washington Education Foundation Grants. A total of 30 grants were awarded to Port Washington teachers and students; nine grants went to Schreiber.

"All the grants directly impact students in a positive way because they allow us to bring in programs, expand programs, or, in the case of the new TV studio, start something from scratch," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

PWEF grants are given to make a difference in the educational experience of Port Washington's students by raising money for specific projects within the district.

"The awards are for projects that reflect the talents, creativity and diversity of the Port Washington School community," said Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Mooney. "They will provide the students with enriching educational opportunities that may not have been otherwise funded by the district due to budget constraints. They are initiatives that go beyond basic educational requirements."

PWEF grants have been extremely

successful in the past, donating \$700,000 in grant money to schools.

"We are so fortunate that the PWEF works for innovative programs; programs that benefit the student curriculum and allow the teachers to be creative in their respective fields," said art teacher and grant recipient Ms. Marisa DeMarco. "The teachers can take their students beyond the traditional curriculum and allow them to do things they wouldn't usually be able to do. We really get to work on a variety of media, whether it's mathematics, technology, or art. The PWEF celebrates quality academics by being so generous in distribution of the money."

There is an extensive process behind applying for a grant. A grant application is distributed to the entire district by the first week of January. If students want to apply for a grant, they have the opportunity to explain their potential projects and the motivations behind them.

"Teachers, principals, parent groups, parents, and students are all encouraged to apply for any project they feel would offer students exciting new learning experiences that fit our mission," said PWEF board member Ms. Mara Silverstein.

Additionally, at the beginning of each school year PWEF board members meet with administrators to discuss the

current curriculum and get an idea of what types of projects may be beneficial to the district. They meet with school staff to talk about the application process and answer any questions.

"The application is usually due mid April and we have an evaluation committee made up of seven of our board members that review each project and application," said Ms. Silverstein. "We take a couple of weeks to review and follow up if we have any questions and then the committee presents their recommendations to the board of the PWEF to be voted on. All applicants are notified by the end of the school year [about whether or not their program will receive a grant for the next school year]."

This year's grants range from a genetic screening tool, to a new TV studio and broadcasting program, to support for various subject areas including the technology and art departments.

One of the grants awarded to Schreiber's art department collaborates with the Great Neck Arts Center. Drawing And Painting students are taught how to conduct oral investigations of their family's history.

"I am excited about the work that Ms. Best, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Koch are doing," said DeMarco. "Our project entitled 'Around The Table' will afford students

the ability to find inspiration from personal family narratives and develop personalized dinnerware vessels in which they'll paint, draw, and design through the guidance of a ceramics specialist/public works artist, Jude Amsel, over a series of four workshops. This is a new generation of projects and we really appreciate the generosity of the PWEF and the Port Washington School District to bring such quality programming to our young artists!"

Grants have also been awarded to students, allowing them to pursue their personal visions for the school community.

"Students can take their ideas and turn them into reality. 'Without funding from the PWEF, they couldn't do this,' said junior Vincent Deriu. 'I am particularly excited about the grant that I will be receiving which will promote environmental learning at the Guggenheim preserve by putting signs throughout it.'"

"These grants are important because they support the District's efforts to expand horizons and fulfill dreams by cultivating a variety of learning experiences," said Dr. Mooney. "The PWEF works in true partnership with the district to achieve its mission of making a difference in the educational lives of Port Washington

Lights, camera, action in the television production classroom

BY **Lena Kogan**

Staff Writers

This fall, the school introduced a new elective option for students interested in learning how to produce videos and programs to be broadcasted on television.

The TV Production class is taught by art and technology teacher Mr. Peter Koch, who also teaches Digital Video Production and serves as the club adviser for the TV production club, DOtv.

At the moment, the expansion of the program is a rough sketch, but the plan is to create a fully functioning television studio over the next several years.

The studio would be able to not only cover various school events throughout the year, but also to produce its own programs to be broadcasted throughout the school on televisions, such as the ones installed in the lobby and cafeteria.

"Our hope is to get the club to a point where we can consistently release student-produced video content to be broadcasted around the school and on the web. In case you miss your friends volleyball game and you want to see the highlights, we want to be able to fill you in and add to the positive community of Schreiber," said junior Will Berger.

The school hopes that the programming generated by the TV Production class will also be available online for students to view in their spare time.

"This idea of creating and working to make videos, movies—it was really like an underground operation and kids would post their work on YouTube and some people knew about it some people didn't," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "By creating a TV studio we give students a platform to put their work out front, like on stage, as opposed to behind the scenes."

By collaborating with the Port Washington Education Foundation and the Board of Education, the class was able to fund and acquire all of the equipment

and computer programs necessary to launch the TV Production class.

"We still have the old TV studio from the 80s and it's cool that we're able to bring it back. I know a lot of people read the school newspaper but I think the TV program will help inform even more people about what's going on in our school community," said junior Lya Rothmann.

However, the expansion of this program is by no means a sign that the school's radio station and newspaper are to be replaced.

Another reason for the expansion of the program is the number of benefits it will bring to students especially interested in pursuing a career in television. Students will be able to experience a variety of concepts associated with the process and the practical skills needed to work at a TV studio.

"I, personally, am not particularly interested in a career in film, but I can honestly say that the TV club will provide anyone who joins with the fundamental skills they will use if they choose to pursue any aspect of television," said Berger.

Many students choose to go to college for television production, and the class might help them gain an edge over students from other schools who do not have the opportunity to experience the process first hand in high school.

"The members of the club have various levels of experience, ranging from a lot to none at all. Everyone in the club is learning and growing with all of the new additions so anyone who wants to join would not be at any disadvantage," said Berger. "We are always looking for new members who are interested in writing for TV, reporting, filming, editing, and other general things that go along with broadcasting."

According to many students, modern television technology is a welcome addition to their schedules.

"I think it is a great way to use technology to our advantage. We are in the 21st century and we should start using the



Josh White

Junior and video production club member, Marcelo Derek Chabla, works with new equipment awarded to the club by the PWEF.

TV studio and TV production program as a means to expand the horizons of students and better inform everyone in school," said junior Ariel Waldman. "By working with the newspaper we can make sure school events aren't just publicized in the school, but in the whole town."

The program is still at an early stage of its development and it will take a lot of effort until a functioning TV studio is completed. Both students and faculty

members are still working on the basics of generating programming for television.

As the class and ideas for the program's expansion are relatively new, it is difficult to determine what the finished program will encompass.

"We know so little that we don't know what we don't know," said Mr. Pernick. "Part of the process is figuring out what our next steps are."

Schreiber alumnus receives MacArthur fellowship

BY Dan Bidikov
Editor-in-Chief

Schreiber alumnus ('96) and Stanford University professor David Lobell received one of this year's exclusive Genius grants. Given by the MacArthur Foundation, the grants are unique in that they provide funding to individuals instead of institutions. There is no way to apply for or even know that you have been nominated for a Genius grant. They are administered by a highly selective committee of nominators, which chooses grant recipients based on demonstrated creativity, track record in work, and observed potential to use the grant money in the best possible way. Lobell's work studies the balance between combatting world hunger and preserving ecological systems. The grant, which is given in segments and amounts to \$625,000 in total, will help his research progress further. As a Schreiber student, Lobell was involved in research. "I think the research program was a great complement to traditional classes," said Lobell. "It gives experience to help understand that math and science are not just about learning what is already known, but also about discovering new things." The research program is under fire from many fronts, however. Due to increasing competition, the program is producing fewer finalists in national competitions,



Courtesy of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Mr. David Lobell at his work station at Stanford University. Mr. Lobell received the fellowship for his work in agricultural ecology.

and participating teachers and students have a limited time frame during which to work together and conduct research. "I don't really think the research program is giving me skills for the future," said junior and math research student Crystal Ren. "It gives you opportunities to compete in certain competitions and forces you to do research over the summer of senior year, but the classes themselves

don't necessarily teach anything besides how to summarize articles. There are, of course, benefits, but compared to that of other schools, I feel like it has much room to improve." Nonetheless, Lobell chose to continue in a research-oriented field and reached considerable success. "A lot of kids get burnt out," said science research teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty. "I

can't do anything to keep my students focused on science. It comes from the kid. I would love it if they all went into science, but I really just want them to be happy." Lobell serves as an example for many students who did not intend to continue in math or science. "We have a lot of kids who work in the computer science and engineering fields that we never expected would go into a research field," said math research teacher Ms. Tina Gallagher. Many budding scientists will change career paths, and aspiring science students often change their plans once they observe firsthand the rigor associated with most science courses. Although there are initiatives in place to encourage young people to stay with science, Lobell argues that the issue may be the incompatibility between human nature and the nature of science as a subject. "At the beginning it can be hard and not much fun, but once you master the basics it can give you a lifetime of rewards," said Lobell. "Take the time and effort to really understand things even if it means asking really dumb questions." Lobell believes that in research, imagination is the key. "In general, I think creativity and originality is important to encourage in future scientists," he said. "We have many big challenges as a society, and the solutions are much more likely to come if people are able to think of and try many different approaches."

Art Honor Society adds color to community recycling bins

BY Sally Kuan
Contributing Writer

This fall Port Washington's train station is getting an update, courtesy of the Art Honor Society, a group of student artists who focus on projects and workshops that provide services for the school as well as the community. One of the scheduled projects for this school year involves decorating a recycling bin to be placed within the town. "I think it's really great to incorporate art in the rest of our community, and that's what our club strives to do," said club officer senior Carrie Rybecky. "It's going to beautify our community." This plan was organized by the Town of North Hempstead Chief Sustainability Officer and Solid Waste Management Authority, Frances Reid. For the past several years, she has been managing a wide range of events, programs, and activities for local school districts in the North Hempstead area that incorporate recycling and other environmentally conscious practices. Earlier this year, Reid reached out to schools in Nassau County and offered the opportunity for students to decorate and paint recycling bins that would then be placed in prominent locations in their communities. The recycling bin that the Art Honor Society will decorate will be put near the LIRR station. "I think a lot of people will see it, and it will get a lot of good attention and use," said art teacher Ms. Miranda Best. The aim of this project is to encourage recycling in Port Washington, and to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling to the neighborhood and environment. Because it is located in an area that

receives a lot of foot traffic by commuters, the bin could be used for the disposal of bottles, cups and other recyclable materials. "It's really nice to be able to just touch the community and outside of our community with art," said Rybecky. The Art Honor Society is currently in the midst of planning the design and decoration process of the recycling bin. The club officers for the 2013-2014 school year were recently elected, and two of the six, sophomore Shannon Rybecky and junior Ana Espinoza, will be leading the entire group in the decision about how the painting will proceed. Some current ideas revolve around the harbor, featuring creatures and plants that are indigenous to the Sound. "It's for the whole idea of raising awareness of how recycling can cut down on some of the pollution and garbage that ends up making its way into the Long Island Sound," said Ms. Best. The media that will be used to create the design will be a special type of paint that is capable of withstanding the elements. The students in the Art Honor Society will paint directly on the recycling bin with it, covering all four sides of the container. When the painting process is complete, the recycling bin will be installed near the train station. "I'm looking forward to it; it's exciting to have an opportunity to do something that will be viewed not only by the school but by the larger community as well," said Ms. Best. "We have a lot of great, excited, dedicated, talented art students, and I'm sure they will come up with a great plan and I'm looking forward to working with everyone on it."

Think Pink Day raises funds and breast cancer awareness



Natasha Mohan

Juniors Ryan Capps and Kyle Cohen pose in pink in the cafeteria. Others showed their support with the Pinky Promise, in which students and staff painted their pinkies pink in a pledge to do monthly breast self-examinations. Temporary tattoos and pink ribbons were offered to students and staff in the main lobby, as were pink hairspray designs. The Relay for Life club sold cookies, earning \$1,000 in donations for the "Cookies for a Cause" foundation. The club also sold pink ribbon bagels during the morning of Think Pink Day.

Zumba workout raises funds for Safety and Substance Abuse Task Force

by **Tori Finkle and Jesse Moskowitz**

Contributing Writers

Community members recently gathered to shimmy and shake for a good cause. On Oct. 17, Schreiber hosted a Zumba fundraiser open to all ages in the main gym that was sponsored by the Safety and Substance Abuse Task Force.

"We need help with funding for the task force so we thought this was a fun, healthy, and family friendly way to raise money," said Board of Education President Ms. Karen Sloan.

The cost of the fundraiser was \$5 for kids, \$10 for adults, and \$25 for a family pack. Cash and checks were also accepted by the door and donations were much appreciated. The class was taught by certified Zumba instructor Ms. Rachel Drossman and Guggenheim teaching assistant Ms. Linda Cicchetti.

"It is a really good fundraising idea because it is a fun and healthy way to raise money for a good cause," said sophomore Tracy Naschek.

The Safety and Substance Abuse Task Force aims to help enforce a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement. It is a community group that relies on school and outside funding to promote and support district initiatives and community events regarding educational concerns. The proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward this cause.

"It is important to bring awareness to these causes because it interests students and will benefit them to make better decisions in their future," said Athletics Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon.

Zumba, by definition, is an aerobic fitness program featuring movements



Jeremy Ettlinger

Students and their families gather in Schreiber's main gym to participate in a Zumba class led by Ms. Rachel Drossman and Ms. Linda Cicchetti. The event raised money for the Safety and Substance Abuse Task Force.

inspired by various styles of Latin dance moves and performed primarily to Latin rhythms. Zumba fitness has quickly grown to become one of the most popular group exercise styles on the planet. In fact, the workout is reportedly performed by more than 12 million people at 110,000 sites, in 125 countries around the world. Since Zumba is a form of cardio, it increases heart rate and burns calories.

"I have taken a Zumba class before and it changed the dynamic of my mood," said sophomore Milan Sani. "I was having the worst day and this form of exercise made me feel happier. I am glad that this is being offered in our school and I think the students will really enjoy the experience."

The task force committee includes guidance counselors, administrators, HSA members, teachers, and community citizens interested in raising money to help bring in speakers to our schools in order to raise awareness for important causes such as drugs, suicide, safe driving, and bullying.

The profits made off of the Zumba class will act as school-initiated funding and help the Safety and Substance Abuse Task Force in hiring speakers to visit and educate high school students about several significant issues.

Last year, guest speakers Jacy Good and John Halligan were sponsored by the Safety and Substance Abuse Task Force

to present at Schreiber. Good increased awareness about safe-driving, specifically emphasizing the importance of not texting while driving. Halligan came to Schreiber to tell the story of his suicide victim son, Ryan, in an attempt to bring attention to bullying in order to prevent events like this.

"Suicide is one of many things that can be prevented. It's essential to our school to bring in these speakers because bullying is present in our school. I think it is time for people to be educated about this cause so they can be aware of the consequences of their actions," said junior Emma Marschall.

THE WRITING CENTER

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—David Hare



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Point Counterpoint

Should teachers use twitter for educational purposes?

BY **Harry Paul**
Photography Editor

There are plenty of uses for new technologies. Some of them are more controversial than others. School officials are conflicted over the use of social media as they try to find a balance in the technological landscape of their institutions.

Most schools have followed a simple formula: encourage educational technology, save socializing for after-hours. The question then becomes, what do you do when these two are combined?

Twitter is a prime network for the instantaneous spread of news and other important information. Celebrities tweet, and everyone listens. High school and college students use it to share everything from homework assignments to cyber bullying to unsavory pictures.

With over 500 million unique tweets sent per day, Twitter is a treasure trove of information.

What has made Twitter all the more attractive for the student-teacher relationship is the ability to interact in an environment that is much more normal to many students than a teacher's desk.

"By having a Twitter account and occasionally tweeting about non-curricular topics, we get a better sense of who teachers are as people," said senior Annie Kim. "They're no longer inhuman figures standing in the front of the room giving lectures."

Certain teachers have realized the power of their Twitter activity.

Social Studies teacher Mr. Jeremy Klaff first signed up for a Twitter account because he thought it would be useful to connect with students for APUSH review before the AP exam. It was so popular that he used it for Regents review later that same year. His overall Twitter usage has since become more far-reaching.

"Between the tests, I thought Twitter was a good way for me to make history fun, and tweet about specific dates in history, as well as other fun nuances that history has to offer. I also like tweeting celebrities and inviting them into Social Studies chatrooms. However, for some reason, Kim Kardashian doesn't want to review Napoleon," said Mr. Klaff. "This year, I tweeted about the new texting stations on the LIE, and my tweet was picked up by a Toronto newspaper. With this new international fame, I picked up two Canadian followers."

As more and more teachers begin to use Twitter, especially in the Social

Studies department, new bonds have formed between teachers and students.

"It's a really helpful way for students to get in touch with Mr. Schultz outside of school and he's able to keep everyone up to date by using Twitter as a tool to remind students about upcoming assignments. Having a Twitter makes him much more approachable and available," said senior Emily Youner.

The intereactions can also happen between teachers, as was made apparent during the Radiothon last spring.

"Teacher to teacher interactions are extremely entertaining to follow and provide insight into their personalities and relationships," said Kim.

Twitter offers teachers a variety of ways to provide students a more balanced educational experience.

It has long been a goal of teachers to adapt lessons to the themes that interest their students, as a means of starting conversations and thus raising interaction. The more involved students are in the educational process, the better they will do.

If students are invested enough to post about their education, that can serve as a catalyst to interest their peers in funny videos, cool websites and interesting

BY **Sabina Unni**
Staff Writer

Twitter has become a global phenomenon, allowing individuals to broadcast any opinions they have in 140 characters or less. Teachers—especially in Schreiber—have begun to use Twitter accounts to spread information and to even humor their students.

However, the increase in teachers with Twitter accounts can have questionable consequences for students. Not all students have the ability to access Twitter. Either due to parental restrictions, or at their own discretion, not all students use Twitter.

The nonuniform access to Twitter gives those who are able to follow teachers an unfair advantage. Twitter helps build student-teacher relationships as well as helps circulate critical information that can be pertinent to tests. Those who do not have access to Twitter will not be able to receive this help.

"I heard that Twitter takes a lot of your time," said junior Carolyn Suh. "It's unfair that people get an advantage. They get rewarded for procrastinating."

With more and more students interacting with teachers on Twitter, the boundary between school and home is blurring. In addition, this usage of

Twitter modifies the traditional dynamic between teachers and students and in-class interactions.

"Students have a right to privacy in their beliefs. Most post on social networking sites in order to share their interests with family and friends," said junior Kim Winter. "The key to a safe and successful working environment is to keep a strictly professional student/teacher relationship. As soon as students begin regarding teachers as 'friends' rather than an authority figure, the teachers lose respect and control in their classroom."

Projecting personal opinions and jokes poses a concern to students who do not desire to share the same information with their teachers as they do with their close friends. Students who follow their teachers must be constantly wary of what they post. Although being friendly with teachers is nice, those friendships should not be comparable to those between students.

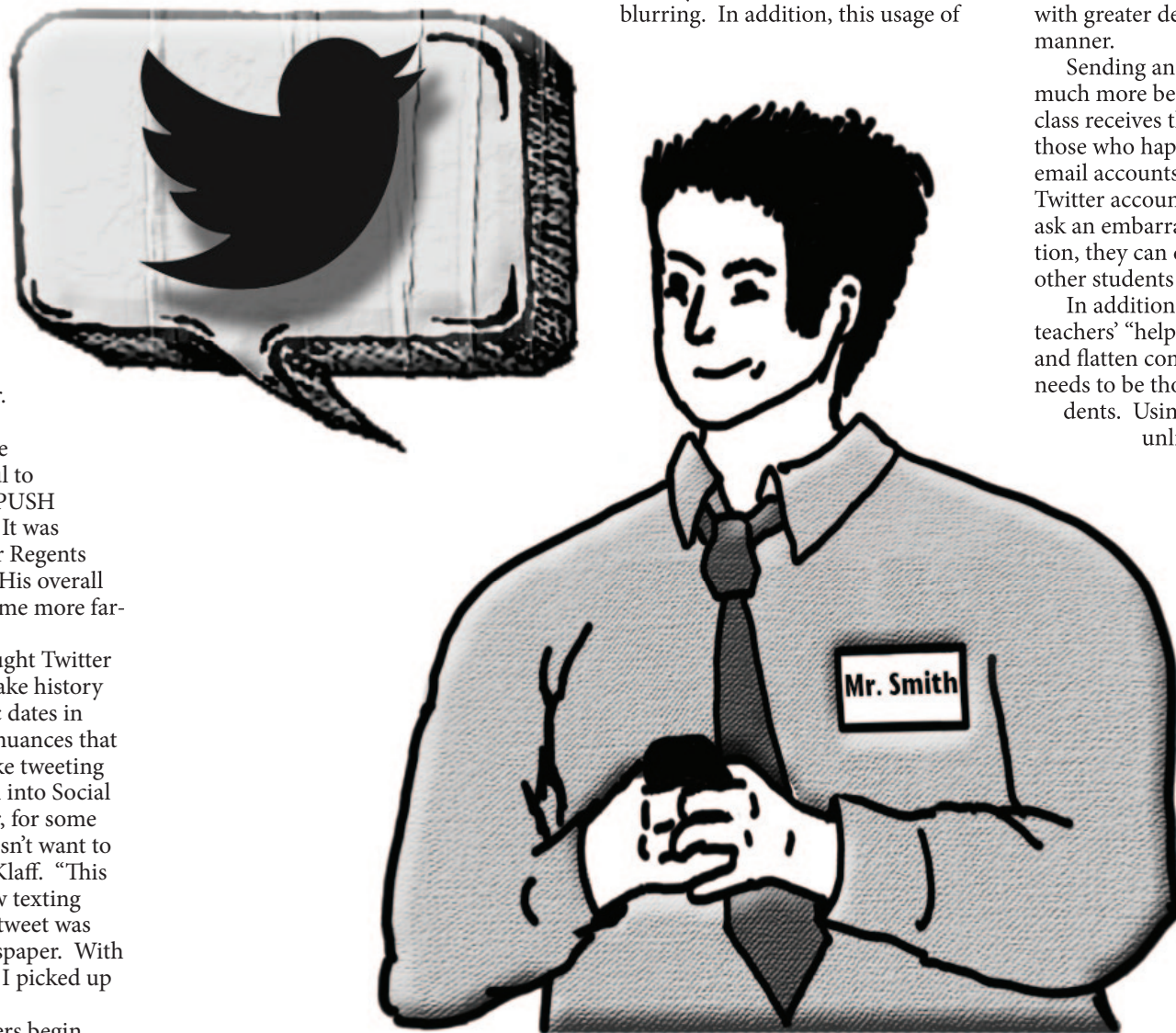
"Every time I follow one of my teachers on Twitter, I have a mini heart attack that they'll read one of my tweets," said senior Sabrina Brennan.

Engrade and email are more appropriate ways for students and teachers to communicate with each other. Using these websites, both teachers and students are able to convey information with greater detail in an equally timely manner.

Sending an email or using Engrade is much more beneficial as everyone in the class receives the information, not just those who happen to see it. Engrade and email accounts are also more private than Twitter accounts. If a student needs to ask an embarrassing or personal question, they can do so without the fear of other students seeing it.

In addition, due to space limitations, teachers' "helpful" tweets often simplify and flatten complex information that needs to be thoroughly conveyed to students. Using a service with essentially unlimited space, teachers can elaborate on the topic and fully communicate with students.

Teachers having Twitter accounts is like inviting 1/3 of the students to the teacher's house for a review session where the teacher answers all questions with one sentence only. It's great for the students that were invited, but unjust for those who weren't.



Danny Devlin

Students want more research opportunities

BY **Neil Devas**
Contributing Writer

Admission into one of Schreiber's research classes is a prestigious honor. This is largely because each class only offers ten seats.

During freshman year, students are allowed to try out for math, science, and social science research. Each class requires an initial test: reading passages followed by multiple-choice questions for math; two essays for social science; and logic questions for science. No matter how many people try out, only between 15 and 30 students are taken for an interview, and only 10 are selected for each class.

This process is out of the ordinary for Nassau County public schools. In many schools, research classes are available in a variety of subjects to all students. No tests, no interviews, no special requirements. Many of these students also participate in the same competitions that Schreiber research students participate in.

"By

having less people, we can help our students better and do more with them," said math research teacher Mr. Anthony Tedesco.

Schreiber's research classes are rigorous and require hours of work outside of class. Students who feel they are capable of joining such a class should not be denied the chance. Smaller class sizes may help teachers assist students with their research more adequately. Even so, many students are missing out on the great opportunity to conduct research prior to college.

Involvement in a research

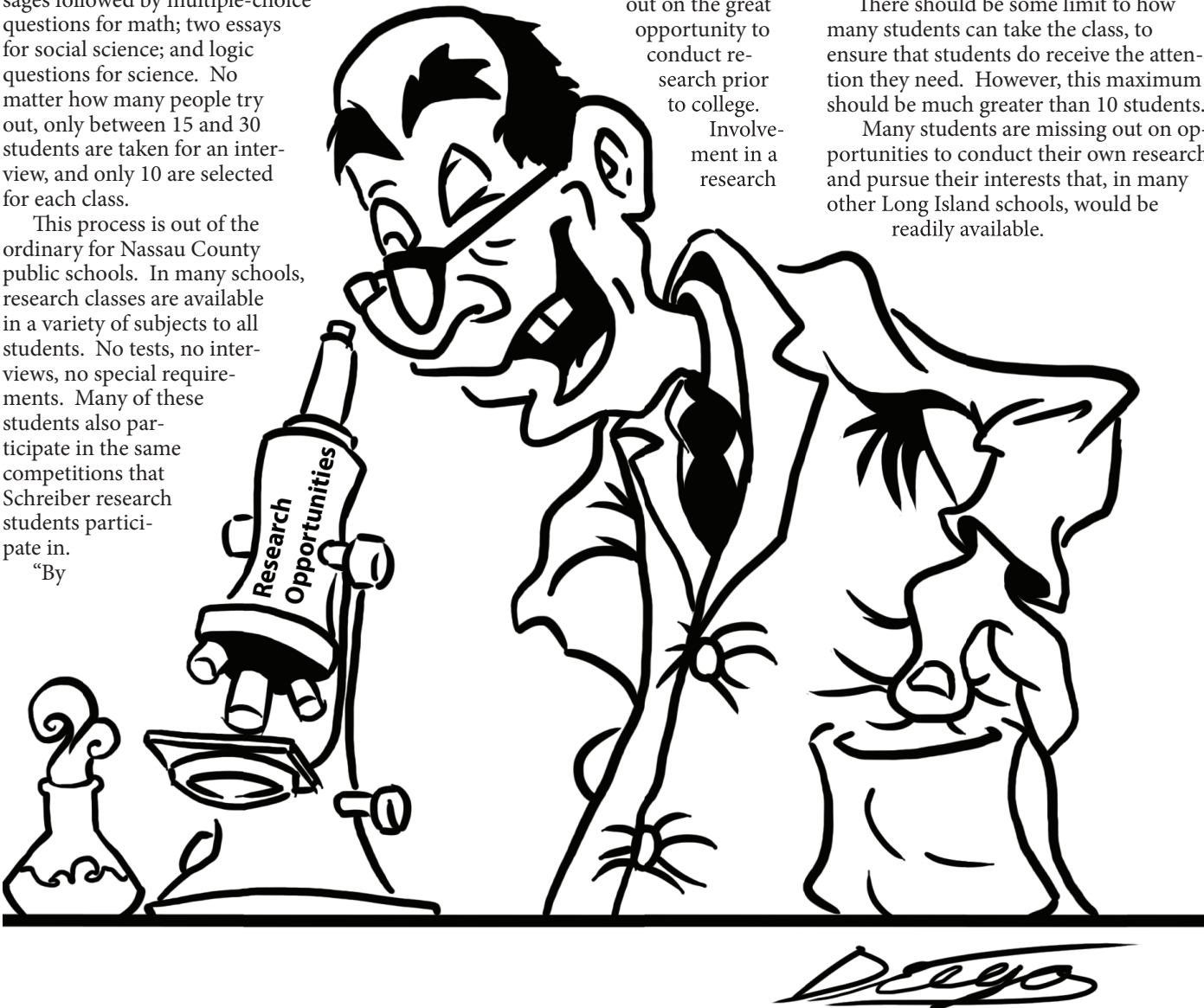
class may embellish college applications when the time comes, but to some students, it is not all about trying to catch the interest of different schools.

"I really just wanted to perform science experiments and learn more," said junior John Neil. "I have an active interest in science. I wouldn't want to take research classes just because they look good."

Research classes should be treated like other electives, in terms of class size.

There should be some limit to how many students can take the class, to ensure that students do receive the attention they need. However, this maximum should be much greater than 10 students.

Many students are missing out on opportunities to conduct their own research and pursue their interests that, in many other Long Island schools, would be readily available.



Should Juniors have to take the PSAT?

BY **Jennifer Byun**
Contributing Writer

During their junior year, high school students are eligible to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, better known as the Preliminary SAT, or PSAT.

Some people believe that the PSAT should be mandatory for juniors in order to provide the opportunities for scholarships.

They argue that the PSATs would force many students to begin studying for their SATs earlier, and therefore improve their performance. They also argue that this would give juniors who have yet to begin studying for the SATs to determine which areas they excel in and which areas they have to work on. This way, they will be better prepared for the actual SAT and possibly maximize their scores.

However, it is simply not necessary for juniors to be required to take the PSAT. It is a complete and utter waste of limited time for juniors to be required to take the PSATs. Throughout the beginning of junior year, students are struggling to balance new

and demanding coursework along with extracurricular activities. Students need to have the time to focus on getting a solid start to the new school year.

One of the main reasons many students feel discouraged to take the test is the lack of confidence in their academic abilities.

During their third year in high school, most juniors feel like they have, at the very least, an understanding of their academic potential. They have an awareness of their strengths and weaknesses, and understand where to put in extra effort.

"If students know they aren't smart enough to get National Merit, they shouldn't be forced to take it. It'll be a waste of time for them," said senior Anne Kim.

Students should not be required to take the PSAT, because it takes away from the time that they have to focus on their academic course load. Junior year is one of the most important academically, and students need to focus on their core academics.

Junior year is already stressful enough. If students feel that they can use their time more efficiently, they should

be allowed.

Forcing students to take the PSAT also takes away the student's sense of personal responsibilities.

"It's the student's responsibility to study for the standardized exams. It shouldn't be made mandatory," said junior Emmanuel Beys.

Applying to college is incredibly expensive. Students are already spending hundreds of dollars to take official standardized tests and should not have to spend more money on a test that does not necessarily help with exam preparation.

"Students don't need to take it; it's a waste of money. There are so many resources available online that are free and are just as helpful in preparing for the SATs," said junior Christine Novotny.

The school may encourage students to register for the PSATs; however, it is not beneficial to force every single student to take an exam they may or may not wish to take for a variety of reasons.

Government shutdown: what it was, and why you didn't notice

BY **Will Berger**
Staff Writer

Over the last few weeks, much media attention has focused on the train wreck of the government shutdown.

Don't let the hype scare you; it was the temporary closure of a few federal agencies and the furlough of 800,000 government employees not deemed "essential." The term "shutdown" seems like a bit of an exaggeration—just as "intelligent" or "mature" is a bit of an exaggeration when describing Congress.

In all likelihood, the government shutdown did not affect you. You were still free to do all of your favorite government-related activities, such as paying your taxes, receiving parking tickets, standing in line at the post office.

You may wonder: why did the government shut down? Each fiscal year, Congress must pass a spending bill that outlines how the government will be funded. If the bill cannot be passed, certain services will halt until the legislation is approved. Unfortunately, Congress was not able to meet the deadline on Oct. 1.

So what was the holdup? A group of House Republicans, led by Senator Ted Cruz, demanded that the new spending bill include provisions that defund, derail, or dilute Obamacare. But Senate Democrats were just as adamantly opposed to the provisions.

Still confused? Let me put it in terms that any student can understand. You and your friend want to order something for lunch. You want to order from Harbor Deli, while your friend wants to order from Bayview. So instead of compromising, you shut down your friendship.

Again, it appears as if politicians are playing a game of chicken with our economy.

For some strange reason, Cruz and other Republicans thought it would be a good idea to hold the spending bill hostage and Democrats thought it necessary to put Obamacare over reopening the federal government.

Thankfully, Democrats and Republicans finally agreed on a deal that would keep the government going... until Jan. 15, that is.

Congress must agree on a spending bill before Jan. 15, or else the government will shut down again and all Americans retreat to their respective panic rooms.

Although political leaders might try to call it a grand compromise, this "deal" is simply a temporary bandage on a wound that will require surgery in January.

According to a poll from Public Policy Polling, Congress' approval rating is lower than rat excrement, hemorrhoids, jury duty, toenail fungus, cockroaches, the IRS, potholes, and zombies.

While this poll may seem like a disturbing reflection of our political state, on the bright side, Congress scored higher than Miley Cyrus.

SchreiberSpeaks

What has been your favorite class or experience at Schreiber?



“My favorite class was freshman year actually. It was Honors Biology with Mr. Crivelli. I loved the class not only because I thought that the subject matter was very interesting, but also because it is actually useful in our everyday life. You see it everywhere.

In addition, I thought that my teacher was very engaging. Mr. Crivelli always kept the students entertained and interested in the subject with his hilarious puns and sayings. Mr. Crivelli truly has a great sense of humor.

Like any other honors class, this class was a lot of work. Even though the class requires a great deal of studying and preparing for the difficult tests, the workload didn’t matter to me because I found the class really enjoyable. and learned a great deal.”

~ Nate Krantz, senior

“I think that my best experiences at Schreiber were not in a class but with Drama Club and Theater. After a long day of having classes and doing math and all this stuff, it’s a good way of calming down for those of us who aren’t as athletic as others or even artistic.

Theater is a different type of artistic. In Drama Club we work on character development and use various games to aid us in this study. It’s also really fun to be in a show because you get to be surrounded by people who have the same interests as you.

Usually the director would give us directions in the show, but you get to add your own interpretations. It promotes self growth and gives people the ability to express themselves.

A lot of people in our school go into theater mostly because they have been exposed to it in such a friendly and cooperative environment.”

~ Ariel Waldman, junior

“My favorite class is AP Calculus. I just really enjoy the subject matter because I find the subject really intuitive and the class interesting and it is something that I just really understand and enjoy doing.

It was a really big wake-up call in the beginning, especially with the workload but you get used to it pretty quickly.

Being a sophomore, I thought that there would be some negative reactions to me taking the class. But I was extremely surprised that everybody reacted so positively.

This class was such a surprise since I haven’t really enjoyed math much in previous years. But starting with this class, I found that I have a great interest in mathematics.”

~Andrew Gruber, sophomore

Reporting and photos by Rachel Kogan and Stacey Kim, Opinions Editor and Staff Assistant

Lack of guidance counselors causes problems for students

BY Rachel Kogan & Stacey Kim
Assistant Opinions Editor & Staff Assistant

Several years ago, Schreiber had to cut a number of guidance counselor positions due to budgetary limitation. This action has led to numerous negative consequences.

Students are not able to communicate with their guidance counselors as easily as in previous years.

The cause of this situation is that the guidance counselors are now overwhelmed from the additional work taken on by them from the previously existing positions. Thus, the guidance counselors do not have a sufficient amount of time to properly converse with students about their issues and problems.

“I feel like my guidance counselor has too many students,” said senior Sydney Heiden. “She is never available when I go to her.”

In addition, certain classes at Schreiber High School must be taken in accordance to state laws. The presence of such mandatory classes often times con-

flicts with students’ desire to take certain electives as well as higher level classes to challenge themselves.

Part of the job description for a guidance counselor includes aiding the students in creating schedules that match their academic interests. In specific cases, guidance counselors can postpone the time that the requirements are filled.

Although, some guidance counselors comply with student requests to defer requirements, others do not.

“I feel like there is practically no communication between all the counselors,” said junior Rachel Ellerson. “I asked my counselor if I could postpone health for senior year and he said that they weren’t allowed to do that. Meanwhile, many of my friends postponed health and I feel like that’s not fair.”

Furthermore, some guidance counselors allow students to take courses over the summer for certain cases while others do not. This gives a narrow group of students an advantage over the rest who desired to take these classes but were not permitted to.

“It is unfair that option for summer

courses was an option for some and not others,” said junior Tessa Peierls. “If it is going to be an option, it has to be available to everyone.”

Making schedule corrections or general meeting with guidance counselors take time. In the beginning of the school year, when students had to make corrections in their schedules, some guidance counselors did not reply or took several weeks to reply.

Similar situations continued to occur throughout the school year, troubling the students. Whenever students need assistance or try to schedule an appointment, the guidance counselors are often unavailable.

Although students have the opportunity to sign up for an appointment with their counselors, they often encounter scheduling conflicts.

“There definitely aren’t enough guidance counselors to go around,” said junior Dylan Rothman, “Every time I try to talk to my counselor, she’s busy talking to another student.”

In addition, even when the guidance counselors are available, other students

have already filled up all of the existing free periods available in the scheduling book.

As a result, many of the students have to wait a few weeks in order to simply communicate with their guidance counselors about certain issues and problems that needs to be dealt with quickly.

“It’s nearly impossible to get a slot for guidance,” said senior Abby Harari, “I have tried numerous times to get a spot, and the only available times are about two weeks later.”

None of these problems are the fault of the guidance counselors, however.

“Health as a class is mandated by the state,” said District Director of Guidance Hank Hardy “The guidance counselors have a specific guideline by which they can act. If students have problems regarding these circumstances, they should approach their guidance counselors or me.”

The school should increase the number of guidance counselors available to students. This action would prevent many conflicts between students and their counselors.

Editorials

Spain trip should be just for Spanish classes

This year, students who take a foreign language have the opportunity to take a trip to Spain.

This ten-day trip over spring break will provide junior and senior students with the chance to explore and immerse themselves in Spanish culture. The trip will be supervised by Spanish teachers Ms. Evelin Joseph and Ms. Debra Korba-Rapp.

This is the second year of the trip, but last year, the trip was reserved only for students studying Spanish. However, the trip this spring has been made accessible to students in other foreign language classes. The only requirement is that the students are either juniors or seniors.

The *Schreiber Times* believes that only those students taking Spanish should be permitted on the trip.

Field trips in general require a great amount of preparation. There are many issues that need to be addressed when taking students out of the country. Teachers and chaperones must take extensive precautionary measures in order to ensure the safety of all traveling students.

While traveling in a foreign country, students may be highly susceptible to getting lost. In such cases, those who are familiar with the language would have the ability to seek help and eventually find their way. Students who have not learned such skills face greater dangers as they are not able to communicate with locals.

The purpose of the trip is to enrich students' learning in the classrooms. Those who take a foreign language learn about the culture and customs associated with that language as part of their curriculum. Students who do not take Spanish, may take the spot of students who have been studying the language and would be able to connect what they have seen and learned on the trip to what they are taught in class.

Although students who take a different language will enjoy the excursions, they

will most likely not be able to see how the language that they study influences the nation's culture. It would make more sense for these students to go on field trips related to the cultures that they are studying.

While the intentions of Schreiber teachers are admirable in attempting to promote fairness, *The Schreiber Times* regards such actions as ineffective.

Not enough time for fundraising

Bake sales and other fundraisers are held regularly before and after school, usually in the main lobby. Raising money in school is very effective since students are almost always willing to purchase goods.

However, school administrators have applied the state's regulations to the sale of sweets to fundraising as a whole. Fundraising has now been limited only to before or after school events.

The *Schreiber Times* believes that rather than only being allowed to fundraise before and after school, students should be permitted to raise money during school hours as well. Doing so would raise revenue and make advocating for various organizations and extracurricular activities more effective.

To many who participate in clubs or sports, it is essential to raise money whenever given the chance. Expensive equipment, projects, and events lead to a desperate need for funding. It is not fair that the school is hindering students' opportunities to raise money for the betterment of Schreiber and its student body.

As of September of last year, New York State banned the selling of candy and sweets during school hours. These officials feel that selling and marketing such products impacts students' choices regarding nutrition and health. Students are educated in health and physical education classes about how to maintain and what constitutes a proper diet. With this knowledge, Schreiber students are well equipped to decide whether to eat

specific foods.

Selling goods requires persuasion and marketing skills. Fundraising promotes a sense of independence and freedom in students as they deal with money and invent strategies to sell their products.

As a school with a great deal of different clubs and sports, it is surprising that Schreiber does not allow fundraising during the school day. Administrators should commend students for their focus on philanthropy and their desire to help others.

Fundraising during the school day as well as before and after school would ensure that these students are able to continue pursuing their passions. They can also have a positive impact on both the local and global communities.

Poor maintenance of school bathrooms

The school has recently made some slight improvements to the bathrooms with the addition of several Xlerator hand dryers throughout the building. Yet, *The Schreiber Times* feels that student bathrooms remain rather primitive and contain very little modern technology. The addition of new equipment would make the bathrooms much more sanitary and convenient. The current sinks and hand dryers are inefficient, and waste a lot of energy.

Neighboring districts have installed no-touch sinks, toilets, and soap dispensers. With flu season rapidly approaching, students become extra concerned about hygiene because a bout of the flu could cause them to miss a lot of school. With the rigorous curriculum that Schreiber provides, it is very easy for students to fall behind.

For this reason, *The Schreiber Times* believes that such technologies would provide greater sanitation and promote a greater degree of responsibility among students who may have otherwise thought to wreak havoc upon the fixtures. The diligent custodial staff would also benefit from not having as much to clean and repair. *The Schreiber Times* believes that if students are happy with the conditions in the bathrooms, they would much less likely to commit vandalism.

Additionally, bathrooms should remain opened throughout the school day and after hours. Students are often in the

building for sports, and clubs well into the evening, and should be able to find a bathroom to use.

Where an occasional crisis may require a certain bathroom to be shutdown, it seems that certain bathrooms are locked more often than they are opened, causing students to miss more class time than necessary. Students should be able to quickly use a bathroom that is updated with hygienic features. Teachers may also be less likely to allow students to leave class if they know it will take them ten minutes.

The *Schreiber Times* feels that the school should make the condition of the bathrooms a greater priority.

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on November 4! 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.

Halloween Prank, By Ethan Bookstein



Gambol 2014 Holiday Boutique!

Free Admission All are Welcomes

Saturday, November 23rd
11 am - 5 pm

Schreiber High School Cafeteria

Something for Everyone!

Accessories * Clothing *
Stocking Stuffers * Hanukkah
* Jewelry * Makeup * Artwork *
Handbags * And so much more!

Questions? email Esther at EGoldbas@dmtlaw.net or Elyse at Elyseba@aol.com

Gambol2014 is a committee of Schreiber HSA, Inc., a not for profit corporation that is exempt from income taxes in accordance with section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, all funds raised will be used to defray the expenses of Gambol 2014, and any excess will then be used for the charitable purposes of Schreiber HSA, Inc.



n behind the curtain: le in the student community

Education in part govern the structure of school academics, they also apply to student extracurricular involvement. Athletics in particular are a big focus of Board activities. Communication between the Board of Education and the athletic department determines student extracurricular life.

“If there is an athletics issue, it goes to the athletics director first. If it’s policy, not just a guideline, then I would work with a few people on a recommendation,” said Ms. Joannon. “The superintendent would take my recommendation and take it to the Board to represent me. If there are questions from the Board, they would come around and I would be involved in a dialogue as to why.”

One such example of the “dialogue” between the Board and Schreiber administrators was the implementation of the ImPact concussion testing several years ago. The idea was initially generated by Ms. Joannon and Athletic Trainer Mr. Rick Zappala. It was then moved along the chain of command until Board members could approve the funds for the test.

“The concussion testing was an example of the dialogue that happens between me, members of school administration and the Board,” said Ms. Joannon. “For me, the ultimate endgame is what’s best for the students and what’s best for athletes. The Board is always receptive to new ideas because they also want what’s best for the students.”

The Board of Education also plays a role in determining policy in not only academics and sports, but also in the art and music departments.

The Board has supported several music department events, including the “Night of a Thousand Strings” concert. The Board has also lent its support to the “Bridging the Gap” program, which, with the help of Dallas Brass, gives band stu-

dents the opportunity to play at different community venues like nursing homes.

“We have not had anything but success, cooperation, and cohesive understanding between the Board of Education and what the music department tries to do, in how it works for us,” said orchestra teacher Mr. Anthony Pinelli. “They do, obviously, make budgetary decisions for the entire district, whether they go through building

department and the Board of Education, and she suggested the addition of Board meeting performances by district music students. The performances are meant to showcase district music achievement and learning.

“At each Board meeting, a music group from a school in the district begins the meeting with five minutes of music,” said Mr. Pinelli. “The board accepted that offer

who do not have children in the Port Washington school system find the time to attend meetings, mainly due to the educational system’s importance to the community.

“They’re the liaison between the town and the Superintendent,” said Schreiber parent Ms. Julie Appel.

Most of the parents surveyed have been to at least one meeting.

Many Schreiber parents acknowledge the importance of these meetings, and of the Board of Education’s role in their children’s educational lives, financially or otherwise.

“The Board of Education plays an important role in my child’s education because they hold the purse strings,” said Ms. Appel.

Still others are generally in the know about the Board of Education’s appointed duties.

“I know a fair amount about what the Board of Education does,” said Schreiber parent Rita Sethi.

However, others feel that the Board of Education’s presence is distant. Many students and their parents know little about what the Board of Education does or what the organization actually is.

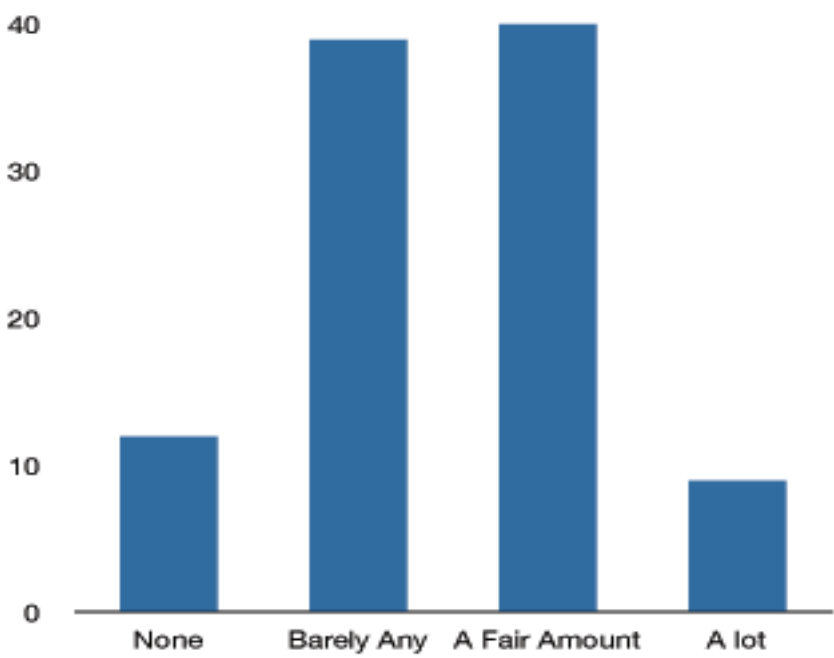
Ultimately, the Board’s hands are tied by how much money is in the budget. When outstretched hands pull the money in different directions they are the ones who have to say no.

“I would like to have more teams. I would love to improve our facilities, but everyone is caught in the same budget crunch and we need to be efficient,” said Ms. Joannon. “My job is to advocate and maintain our programs. The Board has been very consistent with not adding to other places at the expense of athletics.”

Whether or not students acknowledge the potential for relationship between themselves and the Board, it exists. The Board of Education plays a role in the community seldom filled in other neighborhoods.

“I came from New York City where there was no board. The people who govern in New York City are faceless people, you don’t know who they are, you don’t maintain personal relationships,” said Mr. Pernick. “You come here and there’s a bit of formality to it, but there is also this informality that you can build into it and I like that. There is something to say for the informal nature of relationships and I think it helps them stay positive. It’s a really unique sort of governance approach, but I do feel that when I talk to the board I feel like we are absolutely on the same level.”

How much of an influence do you feel the Board of Education has on student life?



or district administration, when cuts or increases in funding come around.”

Creative Arts Director Ms. Sherri Suzzan acts as a liaison between the music

from Ms. Suzzan and has been pleasantly responsive to that situation.”

The art department also has a good relationship with the Board of Education.

“In my experience, I have found the Board to always step up and support the art department here at Schreiber,” said art teacher Ms. Miranda Best.

The Board of Education has expressed support for new art-related projects. Mr. Pernick has expressed interest in having members of the Art Honor Society speak at a meeting about recent projects, particularly the Memory Project, which has club members paint portraits of orphans in third-world countries.

Furthermore, the responsibilities and decisions of the Board of Education have community-wide implications that stretch beyond Schreiber’s halls. Consequently, parents and other community members have the opportunity to attend Board of Education meetings. District officials allow for community comments at certain designated times on the agenda.

A number of community members



<http://new.livestream/PortNet>

All Board of Education meetings are streamed online.

By Dan Bidikov, Aaron Brezel, Aaron Bialer, and Ana Espinoza



The men and women The Board of Education’s role

On a Tuesday night in the spring of 2011, several students attended a Board of Education meeting to demand a change to the Senior Experience program. While the program itself remains a controversial issue today, the initiative of the students was not lost on the onlookers, including Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. This was Mr. Pernick’s first ever Board of Education meeting and the actions of the students made a powerful first impression.

“The night I came with my family to the Board, there was a line of students waiting at the Board meeting to complain about Senior Experience,” said Mr. Pernick. “It was shocking because here I am, brand new to the community, and I think to myself, ‘Oh my god what am I doing here? I can’t believe what’s happening.’”

In recent years, student involvement has been the exception at Board meetings rather than the norm. The vast majority of students have not attended a single Board of Education meeting. Student attendance on a week to week basis is almost nonexistent.

Thus, many have no comprehension of the extent to which the Board of Education controls every aspect of the school.

When asked how much influence they felt the Board has over their student lives, almost half answered either no influence or barely any.

“Could you explain what that is?” said senior Ben Pan.

“Students don’t ever come to a school board meeting unless they’re being honored,” said Mr. Pernick. “It would be a good idea for students to come, just to see the level of interaction, draw some conclusion as to how the Board works. It is an interesting dynamic to watch.”

Many students are not aware that they have the option to voice their opinion at

“The Board of Education seems pretty distant, and a lot of people don’t know what they do,” said junior Carolyn Suh.

Board of Education meetings.

“If I had an issue with the school, I wouldn’t bring it to the school board because I don’t know how the system works or if at the end of the process it would actually be worth it,” said senior Deirdra Labartino.

“The Board of Education seems pretty distant, and a lot of people don’t know what they do,” said junior Carolyn Suh.

Every Tuesday at 8 p.m., the seven members of the Board of Education and

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Mooney convene in the Schreiber auditorium to hold a public meeting. The Board of Education, made up of seven elected volunteer members, meets to discuss school issues.

The election process requires a petition from the District Clerk’s office and securing votes from community members

who are over the age of eighteen. Each Board member serves a three year term.

The Board of Education makes decisions regarding financial and administrative policies throughout the district. While it handles major school-related issues such as the budget and the broader aspects of the curriculum, the Board has little say in the daily affairs of Schreiber students.

“Our overall role is governance, as opposed to day to day administration,” said Board member Ms. Nora Johnson. “The Board of Education doesn’t really make that many Schreiber specific policies. While we are in the loop, the day to day policy making at every school, including Schreiber, is the responsibility of the principal with the guidance of Central Administration.”

In fact, the Board must approve almost every policy change in athletics, academics, and arts in every school in the district.

“There are some Board of Education members that are more passionate about athletics, some more about arts, and some more about academics,” said Athletics Di-

rector Ms. Stephanie Joannon.

Each of the Board members has a different background and different experiences to draw from. All of them have had or currently have children enrolled in district schools. They stay current on school issues by attending community events, keeping up to date on local news, and fielding emails and phone calls from

local citizens. Ms. Johnson, for example, was a former HSA co-president.

Fans of the comedic mock documentary *Parks and Recreation* will see resemblances in a Board of Education meeting to the Pawnee town forum. It is at these assemblies that onlookers can get an “in the trenches” perspective on Board of Education operations.

Most Board of Education meetings begin with little pomp and circumstance; however, on Oct. 22, members of the board invited Schreiber’s Symphony Orchestra to perform a selection of two tangos and add color to the often dull proceedings.

“Personally, I like the idea of performing before the board,” said senior Symphony Orchestra member Matty Di Giovanni. “It is a bit of an inconvenience being it’s held so late on a school night, but overall I think it’s worth it. With the addition of the Symphony Orchestra, the meeting’s atmosphere becomes livelier and less like a Board meeting.”

After applause from the sparse crowd that had gathered in the auditorium, the

Board immediately dove into business. Class size was a major theme of that week’s meeting. The Board of Education is able to control this aspect of school life by approving the budget designated to hiring and firing teachers.

Prior to this school year, the Board of Education set limits on class sizes throughout the district, however; budgetary restraints and an addition of new students in the district have forced schools to exceed this limit in certain classes.

This has resulted in backlash from community parents, especially those with children in the elementary schools. Their major concern is that increased class sizes will depersonalize their children’s education.

“Many studies point towards smaller classes as better for learning,” said Schreiber parent Ms. Pam Pacht. “I hope our district is continuing to work on achieving optimal class sizes for all of our students.”

Concerned parents were able to voice their displeasure during the Oct. 22 meeting using two public forum periods near the beginning and end of the meeting. While this time can be used to address any issue in the school district, community members exclusively utilized this period to express their negative opinions about the large class sizes at the elementary school level.

Despite the clear displeasure in the community, it is likely that class size issues will not be rectified due to budgetary constraints.

In addition to discussing class sizes, at the Oct. 22 meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Dr. Wafa Westervelt gave a presentation designed to inform the community on the implementation and success of the Common Core. The Common Core is a nationwide

“Students don’t ever come to a school board meeting unless they’re being honored,” said Mr. Pernick. “It would be a good idea for students to come, just to see the level of interaction, draw some conclusion as to how the board works.”

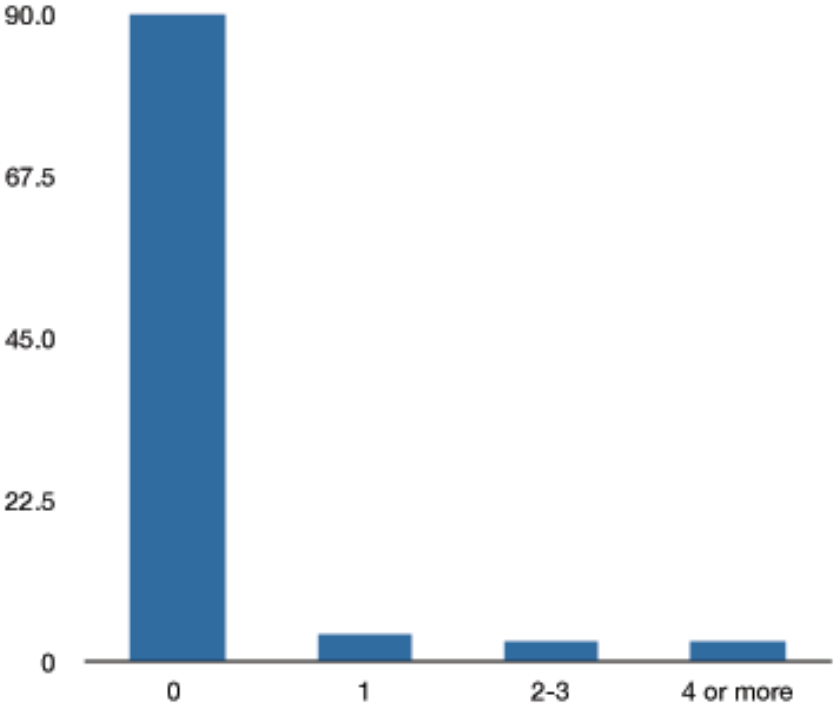
initiative designed to standardize and elevate the education of public school students.

While the Board does not deal with the day-to-day curriculum for students, it is responsible for the implementation of such state policies.

In recent years, the Board has integrated the Common Core into the district.

While the decisions of the Board of

How many Board of Education meetings have you been to?





n behind the curtain: le in the student community

Education in part govern the structure of school academics, they also apply to student extracurricular involvement. Athletics in particular are a big focus of Board activities. Communication between the Board of Education and the athletic department determines student extracurricular life.

“If there is an athletics issue, it goes to the athletics director first. If it’s policy, not just a guideline, then I would work with a few people on a recommendation,” said Ms. Joannon. “The superintendent would take my recommendation and take it to the Board to represent me. If there are questions from the Board, they would come around and I would be involved in a dialogue as to why.”

One such example of the “dialogue” between the Board and Schreiber administrators was the implementation of the ImPact concussion testing several years ago. The idea was initially generated by Ms. Joannon and Athletic Trainer Mr. Rick Zappala. It was then moved along the chain of command until Board members could approve the funds for the test.

“The concussion testing was an example of the dialogue that happens between me, members of school administration and the Board,” said Ms. Joannon. “For me, the ultimate endgame is what’s best for the students and what’s best for athletes. The Board is always receptive to new ideas because they also want what’s best for the students.”

The Board of Education also plays a role in determining policy in not only academics and sports, but also in the art and music departments.

The Board has supported several music department events, including the “Night of a Thousand Strings” concert. The Board has also lent its support to the “Bridging the Gap” program, which, with the help of Dallas Brass, gives band stu-

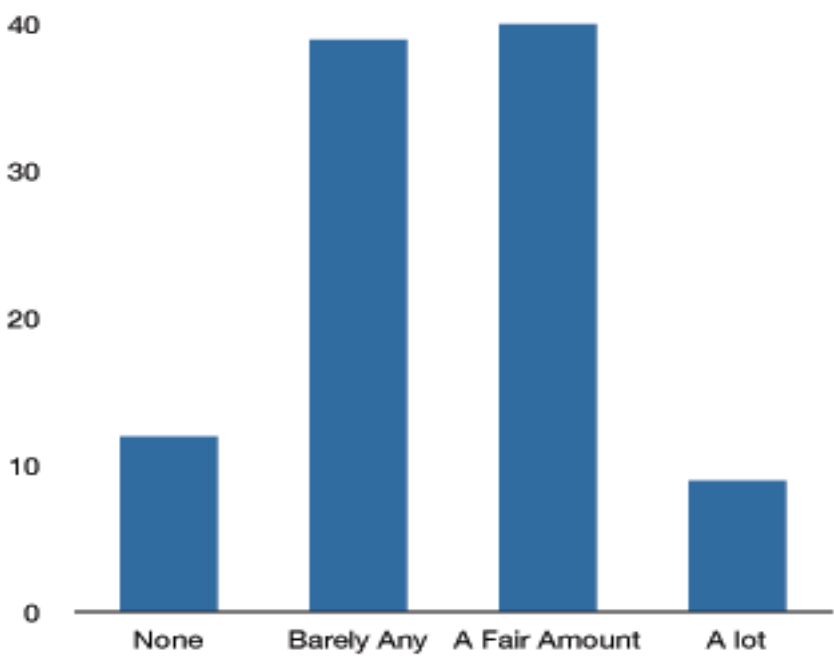
dents the opportunity to play at different community venues like nursing homes.

“We have not had anything but success, cooperation, and cohesive understanding between the Board of Education and what the music department tries to do, in how it works for us,” said orchestra teacher Mr. Anthony Pinelli. “They do, obviously, make budgetary decisions for the entire district, whether they go through building

department and the Board of Education, and she suggested the addition of Board meeting performances by district music students. The performances are meant to showcase district music achievement and learning.

“At each Board meeting, a music group from a school in the district begins the meeting with five minutes of music,” said Mr. Pinelli. “The board accepted that offer

How much of an influence do you feel the Board of Education has on student life?



or district administration, when cuts or increases in funding come around.”

Creative Arts Director Ms. Sherri Suzzan acts as a liaison between the music

from Ms. Suzzan and has been pleasantly responsive to that situation.”

The art department also has a good relationship with the Board of Education. “In my experience, I have found the Board to always step up and support the art department here at Schreiber,” said art teacher Ms. Miranda Best.

The Board of Education has expressed support for new art-related projects. Mr. Pernick has expressed interest in having members of the Art Honor Society speak at a meeting about recent projects, particularly the Memory Project, which has club members paint portraits of orphans in third-world countries.

Furthermore, the responsibilities and decisions of the Board of Education have community-wide implications that stretch beyond Schreiber’s halls. Consequently, parents and other community members have the opportunity to attend Board of Education meetings. District officials allow for community comments at certain designated times on the agenda.

A number of community members

who do not have children in the Port Washington school system find the time to attend meetings, mainly due to the educational system’s importance to the community.

“They’re the liaison between the town and the Superintendent,” said Schreiber parent Ms. Julie Appel.

Most of the parents surveyed have been to at least one meeting.

Many Schreiber parents acknowledge the importance of these meetings, and of the Board of Education’s role in their children’s educational lives, financially or otherwise.

“The Board of Education plays an important role in my child’s education because they hold the purse strings,” said Ms. Appel.

Still others are generally in the know about the Board of Education’s appointed duties.

“I know a fair amount about what the Board of Education does,” said Schreiber parent Rita Sethi.

However, others feel that the Board of Education’s presence is distant. Many students and their parents know little about what the Board of Education does or what the organization actually is.

Ultimately, the Board’s hands are tied by how much money is in the budget. When outstretched hands pull the money in different directions they are the ones who have to say no.

“I would like to have more teams. I would love to improve our facilities, but everyone is caught in the same budget crunch and we need to be efficient,” said Ms. Joannon. “My job is to advocate and maintain our programs. The Board has been very consistent with not adding to other places at the expense of athletics.”

Whether or not students acknowledge the potential for relationship between themselves and the Board, it exists. The Board of Education plays a role in the community seldom filled in other neighborhoods.

“I came from New York City where there was no board. The people who govern in New York City are faceless people, you don’t know who they are, you don’t maintain personal relationships,” said Mr. Pernick. “You come here and there’s a bit of formality to it, but there is also this informality that you can build into it and I like that. There is something to say for the informal nature of relationships and I think it helps them stay positive. It’s a really unique sort of governance approach, but I do feel that when I talk to the board I feel like we are absolutely on the same level.”



<http://new.livestream/PortNet>

All Board of Education meetings are streamed online.

By Dan Bidikov, Aaron Brezel, Aaron Bialer, and Ana Espinoza

[Fashion]

BY **Caroline Ogulnick**
Features Editor

When one thinks of tartan, one often associates it with Scottish kilts, wool blankets, and the “All American” plaid shirt. This fall season, the tartan print is departing from the typical and becoming a worldwide fashion trend.

The traditional tartan print dates back to ancient Celtic populations that existed between the 6th and 8th centuries; however, today it is most commonly linked to 16th century Scotland. Different tartans were used in Scotland to distinguish one region from the next, by using different colors and patterns within the print. Although today’s tartan prints do not symbolize a family, clan, or military unit, they continue to make a statement across the globe.

The tartan trend makes its mark on the runway
Plaid patterns are departing from ancient traditions and making a statement this season

Tartan is a busy pattern, including lines that run horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. Within the pattern there are various colors as well. The most common include shades of red, blue, and green.

Because the tartan print stands out on its own, it looks best paired with basic colors. Neutral hues, such as black, white, gray, or taupe will complement your printed garment, especially if you want to make it the focal point of your outfit.

From t-shirts and sweaters to pants and skirts, the tartan trend is being printed on a range of apparel. While the classic plaid shirt still remains a favorite, fashion icons are turning to more bold garments, and are flaunting fully printed tartan trousers and jackets.

Tartan print can be worn both casually and formally. For a comfy, on-trend look put on a pair of tartan trousers with your favorite white tee and an oversized



www.theshoeboxtheatre.wordpress.com



www.meltyfashion.fr

The models above show variations on the tartan trend in many patterns, fabrics and garments.

cardigan. Whether this ensemble is worn with your broken-in Converse or your black ankle booties, it continues to be casual, and ideal for a cool fall day.

Creating a more formal tartan outfit all depends on what items you pair with your printed garment. Take a skater-style tartan skirt, for example, which can be worn casually as well. If your skirt is high waisted, wear a neutral colored crop tee. If not, wear the same color top but at a regular length, as you can always tuck in the excess fabric according to your preferences. Throw on a black leather jacket and a pair of patent leather pumps or heeled-booties.

These essential items, and perhaps some jewelry (but nothing too flashy), provide you with a formal and tasteful tartan look.

The tartan trend is appearing everywhere, from the recent fall fashion shows to any trendy local boutique. Whether you want to splurge on a printed coat or stick with the standard plaid shirt, any tartan garment is a must-have.



www.teenvogue.com

Pumpkin craze continues to dominate fall flavors

BY **Delia Rush**
Contributing Writer

Scroll down your social media newsfeed and you are likely to come across a timely montage of all the reasons to love fall: seasonal wardrobe styles, colorful trees, Thanksgiving inspired recipes and of course the essential flavor of fall, pumpkin. Throughout the months of autumn, pumpkin flavors thrive in all forms: muffins, coffee, lattes, you name it—pumpkin’s got it.

Starting in October, it is nearly impossible to escape the prevalence of fall marketing. Due to this year’s rather warm temperatures, the fall fad has been off to a delayed start. But do not let that interfere with everything fall and its pumpkin flavor have to offer.

Dunkin Donuts has posters in the windows and frequent commercials promoting its pumpkin muffins and doughnuts, pumpkin coffee, and the recently introduced, pumpkin white chocolate latte. In response, its competitor Starbucks’ offers a pumpkin spice latte to complement the season.

In terms of snacks, Pop-Tarts just came

out with a limited edition pumpkin pie flavored Pop-Tart specific for the autumn months.

Local stores such as Coffeed are partaking in all of fall’s fun as well. “This season we have delicious gluten free pumpkin cookies. But there are other flavors of fall too, like apple,” said Coffeed employee Caitlin Mannix. This Halloween, Coffeed gave treats to those who stop by in their costumes.

Homemade treats also become popular during autumn. Some recipes are made from scratch with canned or raw pumpkin while others can just be made from boxed

mixes. What is the appeal of pumpkin sweets? Perhaps it is the golden orange appearance these treats possess or the bit of spice followed by sweet when you bite into them.

“Of course, summer is an amazing

season but by September, school starts and everyone’s ready for crunchy leaves and sweaters, and the release and promotion of pumpkin flavored things just spreads the spirit and kicks off the season,” said senior Erica Andrews.

By the time Thanksgiving hits, pumpkin pie, coffee, candles, cakes, bread, and muffins are in full blast. Yet, as the pumpkins outside of our neighbors’ homes begin to decay and the trees become truly bare, this pumpkin craze starts to die out. The cold of winter draws near as the autumn flavors come to a close. Take an advantage of the fall season, because before you know it we will be onto winter’s peppermint craze.



www.foodbeast.com

Dunkin Donuts offers two different pumpkin flavored lattes, mocha and white chocolate. They also sell pumpkin donuts and muffins.

The evolution of the selfie: from Myspace to Instagram

BY **Lylia Li**
Staff Writer

We’ve heard it a million times: Millennials are vapid, lazy, self-entitled, and above all, narcissistic. Older generations have been mocking and criticizing newer ones since the dawn of time, but to be fair, it looks like this time they have a point.

It’s a cold hard truth that Millennials are obsessed with the image they project of themselves—just look at their preoccupation with numbers (of likes, followers, friends, favorites, the list goes on and on). In his article “Millennials: The Me Me Me Generation” in *Time*, Joel Stein writes that “the incidence of narcissistic personality disorder is nearly three times as high for people in their 20s as for the generation that’s now 65 or older, according to the National Institutes

of Health.” Studies and statistics aside, though, what more proof of Millennials being narcissistic do we need than the selfie?

The selfie, or self-taken picture, is a versatile beast that has mutated and evolved into many different breeds. The most primitive form of the selfie is the “MySpace selfie,” which originated before front-facing cameras were invented. These photos were taken at arm’s length, usually with the camera flash on, and often ended up out of focus and from a funky angle. The inability to be able to see yourself as you are taking the picture took away from the quality and hilarity of the photos. MySpace selfies were only ever popular among the kind of fringe groups notorious for wearing too much eyeliner.

Much more prominent now is the “Facebook selfie,” crisp, clear, and cleaned with an Instagram filter, or more recently, a VSCO cam filter. Millennials love

uploading these to Facebook, presumably for the memories but mostly to show off how good they look.

Selfies are not always taken to look pretty. See, for example, the infamous “duckface selfie,” which people either love or revile. In the “duckface selfie,” young adults purse and stick their lips out as far as they can, making themselves look like ducks with weird, shriveled up beaks and chins.

The duckface is not the only trend in faces we have seen rise from the selfie’s wake. Members of the new generation are also fond of sticking out their tongues, make kissy faces, or even throwing up a peace sign or two.

Selfies have become so influential that an entire mobile application was made for the purpose of using them as a medium of communication. If you have ever seen someone making a weird face at his or her phone in class, that person is almost certainly on Snapchat. The app allows users to exchange messages through pictures that last for a maximum of 10 seconds before disappearing permanently.

Snapchat relieves much of the pressure to look good in every single picture, and Millennials are all over that. In fact, they probably spend more time face-to-face on Snapchat than in person.

And as if all that was not enough, there are also the “bathroom selfies.” You heard right. Not even in (what should be) the most private of imaginable areas do young people stop taking selfies. Snapchat has definitely facilitated this, and it is not rare to receive snaps of close friends on the can with the caption “#toiletselfie.”

So yes, to put it briefly, there is an overwhelming amount of circumstantial evidence that Millennials love taking pictures of themselves. We were born into a world where iPhones with built-in front-facing cameras were handed to us on silver platters. We were just taking advantage of the technology that was at our disposal, something older generations would also do if they knew how much cuter it would make them look.

So I say: own your selfie. Work it. And do not be ashamed to Instagram the heck out of it every Sunday.



Seniors Joe Finklestein (left) and Matt DiGiovanni (right) display the typical position one takes while capturing a selfie. At this angle, they will be able to create the perfect picture, and post it on Instagram or share it via Snapchat.

Samsung galaxy gear watch is much more than a wristband

BY **Eli Lefcowitz**
Contributing Writer

From James Bond to the Power Rangers, high-tech watches have always been a thing of fantasy. On Sept. 4, fiction became a reality when Samsung revealed its Galaxy Gear Watch, priced at a hefty \$299. The Galaxy Gear will allow users to make calls, receive texts, and take low quality photographs to send via Snapchat. With the built in microphone, users are able to make calls and dictate texts to the watch. Unfortunately, talking to your watch on the subway is not yet an accepted behavior.

The watch runs off of Google’s Android operating system and needs to be connected to a working Galaxy Note tablet or a Galaxy S4 smartphone, both made by Samsung. Overall, the smart watch’s abilities are not very impressive. Because of the new technology used in this watch and the small size of the watch screen, few apps are available. The watch also acts as a pedometer, a phone, a voice-to-text note taker, and, most curiously, a time-keeper.

Despite its low functionality, the watch is impressively stylish. It comes in six

different colors, with a brushed metal bezel and a comfortable black leather strap.

Due to the relatively small size of the screen, which is only 1.6 inches, the Galaxy Gear primarily utilizes voice commands and swipe gestures. Because of the small memory space, users can only record videos up to 10 seconds in 720p HD.

Due to the limited capabilities and the restrictions of the watch, plus the \$299 price tag, it is an unsuccessful endeavor for Samsung. Apple and Google are reportedly working on their own smartwatches, and when they are released, the discussion will certainly heat up. Until then, however, we still have to dream about owning a hologram-watch.



The Galaxy Gear watch has functions comparable to that of a Samsung phone, such as weather and photo-sharing apps.

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BY **Harry Paul**
Photo Editor

What could possibly make paleoanthropologists and middle school children rejoice together? The genealogy of humans just got simpler!

New research provides an anatomical analysis of Skull 5, a 1.8 million year old complete skull. The report, “A Complete Skull from Dmanisi, Georgia, and the Evolutionary Biology of Early *Homo*” was recently published in the journal *Science*. The publication suggests that humans came from a single species rather than several different species, as previously thought.

Skull 5 is the only one of its time period that was excavated in the Republic of Georgia in 2005. This skull has been known among anthropologists for years because of its unique characteristics, such as its small brain-case and large teeth. It has been the subject of much debate and predictions concerning the species from which modern humans have evolved.

Until recently, the earliest humans were thought to have come from the *Ardipithecus* group, which lived about five million years ago. This family is believed to have then branched off into the *Australopithecus* and *Paranthropus* groups between two and four million years ago. *Homo sapiens*, modern humans, are part of the *Homo* group, along with other close relatives like *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, and *Homo neanderthalensis*.

Research led by Dr. Lordkipanidze, director of the Georgian National Museum, strays from this theory. He observed that there are hardly any more differences between the skulls he studies and between those of any two individuals sitting right next to you in class.

In other words, the many species we previously hypothesized as being part of the train of lineage could be simply different families or subspecies.

The major surprising indicator of this change is the brain size of Skull 5. From eight hundred to two hundred thousand years ago, our ancestors’ brains exploded at an exponential rate which was thought to be necessary for our migration around the world.

Skull sizes, as well as geological dating of the rocks within which the skull pieces were found, has helped in the clarification of this research.

While Skull 5 is by far not the only complete skull anthropologists have found, its placement in the geological record is unprecedented, suggesting a much more condensed evolutionary tree.

As new evidence is being uncovered, species that have long been thought of as completely separate may have just been an over-extrapolation of data from the partial skulls of individuals of the same or more closely related species. This discovery can aid researchers in the completion of a genealogical tree of human evolution, and will most likely require a slight change in biology textbooks.

Not only has Skull 5 contributed to important research, but perhaps also just made learning evolutionary history a bit simpler.

Social studies department is home to the school’s fitness junkies

BY Rachel Johnson
Staff Writer

It’s common knowledge among students and staff members that many male teachers in the social studies department follow strict workout regimens. Some teachers, such as Mr. Petro Macrigiane and Mr. Doug Matina, are known for their commitment to fitness. However, after careful investigation, one will find that all adhere to arduous workout routines.

Mr. Larry Schultz was jokingly asked if his fitness regimen involved watching reruns of *Breaking Bad* and coming up with witty tweets, but he proved much more athletic than he seems.

“I go to the gym three times a week,” said Mr. Schultz.

“On one of those days I do fifty pull-ups as an upper body workout. I work on my lower body on the second day and do kickboxing on the third. I don’t take a kickboxing class,” he said. “I’m actually trained in kickboxing. When I’m at home, I do DDP Yoga. It was developed by a man named Diamond Dallas Page, who used to be a wrestler but is now a yogi.”

Mr. Alex Sepulvida, the husband of a yoga instructor, described his preferred workout activities.

“I like to supplement my gym workouts with outdoor activities, such as hiking and rock climbing,” he said. “I find it strenuous, yet it centers me at the same time. The outdoor stuff breaks up the monotony of the gym.” As a side note, Mr. Sepulvida’s involvement in outdoor workout sessions this past summer was what inspired him to grow a beard.

Starting in late June, Mr. Andrew Vinella began running five or six miles daily and stopped eating his wife’s delicious homemade baked goods. Since then, he has lost a significant amount of weight. Congratulations on the weight loss, Mr. Vinella! Your students admire your determination and self-control.

When asked for a statement about his workouts, Mr. Matina was very eager to share the specifics of his routine. In fact, he was so eager that he sent me a 242-word-long description of his training regimen, along with a note that said, “Here is my ‘working out’ vs. ‘training’ piece. I will accept no edited versions. Pictures are not necessary, just words. Let me know if you

think it is print worthy.”

Unfortunately, *The Schreiber Times* was unable to print Matina’s masterpiece in its entirety. If you’d like to read the whole thing, shoot him an email—he would love to enlighten you on what he refers to as the “significant difference between working out and training.”

For now, here’s a snippet: “Working out for me is about pure fitness. It involves strength training with both weights and natural body weight exercises mixed with endurance and agility workouts... ‘Training’ is an entirely different animal and involves continuous drilling of movements and concepts designed to further develop and maintain combative skill... ‘Working out’ is fun because there really isn’t any final goal, and I admit I can sometimes get lax with it, but ‘training’ will always be my passion. I’ve been fanatical about it for my entire life.”

Here’s hoping that Mr. Matina doesn’t use newspaper writers as punching bags for disobeying his request and publishing edited versions of his work of art.

Mr. Macrigiane, the most notorious fitness nut in the department aside from Mr. Matina, refused to disclose the

details of his workout routine. “In *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, Friedrich Nietzsche professes, ‘There is more wisdom in your body than in your deepest philosophy,’” he said while leaning back in his swivel chair with his feet on his desk. “My workout regimen revolves around this phrase. What I do is top secret, but I am guided by this quote.”

Although Mr. Macrigiane would not impart any specific details, his colleagues were eager to share their opinions about his dedication to—or rather obsession with—fitness. Their opinions on his workout habits, however, differ from his own.

“Macrigiane is insane about this, and yet he still gains weight,” said department chair Mr. Bryan Frank. He then added, “I think he’s having a mid-life crisis.”

According to Mr. Jeremy Klaff, the cross country coach, “Mr. Macrigiane thinks he’s an athlete. He’s living in his own little world. He thinks his routine is great, but he wouldn’t make it through one cross country meet.”

“I think Macrigiane is bulking up his body to make up for his small head,” said Mr. Schultz.

Time for a healthy Halloween?

BY Samara Walsh and Caroline Ogulnick
Contributing Writer and Features Editor

Halloween is one of the most anticipated holidays of the year. Whether you want to dress up in something crazy or eat your favorite candy, Oct. 31 is always a day to look forward to.

After trick or treating for hours and coming home with pounds of sugar-packed goodies, kids are left with a surplus of treats that they will feed on for months to come.

While children admire their mountain of treats and eat a handful of candy a day, parents become concerned about the unhealthy content that their kids are consuming. This leads us to the question: is it time for a Halloween candy makeover?

Over the past 30 years, childhood obesity had doubled across America. Parents are second-guessing the idea of the Halloween free pass for unlimited candy.

In today’s health-conscious age, giving out candy on Halloween is becoming controversial. But who would want to go trick or treating for a bag of carrot sticks?

Perhaps parents should just opt for healthy alternatives to their children’s favorite candy. Brands such as Unreal Candy, Surf Sweets, and Teensy Fruits all provide tasteful and healthy options, instead of candy like the more popular Hershey’s bars.

Another alternative is juice boxes. Although kids do not view these as a “treat” because they are often entitled to

drink them throughout a regular day, juice boxes are a great way to limit the amount of unhealthy candy being given out.

Mini juice boxes fit perfecting in a candy bowl, and are great to break open while trick or treating, because the combination of sweet and salty candy and running from door to door is sure to make anyone dehydrated.

Some parents are completely dismissing the idea of candy on Halloween, and are taking all edible treats out of the bowl of goods.

Instead of choosing between a Laffey Taffey and a Jolly Rancher, kids will now have the option to bring home bubbles, play dough, stuffed animals and arts and crafts sets. These fun alternatives will provide hours of entertainment, instead of the few seconds involved in eating a piece of candy.

While kids may protest against a Halloween candy makeover, it may be for the best.

If you are unwillingly stuck with bags of candy, a great way to get rid of it without wasting it is to donate it to the troops. Operation Gratitude is an organization that collects Halloween candy and sends it to soldiers overseas.

Donating a piece of Halloween candy will make you just as happy as if eating it.

The attempt to make Halloween healthy is ongoing, and its proponents face a lot of challenges. It seems now that kids will always want sweet, unhealthy candy, but perhaps they can be convinced otherwise.

Hashtag culture is #trending

BY Shia Miller
Contributing Writer

Hashtags have become deeply rooted into today’s online culture, yet many of its seasoned users are unaware of the hashtag’s genesis and evolution as a tool of social media.

The use of hashtags was first developed for online chat room networks in 1988. Hashtags’ functions include labeling groups and topics relevant to each other. The only major difference was 25 years ago, hashtags were called pound signs. Prior to 1988, ampersands, or “&” signs, were used in place of hashtags to indicate a certain topic for early computer users.

With the start of the social network boom, “hashtagging” hit mainstream culture. In 2009, Twitter unofficially trademarked the hashtag used to denote a keyword or topic in a tweet.

Hashtags have been claimed to be the

other social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. When posting a picture on Instagram, many people hashtag to describe their picture. Some use hashtags to get more likes, #tagforlikes.

Using hashtags on other sites has caused some controversy in the past. Some believe that hashtags should only be used on Twitter while others say that it is okay for hashtags to be used in other places.

“I use hashtags outside of Twitter because it is a good way to get my point across and be funny at the same time,” said senior Kim Byrne.

Despite the debates, Chris Messina, the man who developed the idea of using hashtags on Twitter, favors the expansion of the hashtag.

There is no doubt that hashtags have grown into an important aspect of online culture, as well as spoken slang. #imdone.



Unreal Candy produces candy with no artificial flavors, sweeteners, corn syrup and hydrogentaed oils, which are ideal for a healthy Halloween.



quickest and easiest way to search for and find out what Twitter users are currently talking about. For example, #artsy will most likely take you to a collection of tweets about long, ombre hair on teenaged girls as well accounts of wannabe fashionistas.

Celebrities and influential people contribute to the hashtag culture. For example, when Justin Bieber released his album, *Believe*, #believe became associated with Justin Bieber more commonly than the with word’s actual definition.

Even the President of the United States of America has a Twitter account. Although he probably doesn’t tweet himself, the use of hashtags in his tweets serve to emphasize political points #JobsNotCuts.

Online hashtagging originated on Twitter, but the trend has caught on to

arts & entertainment

Drama Club welcomes fall with ActoberFest



In “Fitting Rooms,” directed by senior Amelia Pacht, Tia (junior Sabina Unni), Mariel (junior Arielle Waller), Linda (junior Rachel Ellerson), and Rissa (freshman Julia Hayden) crowd around Kahine (sophomore Stephanie Epstein) to calm her down after her psychotic outburst.

by Aaron Bialer
Copy Editor

The Drama Club never fails to impress. From Oct. 25-27, students produced and performed six one-act plays as part of this year’s ActoberFest.

Curtains opened to the first play “No Meat ‘Til Crete,” written by David Hughes and directed by senior Sabrina Brennan. The play itself was funny at times, mainly due to the performances of freshmen Diana Brennan, Anna Cohen, and Katrina Wasserman. They had perfect comedic timing. Unfortunately, the actresses fell out of character occasionally, losing their British accents during emotional lines.

“Running in Circles Screaming,” written by Jeni Mahoney and directed by junior Ariel Waldman, achieved its goal with very few flaws. It combined humor in

junior Megan Poulos’ character, Heather, with an emotional story line that captured the audience after a moment of confusion during the transition from comedy to drama. The play displayed the fact that it is impossible to fully understand someone else’s viewpoint.

The third play, “Fitting Rooms,” showed a progression from simple to dramatic. In the beginning, three story lines separately established three equally interesting relationships. As each character was developed, the show’s cast managed to fully immerse themselves in their character. However, the combination of the three story lines into a single overdramatized moment seemed to come out of nowhere and crushed the three developing relationships. Though writer Susan Cinoman’s play has received wide recognition as a great American one-act, the overdramatic elements took away

from the rest of the plot by overwhelming the audience.

After a brief intermission, ActoberFest continued with “Third Wheel,” written by Monica Flory and directed by Sophie Brett-Chin. Ellie Bain made the performance, with her comic role as the mute stalker accompanying a couple on their date. Her innocent gestures provided many hilarious moments.

“Have You Seen Down There Lately?” the second play written by David Hughes, was based upon the idea of building God up as a celebrity in order to restore faith. Similar to David Hughes other piece, it could have been funnier, but it did have a certain depth in displaying how people of today essentially worship their favorite celebrities.

The final one-act, “Drugs Are Bad,” was the most laugh-out-loud performance. Falling in the genre of

absurd comedy, the play centered around two parents finding out to their dismay that their son studies and drinks milk instead of watching porn and doing drugs.

The performers impressively withheld any giggles during the highlight of the show.

Between each play, The Improvables returned, directed by veteran Improvables Sabrina Brennan and Lena Kogan. As in past years, the group provided great entertainment, displaying their remarkable improvisation skills. It takes true talent to be able to develop three different television shows about sweat mere seconds after finding out their topic.

Overall, ActoberFest delivered above its expectations. The performers and directors clearly worked hard (despite their busy Peter Pan schedules) and it paid off in an excellent event worth much more than the the free admission to attend.

Gordon-Levitt makes his directorial debut in *Don Jon*

BY **Mike Colonna**
Contributing Writer

If you are looking for a family friendly romantic comedy, skip this one, because this bold flick shocks you with its vulgarity. Still, it is not without a beating heart and stylish direction that keeps it fresh and alive. Written, directed, and starring Joseph-Gordon Levitt, *Don Jon* is one the most standout comedies of the year. The movie follows Jon (Levitt), a “Jersey” guy with a devotion to his friends, family, church, and online collection of pornography. His daily routine of going to the gym, scoring girls, watching porn, and confessing his sins is interrupted, however, when he falls for Barbara (Scarlett Johansson), who is a “10” in his book. Hoping to make their relationship stick, he seeks advice from his father (Tony Danza) and an unlikely friend Esther, his emotionally unstable classmate (Julianne Moore).

Don Jon is propelled by both its stylish, humorous direction and performances that are light and funny, as well as the realistic and gritty ones when the moment calls for it. As it is his directorial debut, Levitt makes sure his bold direction is at the forefront of the film. Whether it is through stylistic jump cuts or swelling, melodramatic music, Levitt loves to exaggerate the films emotions in fun, cartoony ways, and it nearly always works.

The fangirls who will flock to this movie expecting to see Levitt in his usual “nice guy” persona (made popular by movies like *500 Days of Summer* and *50/50*) will be rudely surprised. In a refreshing break for his acting career, Levitt is rawer, cruder, and more sex addicted as Jon than any of his past characters. But that is not



Chemistry sparks between Jon (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and Barbara (Scarlett Johansson) from their first encounter . However, each partner’s respective obsessions with porn and romantic movies interrupt their budding romance, putting Jon’s romance with his potential true love in jeopardy.

a bad thing. Levitt brings this movie to life, pumping energy into every scene he is in. Opposite him, Johansson does an equally fine job, switching to and from the playful girlfriend and the hurt, distrustful girlfriend smoothly and realistically.

But the movie is deeper than porn and love. Underlying the film’s drama and emotion are huge questions that plague our modern, media-filled society: how many of us are disillusioned by movies? How many of our relationships have we tainted because they have not lived up to movie standards? *Don Jon* confronts these questions head on, with confidence in its stride that is hard not to appreciate.

The film is not without its flaws,

though. It is easy to be turned off by the excessive pornography, which is blasted at viewers almost totally uncensored throughout the movie. It is shocking and interesting at first, but after a while, it becomes a nuisance that makes certain scenes painfully awkward to sit through. Near the end, the movie tends to lose its fangs as well, with its somewhat abrupt transition in direction from bold to sappy.

Don Jon is a movie you have to see to believe. With vibrant direction and charismatic performances from a well-rounded cast, it is hard not to get lost in the film’s energy. Just do not see it with your grandparents.

The *Daily Show* welcomes back Jon Stewart as its host

BY **Callen Gross**
Contributing Writer

After a twelve-week hiatus to make his directorial debut in *Rosewater*, Jon Stewart returns to *The Daily Show* in its 19th season.

Since 1996, Comedy Central’s *The Daily Show* has established itself as America’s premier source of current news. During its 18-year run, the show has earned 18 Primetime Emmy awards and helped launch the careers of comedians like Steve Carrell, Demetri Martin, and Stephen Colbert. It has reached such a tremendous level of popularity with Jon Stewart, that it is now making the news, as well as reporting it.

The show has seen much change over the years as it has come to evolve into the characteristic mix of comedic satire and sharp political commentary that it is known and renowned for today. It is a little known fact that the show began without Stewart, but with television personality Craig Kilborn. The transition from Kilborn to Stewart also resulted in the transition of *The Daily Show* into a show which predominantly dealt with the political issues of the day. This transition allowed the show to gain critical acclaim as its ratings catapulted to record heights in its coverage of the 2000 and 2004 elections, in which Stewart began to employ his characteristic satirical take on political issues.

One would think that such a conversion to a more political show would repel younger viewers, however, Stewart’s

ability to blend humor with any news story has resulted in just the opposite. Nowadays, many younger audience members have chosen Stewart’s show over traditional news outlets like Fox and NBC. With the help of its youthful and pop-culture-savvy writing staff, the show has been able to remain “hip” for the show’s incredible span of seasons.

The Daily Show features a larger-than-life team of correspondents, who in every episode participate in one segment which usually draws attention to something happening in the news. The cast of these “special team correspondents” with confrontational and cavalier attitudes conflict with the “straight man” personality of Jon Stewart.

In the show’s third act, Stewart infuses

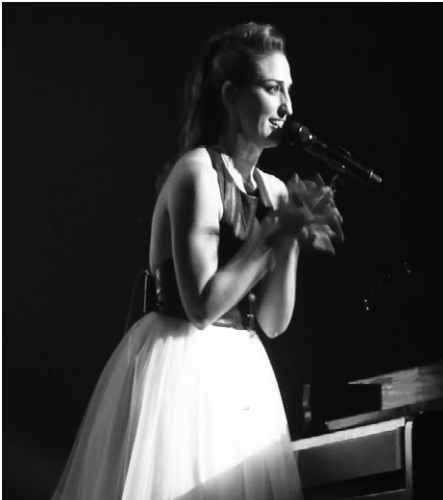
a classic element of the late night talk show: the interview which he conducts with a special guest. The likes of which range from athletes, authors, and musicians, to political figures and pundits. *The Daily Show* has become the hot destination for authors and politicians who want to appeal to a younger liberal audience. These guests have ranged from President Barack Obama, whose interview with Stewart reached 3.6 million viewers, to best selling author J.K. Rowling and Academy Award winner George Clooney.

Stewart’s incredible talent in this daily three-act performance has allowed for the show’s 15 years on the air. Tune into Comedy Central at 11 o’clock on Mondays to Thursdays for a creative and hilarious episode of *The Daily Show*.



Jon Stewart is left speechless by Malala Yousafzai on the *The Daily Show* on Oct. 8. The audience erupts in laughter as Stewart requests to adopt her.

Sara Bareilles goes “brave” at Radio City Hall



Sara Bareille’s dreams come true as she hits the stage of Radio City during her *Blessed Unrest* Tour.

BY **Amelia Pacht**
Staff Writer

Sara Bareilles, the fabulously talented singer-songwriter whose single “Love Song” launched her into mainstream stardom in 2007, took the Radio City stage with grace and confidence on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Performing at Radio City is a dream of any up and coming artist. Bareilles achieved this on the Wednesday night.

The native Californian brought her big personality and talent to New York, along with an engaging opening act, Harper Blynn. Her spunk radiated out from under her tool skirt and the crowd was happy to take it all in. The set list was incredible as expected of this wonderfully versatile and inventive performer.

Bareilles made for an even more dynamic performance by presenting each song with new unique twists, as to not make each song sound as if it came straight off of the record. “Brave,” “Chasing the Sun,” “Satellite Call,” and “Eden” were just a few of her selections that got the audience up on their feet and dancing.

These upbeat songs were contrasted with the heartfelt words she spoke about her father, which was followed by her sweet rendition of “The Way You Look Tonight,” dedicated to her father who has supported her throughout her career. Her genuine nature came across with every note and quirky dance step, which is really what warrants her playful and genuine reputation.

Sara Bareilles’ great success in recent years can be attributed to both her phenomenal vocal and musical talents, but she would not be where she is now in the world of popular music and culture without her truly bubbly personality and contagious enthusiasm. The lucky audience in the sold out concert that night had the privilege of experiencing all that is Sara Bareilles. Bareilles is a spectacular live performer, and that aspect coupled with her award-winning singing abilities made for an enjoyable performance. Her awe-inspiring concert at Radio City is one this die hard fan surely won’t be forgetting any time soon.

To those of you reading this article, whether you may be a faithful Sara Bareilles fan or only know her as the singer of “Love Song,” be sure to check out her newest album *The Blessed Unrest* that she released this summer, now available on iTunes.

Tom Hanks revives America’s sense of nationalism in *Captain Phillips*

by Emanuel Beys
Contributing Writer

Captain Phillips, starring Tom Hanks as the title character, is a must see docudrama that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Directed by Paul Greengrass, the film is based on the events of the 2009 hijacking of the Maersk Alabama commercial ship by Somali pirates.

Tom Hanks gives one of his greatest performances as Captain Richard Phillips. He plays a hero who selflessly sacrifices himself for the safety of his crew. Hanks displays his full range of acting in the film, from portraying Phillips as a simple, average stern captain, to a brazen hero, and finally to a frightened and disturbed victim.

Captain Phillips clashes with Muse, the leader of the Somali pirate group, played by Barkhad Abdi. At 27 years old, Abdi recently resigned from his former limousine driving profession and has shifted gears to the acting world. Despite his inexperience, Abdi holds his own against his Oscar

winner colleague. Muse conveys a very frightening and intimidating feel, in spite of his small frame and scrawny physical appearance.

Though *Captain Phillips* marks Abdi’s first legitimate acting role, his ability to shape Muse’s vulnerable character is sure to interest moviegoers. While the four pirates and Phillips are

in the lifeboat as the navy closes in, Phillips and Muse enter a conversation in which they establish their bizarre mutual understanding and respect.

The film extends insight concerning the role of the notorious pirates, looking beyond their identity as money grabbers. For instance, the pirates are rather picky when it comes to theft



Captain Richard Phillips (Tom Hanks) desperately calls for help while under attack by Somali pirates.

deals. In fact, they are only willing to take deals starting at one million dollars and preferably, in cash.

Perhaps one of the most powerful scenes owes thanks to Hanks’ memorable performance towards the end of the film. After the remaining pirates in the lifeboat are shot and killed by Navy SEALs, Hanks’ character, Captain Phillips is brought on to the navy ship, covered in blood and clearly traumatized. Hanks does a remarkable job portraying a timid and very shaken version of his diminished self, who is bewildered to still be alive. The performance is so raw and real that it will undeniably lure all viewers in.

Captain Phillips is a movie that will leave you dismayed but still feeling good as you exit the theater. It is an intense drama that captures the audience’s attention. Despite the questionability of the truthfulness of the film’s content (some of the ship’s crew members have raised an issue with it), *Captain Phillips* is a powerfully human film that will leave viewers optimistic.

Reasons why the new Pokémon game might save your life

by Dan Bidikov
Editor-in-Chief

Health education and Facebook photo albums have revealed that the stresses of teenage life are so great, many high school students turn to restricted substances for relief. While there is science supporting the claim that alcohol makes you feel good, it is buried by the amount of research saying there is a good chance it will kill you.

“Ugh,” said *The Schreiber Times* readership in response, “I don’t want another probably hypocritical poindexter telling me that I shouldn’t binge drink!”The world hears your groans. And it sympathizes. If you want, stop reading—ignore this plea for sobriety out of fear that you might reconsider your feckless desire to be cool and get a real hobby, become an individual, or (Yeezus forbid!) start reading for pleasure.

The world hopes, however, that you will read this and take its message to heart, leaving with the idea that perhaps the best method for escapism lies not in a can of cheap beer, but in a popular video game.

On Oct. 12, Nintendo released the latest installment in their Pokemon video game series. The game and the 3DS platform required to run the software run at least a hefty \$200. Admittedly, this is more than a twelve pack, but it is much more enjoyable and (hopefully) easier to purchase.

It seems blasphemous that there is more satisfaction to be derived from a video game than a substance that has no choice but to release your endorphins.

However, after thorough consideration of the game’s pristine 3D graphics, 69 new playable characters in the form of Pokemon, and consistent-yet-inventive turn based gameplay, there is no question the new Pokemon game is a singularly entertaining experience.

Pokémon revolves around a youthful protagonist who sets out on an ill-planned journey to catalog and capture every species of fictional animal in the world.

Players of the newest version assume the role of the youngster and follow his (or her) travels around the well-designed region of Kalos, commandeering their own team of Pokémon as they are presented with wild and previously captured Pokemon belonging to “trainers” in combat situations.

Gameplay revolves around “battles,” and players direct their Pokémon to use techniques ranging from fire breathing to slapping with the intention of besting the opposing beast. These battle situations are intellectually demanding and consistently gripping. They require the player to stay on top of all of the different game mechanics and apply their knowledge.

A good battler will know their type charts and can easily make the distinction between physical and special defense. A great battler will take their Pokémon to the competitive circuit, where an intricately developed metagame exists and a level of thought matching chess is required to play properly.

Dedicated competitive players use both their game cartridges and online battle simulators to showcase their skills. Rest assured that this is, er, definitely not something that anyone on *The Schreiber Times* staff has ever done, let alone ignored editing articles to do.

No situation is more telling of psyche than the choice between capturing and killing a wild Pokémon. Players are defined based on which Pokémon they choose to train. After a long enough time with a certain Pokémon under your belt, you will likely start referring to it as “yours.”

The bond between trainers and their Pokémon

give the game an emotional value that is communicated well in three dimensions.

The game comes in two flavors, X and Y, each boasting their own set of exclusive Pokémon characters. Savvy players will immediately realize the power of the game’s built-in trading function and swap their version exclusive creatures with owners of the other game.

Pokémon X and *Y* make good use overall of the 3DS system’s built-in WiFi capabilities, allowing for trading and battling across the globe as well as new social features.

Pokémon is a striking audiovisual experience. The soundtrack is fully orchestrated and rings nicely through the game system’s not-so-great speakers.

Unlike alcohol, Pokemon reminds us that even in our wildest dreams, we can’t always do what we want.

When one *Schreiber Times* staffer attempted to ride the ingame bicycle in an indoor environment, he received a stern reminder from one of the game’s elderly protagonists that it was too bold of a move.

“Dan! There’s a time

and place for everything,” said the wise Professor Sycamore, “but not now.”

Pokémon provides a release from reality that is healthily measured. The game’s real pleasures come when the player behaves maturely.

While you can use your Pokémon for rides (an exciting new feature) and money (you earn cash for defeating other Pokémon trainers in battle), you ultimately cannot enjoy the experience unless you treat your digital friends with respect.

The best trainers are the ones who remember to keep their Pokémon in top shape and use all of them in battle frequently. Likewise, the players who have the most fun will be those who get exposure to different kinds of Pokémon in different environments.

No expectations exist that one will stop consuming alcohol entirely after reading this article, but perhaps the next time one finds that one has already consumed a half dozen cans of beer and are debating the next one, the words of the Professor will echo in your head.

“There’s a time and place for everything! But not now.”



Zareen Johnson

New Cuarón film defies gravity with stellar CGI



Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) and Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) share a moment during the calm before the storm (left). Dr. Stone attempts to return to Earth after her space station is downed (below).



BY **Rami Chaudhry**
Contributing Writer

Gravity is a cinematic triumph. The film suspends the audience weightlessly through a terrifying yet beautiful interstellar journey that keeps the viewer clenching their armrest throughout its 90-minute run time. Director Alfonso Cuarón showcases the significant technological advancements in filmmaking. Cuarón effectively uses 3-D and CGI to fully immerse the audience in a complex movie that took four and a half years to make.

The film opens with a deceptively peaceful shot of Earth, as members of the crew of Space Shuttle Explorer slowly appear on screen. Mission specialist Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) is seen servicing the Hubble Space Telescope while veteran astronaut Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) attempts to calm her down. The scene is intimate, representing a sense of realism in this mainly computer generated movie.

Within minutes, this calm atmosphere is shattered when Houston sends them a warning that debris from a nonoperational satellite is headed their way. The film then propels moviegoers into a suspenseful

experience that transfers the adrenaline of a near-death experience onto the big screen.

Several critics are taking strong stances against the movie for its lack of scientific principles. World famous astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson has taken to Twitter with his complaints: “Mysteries of #Gravity: Why Bullock’s hair, in otherwise convincing zero-G scenes, did not float freely on her head.”

Neil had 11 more tweets on the subject, and although his claims certainly have some truth to them, science isn’t the reason why viewers have paid over \$31 million to see the film. Truthfully, when

you go to the movie theater and see a truck transform into a giant robot only to galavant around a city, part of your brain is dedicated to ignoring the difference between fantasy and reality.

Gravity is best defined as a physical experience that captivates the viewer by means of dazzling special effects and the most thoughtful use of 3D in a movie. It is a tremendous story of survival portraying the most primitive and rudimentary aspects of human nature.

The Walking Dead returns to T.V. with a dead plot

BY **Aaron Bosgang**
Contributing Writer

With *Breaking Bad* over and *Mad Men* nearing its conclusion, AMC is counting on their hit-show *The Walking Dead* to keep ratings high. So far *The Walking Dead* has delivered. 16.1 million viewers tuned in to watch the most recent season premiere giving the show an impressive 8.2 nielson rating. In comparison, *Breaking Bad*’s series finale in late September was watched by 10.4 million viewers.

Many zombie-themed TV shows and movies fall into the trap of repetitive story arcs. For season four, the writers of *The Walking Dead* were tasked with remastering the fast paced and intense plot that initially captivated viewers. Failure to do so will cause *The Walking Dead* to fall apart—like a zombie’s rotting flesh.

The forte of *The Walking Dead* has always been the depth of the characters created by individual personalities. Season four has seen an influx in new characters undoubtedly intended to complicate the narrative. However, they do a poor job of adding variety to the current pool of characters.

The newest additions to the prison are boring, and some of them are used only as excuses for certain scenes in the show. One example is a new African-American actor who helps the group on a supply run. He sparks no conversation and serves no importance until he causes the building

they are scouting to collapse. The writers continue to introduce characters that only remain for a single episode, killing the momentum of the show.

The one-episode-characters show how the writers are lost and desperate. They have nowhere to go with the story, so they make up characters and then kill them instantly, creating a huge setback for the

show.

Yet, the fact remains that *The Walking Dead* is a majorly successful show. However, there is no denying the fact that the show’s plot has slowed down enough to turn away regular viewers. There is speculation that the slow progress will lead up to a big reveal that will get the show back on track, but as of right

now, it needs to step up its game if it wants to compete with other popular shows.

Although there is no way to tell whether or not *The Walking Dead* will improve, we have a lot of time to see it progress. It remains to be seen if *The Walking Dead* can get out of this one alive.



Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) and his son Carl (Chandler Riggs) tend to the new farm that survivors of the zombie apocalypse planted in the prison. Survivors must fight off new and old enemies to protect the livelihood they worked so hard to build.

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Boys varsity soccer falls short of big goals in playoffs

Season ends in 5-0 loss in first round to rival Syosset Braves

BY **Josh White**

Photo Editor

It has been six years since the varsity boys soccer team has won the conference championship.

They came close last year, finishing third, but were still able to advance into the Nassau Class AA-2 playoffs with the eighth seed. Port Washington advanced into the semifinals by beating Long Beach and the first seeded Elmont.

However, they lost in the semifinals to the Syosset Braves, by a score of 4-3.

This season, the varsity boys soccer team is looking to get into the playoffs and compete with the other teams in their conference, as they did last year.

Even though the Vikings did not lose many of last year's seniors, they did lose two time All-County and captain goalie Mike Moraitis.

However, the new Vikings captains took the responsibility into their own hands.

"Team leadership has been superb. Shogo Yamamoto, Eren Alkan, and Luke Rizzo are very good captains. They have a high work-rate in every session and they really want to win," said head coach Don Fish.

After a 2-2 start to the season, the boys soccer team has a current record of 5-4-1. Schreiber only stands behind two teams, Plainview JFK and Farmingdale, for the best record in the conference.

On Oct. 10, they faced off against the Baldwin Bruins in a game that the Vikings considered a must-win.

Before the game, the starters gathered around, got down on one knee, and talked about what needed to be done to succeed in the game.

Once the whistle blew, the Vikings got off to a quick start. Senior captain Luke

Rizzo scored in the first ten minutes of the game, and twenty minutes later, sophomore Areeb Azam scored a goal off of a corner kick. The Vikings jumped out to a 2-0 lead.

This was all Port needed for the rest of the game. The Viking defense halted the Bruins to zero goals and only four shots on target for the rest of the game. The Vikings went on to win by a final score of 2-0 and became 5-4-1 on the season.

The Vikings did not make the playoffs because of their win against Baldwin, but still clinched a spot in the playoffs when the Bruins lost their next match.

To celebrate their season and making the playoffs, the team continued its tradition of getting mohawks.

"The mohawks are for intimidation and for staying with the team's tradition, because all the teams before us have done it. It's been great to continue this tradition and to keep it going for years to come," said sophomore Daniel Ernst.

The tradition at Schreiber is relatively new, yet is one of the Vikings favorites.

"I think it's a pretty interesting tradition, and I remember doing it last year. It's just a fun experience every year. Doing it helps inspire and motivate us to do well in the playoffs," added sophomore Areeb Azam.

Even though the varsity boys soccer team's starting lineup showcases five seniors, they believe that the presence of their underclassmen have been a large contribution to the team.

"Sophomore Areeb Azam has been exceptional on the outside at the right wing position, and Teddy Tanenbaum has been an essential part of our defense, which has helped us win so many vital games," said senior and captain Luke Rizzo.

The Vikings lost their last two games of the season to Plainview JFK and Valley Stream Central, two of the stronger teams



Josh White

Senior striker Ricky Mejia-Reyes dribbles up the sideline against Plaineview on Oct. 12. The Vikings went on to lose the match 3-0.

in Conference AA-2. The Vikings entered the playoffs towards the bottom and had trouble finding a way to move on.

"We were really plagued by injuries down the stretch of the season. I think we will be very tough to beat when it comes to the playoffs and when everyone is healthy," said senior and captain Shogo Yamamoto.

The boys soccer team lost to Syosset in the first round of the playoffs 5-0. These two teams were highly ranked in the conference, but the Vikings came up short.

"This is a fun group and they really like to play. I'll be sorry when the season is over," said head coach Don Fish.

Girls varsity tennis wins Nassau County Championship

BY **Seth Barshay**

Sports Editor

On Friday, Oct. 13, the girls varsity tennis team reigned victorious in their first win in the Nassau County Championship since 2008, defeating Manhasset 4-3 at Wheatley High School. Out of the 57 Nassau County school districts, Schreiber ended up on top. They redeemed themselves after losing in last year's championship to the Syosset Braves.

"It's quite an accomplishment for us to be the best team in Nassau County, and that we were able to win over many other top teams," said head coach Stan Makover.

Makover is currently coaching his 38th season for the Lady Vikings.

Schreiber finished the season with an in-conference record of 11-4. They will now advance to the Long Island Championship, playing against a still-unknown Suffolk County team.

"I think that since we all just had fun together throughout the whole season, and we wanted to win. Not only for ourselves, but for each other, which is what I believe is a significant reason as to why this season was such a success for us," said sophomore Sydney Levy.

The Lady Vikings won one of their three singles matches, to go with three of their four doubles matches.

"Games like this one show the equal importance of every member of the team. Whether they were a singles or a doubles player, it didn't matter. Winning in doubles ended up being just as important as winning in singles, and our team working together to win felt even better, knowing that we were redeeming ourselves from our past few losses in the championship," said senior and first singles player Allie Linder.

First, junior Sarah Seeman won her match in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5. Seeman has been nearly unbeatable at the third singles slot this season, and improved her record to 15-1.

The first doubles pair, seniors Liz Kallenberg and Astrid Philipson, won their match 6-3, 6-2. Then, eighth grader Sophia Walzer and senior Savannah White, at fourth doubles, won their match 1-6, 7-6, 7-6.

At this point, the overall score between Schreiber and Manhasset was 3-2. With the Lady Vikings needing only one more win to clinch, second doubles players and sophomores Emma Rosenberg and Levy rose up to the task, winning their match in three sets, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2. This resulted in Schreiber being named Nassau County Champions.

"It felt amazing to help contribute to our team's victory. It was a well-deserved win. The whole team worked and played

hard, so it's great to have all of that pay off," said Levy.

"It was really exciting being the deciding court in the county championships. By the end of the match, everyone was gathered around our court and when we won, the whole team ran on the court. It was a great end to a great season," said Rosenberg.

Although Schreiber did well as a team in the Nassau County Championship, they also had success in the individual rounds of the championships. Out of Schreiber, two pairs of players were entered into the doubles tournament: Linder and Kallenberg, along with Rosenberg and senior Lauren Livingston.

Coincidentally, the draw of this tournament resulted in these two pairs having to play against each other in the quarterfinals. This resulted in the ultimate success of Linder and Kallenberg, moving them on to the semifinals.

"This matchup was a little uncomfortable for me as a coach of all of them, but that's the way the draw went," said coach Makover.

Rosenberg and Livingston received All-County honors, while Linder & Kallenberg received All-State honors for this tournament. The duo of Linder and Kallenberg went on to win the Nassau County doubles championship in straight sets, over the top seeded Syosset Braves.

The result of this win is that they will

represent all of Nassau County when they move on to the state doubles tournament, which is to be held in Albany from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4.

"It was definitely a different experience playing doubles and not being with the rest of my team, but it was obviously a great feeling representing Schreiber and winning with Liz," said Linder.

After this season concludes, the team will have nine of its seniors graduating. Players from this year's roster who will remain for next year include Waltzer, sophomores Rosenberg, Levy, Blake Dolin, and Annie Kline, and juniors Seeman, Laura Kobrinsky, Anan Ryan, Emily DeReyna, and Aimee Howard.

"It will be interesting next year to see what happens, because we will be depending on a lot of our younger girls to win," said Makover.

"I feel that it is going to be a challenge to do as well as we did this year, especially because we are losing so many talented seniors, but I think that if we have fun, work together and focus on winning one match at a time, we will have a strong chance of winning another county championship," said Levy.

It seems that although much of the current team is graduating before season, they still have the bar set high for the near future, as they look to continue their success from this season.

Calling the Shots

BY Eric Fishbin
Sports Editor

There is no question that football is a violent game. There is a large risk of injury on every snap, and one false step or one hard tackle can easily end a player's season. One of the most common injuries, not only in football, but in all sports, is a concussion.

Specifically, concussions in professional football are treated without much concern. Standard procedure usually allows a player to return to action the following game, a much shorter layover than other, more orthopedic injuries.

However, when these concussions pile up, the long term effects can be far worse than any other injury.

Many of the Nation Football League (NFL) players who have suffered multiple concussions experience side effects because of severe brain damage. Depression is the most common result; however, concussion trauma has even been linked to suicide.

In 2012, an ex-NFL player, Junior Seau, killed himself. Seau had suffered at least seven concussions but played through all of them willingly.

Many people blame the NFL for concussion related illnesses. The Seau family and over 18,000 former players have sued the NFL for its lax approach to concussions. They have argued that NFL officials should have cracked down on players taking the proper time off to recover.

The resulting settlement cost the league \$765 million. The ruling includes compensation to the victims along with coverage of medical exams.

To prevent these same issues, athletes at Schreiber are required to take the ImPact test, a specially designed thirty minute concussion base test which measures a student's memory, and how well they can answer questions at a rapid rate.

The test includes a combination of word recall, design memory, reaction time, attention span and processing speed.

Coming into this season, the girls varsity field hockey team had only nine returning players. Nine of last year's seniors graduated, and a lack of experience in the roster led to a slow start to the season. Many of the players switched positions at the beginning of the season, and it took the first four games for the girls to find their footing.

"There's no replacing the seniors that left, especially the ones from last year. But the players that have been brought up have really stepped up and helped the team at crucial times," said junior Erin McDonough.

The Lady Vikings eventually overcame this adversity, improving in the amount of goals scored. They came back to win four of their last six games. The team finished the regular season at 4-7, which was enough to make the playoffs for the third year in a row.

"This proved that the team really has improved from not being able to score the first game or two to earning a spot in the

The ImPact of concussions

Its purpose is to get a baseline for each individual athlete in case of a concussion. If an athlete is diagnosed with a concussion, he or she must match or do better on the same exam in order to be cleared to

nous and time consuming; however, it is better to be safe than sorry. "Port Washington has led the county in being proactive in our management of athletes' concussions. Our goal is to re-



Josh White

Athletic Trainer Mr. Rick Zappala administers a concussion test to freshman volleyball player Molly Fetherston. Mr. Zappala is following Fetherston's eyes and checking her reaction, similar to how a doctor would during a checkup.

play again.

When taken correctly, this test can be extremely helpful in determining whether an athlete has recovered from head trauma. The accuracy of this test has many star collegiate athletes, or even high school players, purposely doing worse on the exam in case of a possible concussion. They would then be able to pass the exam the second time with ease, allowing them to play through the injury.

"Since the time and expense of providing this test to our student-athletes is geared toward protecting them, I think they are foolish to not try to do well. That aside, the test does have built in measures that will pick up most people who 'sand bag' the test," said Athletic Trainer Mr. Rick Zappala.

Although the intentions are good, some of the student athletes may see it as an inconvenience. The test is monoto-

turn our athletes to competition safely using the best resources available and communication to all involved," said Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon.

Around the country, schools have used the ImPact testing program for over ten years now, and Schreiber has been using it since the 2012 spring season. The athletic department has tested approximately 800 Port Washington student athletes in that time.

"It has proven useful in a number of our concussion cases by finding some of the more subtle effects of concussion that a student may not feel or report. I think it is important to understand that this is only another tool that we use in the evaluation of concussions. It does not stand by itself, but it does provide us with more information to safely return a student athlete back to activity," said Mr. Zappala.

Girls field hockey bounces back from slow start, makes playoffs

BY Kyle Cohen and Seth Barshay
Contributing Writer and Sports Editor

playoffs," said junior Martha Horowitz.

It seems as if the team's improvement can be partially attributed to improved chemistry, as the new players get more accustomed to playing together.

"The coaches have been working with us on specific plays, our corners and free hits especially. Better team work and better unity have enabled us to work together as we were successful against Sewanhaka, Great Neck South, and Oyster Bay," said McDonough.

According to Horowitz, a lot of the team's growth could also be due to the leadership of the team's captains, seniors Caroline Rybecky and Chelsea Nachamie.

"They always keep our heads up, and help us have faith in each other that our teammates will catch the ball if we pass it to them and our teammates will creating a passing lane for us. They are also both the two top scorers on the team," said Horowitz.

In their first playoff game, second seeded Schreiber beat third seeded East Meadow 2-1.

"We all played very well as a team and gave our best possible effort. We

were all really excited for the game and wanted to play our hardest. We came out very strong, and we were determined to win. After a hard fought game, we came through," said Nachamie.

Junior Jina Lay and Nachamie scored in the first and second half, respectively.

"It felt amazing to help out my teammates in our first playoff game. Knowing that I scored the last goal of the last home game of my high school years will always stand out to me," said Nachamie.

The team's next game will be held at Adelphi on Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. against the winner of the match between Massapequa and Sewanhaka.

At the end of this season, five seniors will be graduating: Caroline Rimmer, Nachamie, Danielle Parrino, Rybecky, and Emily Youner.

Along with these departing seniors, Head Coach Mr. Joe Lederer is coaching his last season for the team. The team has made it their goal to finish the season with a win in the championship to end Lederer's coaching career on a high note.

All stats are as of Oct. 30.

Captain's Corner: Mathletes

BY Adam Keltz
Contributing Writer

Adam Keltz: Hi, thanks for seeing me.

Simon Shapiro: Thanks for having us!

AK: To start, how long have you guys been "mathletes?"

Avanti Shroff: We both have since 9th grade. It has been a great four years!

AK: For those who do not know, what do you guys do?

SS: We have six meets against other schools throughout the season and we practice hard everyday.

AK: How has your season been going so far?

AS: We've only had one meet, which we did well in, and we've done well every year. We finished top ten in the county for the past three years, and hopefully we could do the same this year.

SS: Mr. Tedesco, our coach, doesn't pick up our trophies anymore because he is so used to winning.

AK: How does one become a mathlete?

AS: You have to come and join, like a club, but it's open to anyone who wants to join. We meet every Tuesday in room 15 right after school.

SS: But you're really born a mathlete.

AK: What mental or physical benefit does being a mathlete get you?

SS: I definitely feel some soreness in my fingers after a hard day's practice. It helps me sleep at night to know I've done this week's worth of math.

AK: Tell me how you go through your practices each day.

AS: Coach Tedesco gives us about six problems and we have to do them by ourselves and then we go over them.

AK: How hard are the problems?

SS: It's really hard, but if you think through the problem thoroughly enough, there's a good chance you'll get it.

AK: What would you say to kids who are on the fence about joining?

AS: Just do it because in the end, it's all worth it. To the girls who think math is only for boys, it isn't. There are just as many girls as there are boys on this team.

AK: Great. Do you have anything else you would like to say?

SS: Yeah. What does a mathematician call a dead bird?

AK: What?

AS: A polygon!

VIKING SPORTS

Conference winning swim team dives toward finals

Varsity team heads to third consecutive county championship meet

BY **Eric Fishbin**
Sports Editor

Although Schreiber does not have a pool, the girls varsity swim team is one of the school's most successful sports. The undefeated Lady Vikings practice at the Port Washington Yacht Club pool until it gets too cold out.

When the weather changes in the late fall, the girls wake up early three days a week and take a bus to Great Neck North to practice. After a long practice, the girls get back to Schreiber just in time for their first period classes.

The swim team works hard all year and has out of school training during the off season led by coach Mr. Joseph Lennon.

"We had many girls training in the off-season with outside programs and teams. The hard work paid off as the team finished the season 7-1. It was an amazing outcome from a very dedicated group of girls," said Coach Lennon.

Many people in the school are unaware of the team's existence, and its swimmers are trying to become a more well known team. The team has won three consecutive conference titles, including this season, and attained a cumulative record of 22-2-1.

"We were focused on winning and making the swim team better known in the school. We all worked as a team and pushed each other," said senior Izzy Fagen.

This year, the team is sending its largest delegation to the Nassau County Championships. Among the students representing the team at counties are seniors Sarah Maley, Isabelle Fagen, and Catherine Tasnady, sophomores Delia Rush and Ashley Ye, freshman Corrine



Madeline Fagen

Senior Izzy Fagen launches herself off the platform as she races against Jericho High School on Sept. 26. The swim team beat Jericho 102 to 82, adding to its win streak of four at the time. The team went on to win its next five meets.

Hall, and eighth graders Molly McLoughlin and Annabelle Corcoran.

Winning has not been an issue thus far for the team as they stand alone in first place, undefeated. Many of the swimmers are in middle school. However, age is not a gauge of skill.

"When we are swimming age doesn't

matter. We act as one unit, one family. Since some of the younger ones are faster than the older, it allows the older kids to have more respect for the younger ones," said Fagen.

Rush has now been on the swimming and diving team for four years, and she feels that this year has been one of the best.

"Throughout this season it all feels as if the team has been truly unified, even more so than the other years. Our collective drive towards success was key for this season's wins," said Rush.

If the team continues its win streak, they are eligible to swim in the New York State Championships in Ithaca, New York later on in the year.

Much of the team's success can be attributed to the senior leadership of the team. The older swimmers proved to be helpful in and out of the pool. Techniques and strategies have been transferred from upperclassmen to the lowerclassmen of the team throughout the course of the season.

"None of it would have been possible without our captains and other seniors. This year, our captains were exceptionally inclusive and involved with the entire team, especially with the

younger girls. Because the seniors are such a key factor, it will probably be difficult to remain at this level in the future. However, a few of us have been on the team for awhile now, even since middle school," said Rush.

Fagen believes that the leadership of the team will be retained by this year's juniors next year.

"The juniors must take on the leadership role that the seniors have set. They need to be focused every practice and remember why they joined the team. Also, they must have personal motivation to be better and to carry that through to the rest of the team," said Fagen.

Swim meets are scored by cumulative points, so every swimmer on the team matters. Every second contributes to the final score, which is why the girls work to improve their individual times every practice.

"Coach Lennon's attitude is always positive and competitive, which influences all of us. He always pushes us in practice and in meets to swim our absolute best no matter what. His words of positivity are always encouraging," said Rush.

The impact of Coach Lennon's words and attitude sticks with the swimmers throughout practice and meets. After each meet, he gives the girls personal advice on how they can improve, and what they can change to get better.

"Our coach challenged us every practice in the pool. As he told us, after each lap we swim, we are either better or worse. That mentality stuck in our head and every time we did any drill, or set we pushed ourselves to be better," said Fagen.



Yeonjae Jo

Sophomore Sabrina Passauer swims the 100 meter breaststroke against Levittown in its final match on Oct. 15. She clocked in a time of 1:20.12 and Port won the meet 103 to 72.