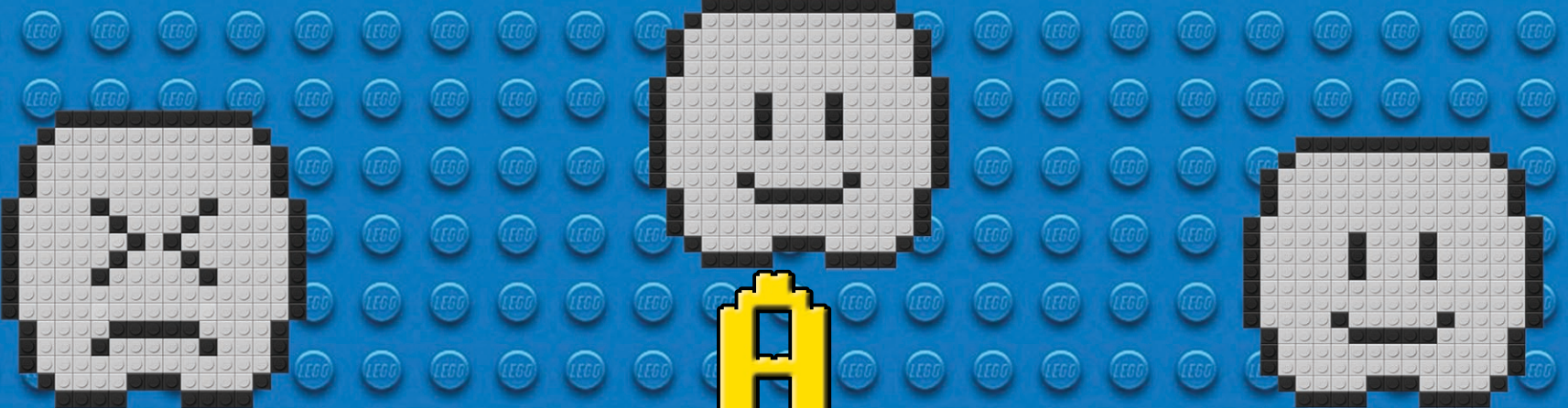
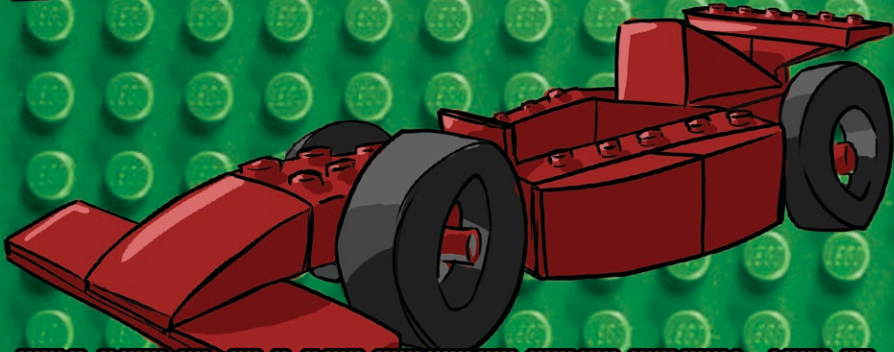
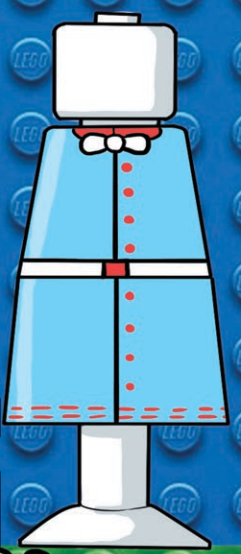


THE SCHREIBER TIMES

Paul D. Schreiber High School Port Washington, New York Volume LXIV No. 6 February 2014



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Grace Trunz

Junior Grace Trunz took this photo of spring's first buds in her grandfather's garden. She took the photo in early February for her AP Photography concentration. Trunz's concentration is on macro photography in nature.

NEWS BRIEFS

Heating Systems in Cold Weather

This winter season, the weather is testing Port Washington inhabitants' last nerves. With four snow days and daily temperatures below freezing, it is no surprise that the heating systems in the school find it difficult to keep up. Fortunately, most classrooms are kept at a comfortable temperature throughout the school day.

"Whenever we experience a heating issue the teachers immediately report the concern and I deploy Mr. Albury and his custodial team, who tend to act fast," said Assistant Principal Dr. Brad Fitzgerald.

However, because the school uses both natural gas and oil heating systems, the school has experienced some minor problems when one changes to the other. Heating proved especially troublesome when unexpected weather swept the nation and resulted in a gas delivery shortage. Although this was accounted for by rationing heat, it still caused some discomfort. The science wing is especially prone to heating fluctuations, resulting in the temporary relocation of one class.

"I think there are a lot of people who are frustrated, myself included. No one likes to feel powerless over a situation, yet many of us do with this one," said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. "The ongoing nature of the problem can create anger and resentment as well, and we need to find

ways to avoid that."

Most of the infrastructure in the school is still original, and some systems are getting old. It is not always easy to keep such a large facility and student body at one comfortable temperature, so staff communication is crucial to assessing all problems as quickly as possible.

"It's vitally important to students and teachers to have classrooms operating at an appropriate temperature whenever possible," said Mr. Pernick. "Rooms that are uninhabitable create greater stress for the entire building."

While the current dual heating system is being repaired, there are plans for an upgrade.

"I work with Mr. Albury every day and heating is our first discussion when there's a problem," said Mr. Fitzgerald. "Those deserving the greatest credit are the custodians who have had quite a job keeping us warm. They have been outstanding and most don't realize how hard they work."

~ Lena Kogan

Elective Fair

Elective classes are an integral part of the high school experience. The ability to diversify outside of the standard core curriculum is a vital tool for students to explore and refine their interests before moving onto higher education. On Feb.

7, staff members held the Elective Fair.

Our school offers many elective options.

"I felt a little confused because the teachers were giving us so much information in such a small amount of time," said sophomore Elana Israel.

Many teachers offered advice as to how students should approach this decision.

"Students should choose electives which help fulfill their passions that will help them grow, develop skills, and truly be something that they're interested in, not something they think will look good if somebody sees it on a transcript," said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy.

Many courses are designed to be taken for more than one year, so students were reminded to keep this in mind.

"I think that students should choose their electives based on their interests and plan for a long range goal," said art teacher Ms. Hall. "You don't want to necessarily take an elective that you have prior experience in because part of taking an elective is learning something new."

Students will have short meetings scheduled with their guidance counselors in the upcoming weeks. These meeting give students personalized advice. Program Planning Guides with additional information on elective options can also be received in the guidance office.

~Jake Knatz

The Schreiber Times

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Science Olympiad takes home ten out of twenty medals



Dante Bombardiere

Science Olympiad team advisor Ms. Marla Ezratty, members Nuran Mirdha, Joseph Pizzuti, Raj Talukdar, Daniel Bidikov, Arjuna Lal, Annie Kim, Justin Calamari, Julia Zeh, Aaron Brezel, advisor Mr. Scott Carmody, and member Crystal Ren received numerous awards for their performance at last month’s regional competition.

BY Tessa Peierls

Staff Writer

For the first time in five years, the Science Olympiad team has qualified in the state competition, after a strong showing at the regional competition last month.

At the event, which took place on Feb. 1 at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Schreiber competed against 33 teams from schools around western Nassau County.

“Schreiber’s team hasn’t been able to progress this far in a long time, and the group is very excited. Going to states is a great opportunity for Schreiber and is a time to really show other schools who we are,” said sophomore Raj Talukdar.

“States is a nice way of recognizing the time and work we put into the events. And the competition itself is always fun,” said

junior Crystal Ren.

The team meets Tuesdays after school during the months approaching regionals and every day after school starting a few weeks before. According to science teacher and staff advisor Ms. Marla Ezratty, there is a huge range of events for which the members need to prepare.

The team won medals in 10 out of the 22 total events and ranked sixth overall with 123 points. These medals were in Chemistry Lab, Chemistry of Food, Disease Detectives, Dynamic Planet, Experimental Design, Forensics, Green Generation, Materials Science, Mission Possible, and Write It Do It.

There are 15 members on the team, with two alternates. Each student works with a partner and participates in the event for which they signed up. Some students work with technology and build for their event. These events include making a

magnetic levitating car and a glider. They also have to build a machine that tests water quality, called a salinometer. All the students have to study their events, and sometimes use a binder with notes.

“We started studying a bit earlier than usual, so we naturally went into the competition feeling more prepared,” said senior Annie Kim. “One other thing we’ve done differently is that we’ve had the seniors take on more responsibility, as opposed to having just one or two of them trying to run things. We work pretty well together, I think.”

Ms. Ezratty agrees that part of the success can be attributed to how “the partners really work well with each other.

This is the first time in five years the team has qualified for the state championships. After several disappointing seasons, Schreiber was able to take advantage of the newly establish and much smaller

Nassau West Conference.

Prior to this season, all Nassau County Schreiber Science Olympiad teams would convene in a 70-plus slug fest with many of the state’s strongest programs duking it out for the few state qualifying slots. This year, however, the Nassau County Conference was split into East and West, leveling the playing field.

“There are always schools better than us, or who have more funding and resources, but it’s great just to have made it with what resources we have,” said Ren.

All competing schools faced the difficulty posed by the breaks and cancelled days of school.

States will take place March 14 and 15, once again at Kellenberg.

“I think the team did pretty good. They worked very hard for the few weeks approaching, and put in a lot of effort,” said science teacher Mr. Scott Carmody.

This month in Schreiber Times History...

<p>Feb. 10, 1926</p> <p>Schreiber was chosen as one of six high schools outside of New York City to have student actors participate in a Dramatic Acting Contest at New York University.</p>	<p>Feb. 10, 1926</p> <p>A Facilities Assessment Study revealed the need to expand the school. District architect Ralph A. Ottaiano proposed plans including 21 classrooms, a science resource center, a greenhouse, library, gymnasium, and cafeteria.</p>	<p>Feb. 5, 1937</p> <p>A new report card system was announced. It was to be completely based on student’s attitude towards their classes. No letter or number grades would be given, just a check with minuses and pluses.</p>	<p>Feb. 15, 1962</p> <p>Schreiber’s student-organized debate team attended its first competition in which members debated the construction of Fallout Shelters in America.</p>
<p>Feb. 15, 1973</p> <p>Students report on their retiring principal, who had made each student’s schedule by hand, and the possibility of using computers to generate schedules in the future.</p>	<p>Feb. 12, 1975</p> <p>Schreiber bans sitting on the science hallway floors due to complaints from teachers. This is a problem that the school continues to face today.</p>	<p>Feb. 14 - 17, 1995</p> <p>Twenty different presentations and discussions on African American history and current social issues took place throughout the school. Some of these included “The Impact of Slavery” and “Racial Concerns in Schreiber.”</p>	<p>Feb. 14, 1979</p> <p>Basketball games were moved from Friday nights to Friday afternoons in an attempt to prevent students from attending while intoxicated. Students that did come in such a state were placed on “social probation.”</p>

To view full articles and find out more about Schreiber’s history, visit *The Schreiber Times* webpage on portnet.k12.ny.us

English classes separated by grade in coming years

by Madeline Fagen

Assistant News Editor

The 2014-2015 school year will bring great changes in the English department. In preparation for the Common Core and new English Regents, juniors and seniors will no longer have combined classes.

“Instead of offering electives that are mixed enrollment, we will now have eleventh and twelfth grade electives,” said English teacher Ms. Eileen Mills. “The goal was not to split the grades up as much as unify instruction for testing purposes.”

Administrators including Principal Mr. Ira Pernick and the assistant principals pitched the idea for this change to the English Department earlier this year.

“Once we started to prepare for the Common Core and the new English Regents we started thinking that having students in eleventh grade English class that were all going to take the same exam would keep the class focused on the same goal,” said Mr. Pernick. “In addition, the new exam will be given, at least next year, in early June so we discussed how to keep seniors engaged into, and through, June.”

Being more of a mandatory change than a mere suggestion, the department met as a whole to decide which classes would be available to each grade level while trying to offer as much literature and writing variety as possible. In an attempt to maintain some aspects of the previous program, Shakespeare and Theatre Arts were preserved as multi-grade classes.

“It wasn’t the English department’s decision to do this,” said English department chair Ms. Joan Lisecki.

Several English teachers are unhappy with the change.

“I am not in favor of the change,” said English teacher Ms. Sari Schulman. “I think our elective system worked well the way it was with mixed grades. I’m disappointed that they will be separated. The juniors and seniors enjoyed being in the same classroom. They learned and interacted with each other well.”

“As we presented these changes to our junior students, many of us became concerned that it was negatively affecting students who had a plan in place for twelfth grade English,” said Ms. Mills. “For example, students who planned to take American Lit in senior year could no longer do so as it is now an eleventh grade offering.”

Most other Long Island schools have English classes building up to a Regents exam. This change is intended to transition Schreiber’s more open-ended English classes to this format.

“Having a class where all the students end in the same place, like science, math, social studies and all other classes that culminate in a Regents exam. Having all the students preparing for the same exam will allow teachers to make adjustments as needed,” said Mr. Pernick.

However, the English department does not plan on making any major changes to the curriculum. This raises the question of whether this change will be valuable.

“We don’t teach to the Regents. We have never really taught to the Regents. We actually try to teach above it,” said Ms. Lisecki. “We are not going to spend months and months on test preparation. Whatever we do in our

classes should give you the skills to succeed comfortably on the Regents exam, hopefully the AP exam, and even college. My hope is always that all kids succeed. So I don’t think this will change much of what we do.”

Slight changes in curriculum may be necessary due to the Common Core, but because Common Core-style instruction already takes place in English classes, dramatic changes are not needed. The new guidelines mainly involve being able to close read key passages, which is something done throughout Schreiber. Possible ways of reaching the goal of this change for better preparation for the English Regents may include more informational instruction in terms of nonfiction.

“Of course we are always looking to upgrade our teaching and empower students with more,” said Ms. Lisecki.

This decision will have various effects on juniors and seniors as they decide their courses for next year.

“I do not believe it’s the best idea because then there aren’t as many options for each year,” said sophomore Tori Finkle. “I also think it’s interesting to have seniors and juniors in certain classes.”

“I think that this is a beneficial decision for both juniors and seniors,” said junior Zoe Mankes. “By selecting courses designed for juniors to excel on their Regents exams, they are more inclined to do well.”

The hopes for this change in English courses are that classes can focus on a common goal, allowing teachers to better prepare their students for Regents exams.

“I think the overall impact will be

positive for students,” said Mr. Pernick. “I think as the education world changes, whether we want it to or not, we have to change with it. I look forward to charting the outcome of this change over the next few years.”

Class Changes

Junior Electives

- Advanced Composition
- Creative Writing
- American Literature
- Comparative World Literature
- Utopia/Dystopia (Fall Semester Only)
- Cultural Conflicts (Spring Semester Only)
- English Regents Lab (Fall)
- English Regents Lab (Spring)

Junior/Senior Electives

- Shakespeare
- Theatre Arts

Senior Electives

- Business Language & Literature
- Communication Arts
- Facing History and Ourselves
- Film & Literature
- Modern Literature
- Journalism
- Playwriting & Screenwriting
- Mythology

Senior awarded first solo art exhibition in conference room

by Rachel Cho

Senior News Editor

In a break from tradition, the school administration has decided to hold an exhibition highlighting the works of a single AP Studio Art student, senior Aeduk Lee.

“When I first heard the idea, I was so amazed. When I was called to the main office, in the middle of English class, I was so scared because I thought I was in trouble. But instead Dr. Fitzgerald asked me for a handshake, after he talked about the school bus painting on the invitation and the exhibition. It was really surprising news,” said Lee.

Lee was first approached by Assistant Principal Dr. Bradley Fitzgerald after he witnessed Lee’s painting on the invitation card to a recent Tilles Center art exhibition.

The exhibition is being held the conference room in the Main Office. Lee’s art has been on display since the beginning of midterm week and will be viewable to the end of the year. The conference room is frequently used for art display, because its frequent usage grants visibility for administrators, teachers, parents, and students.

“The artwork brings a human touch to the space and is really appreciated by Dr. Fitzgerald who organizes and maintains the space on behalf of the administration,” said art teacher Ms. Miranda Best.

The majority artwork in the exhibition was taken from Lee’s concentration pieces, a body of work unified by an underlying



Sophie Lampl

Senior Aeduk Lee’s exhibition features her senior AP Studio Art portfolio, which focuses on buses.

idea that has visual coherence, school buses. A few Breadth pieces were also included. This artwork is part of her AP portfolio which is given to College Board after two years for assessment.

In the past artwork displayed in the conference room was used to highlight a variety students. Since Lee had a large body of drawing and paintings that she had been working on for the past two years, Ms. Best, Lee’s AP art teacher, suggested a solo exhibition for her work.

Lee received positive feedback

from students and staff who visited the exhibition.

“Aeduk is really talented in art, and I admired her art work in the conference room,” said junior Juyoung Park.

“Personally, I am impressed with the show on a number of levels. I happen to be taken with color and her work is strong in that regard. But many have pointed out the vastness of her subject matter while there exists a distinct style recognizable throughout. Too many have claimed different favorites so it’s probably fair to

say they are all beautiful quality. It’s hard for me not to point out the school bus in the snow painting as it’s so prominent, but I happen to love that one,” said Dr. Fitzgerald.

Ms. Best also expressed how proud she is of her student.

“Aeduk has worked extremely hard in AP Art. Her concentration work, exploring the theme of the school bus and the concept of the school bus as a vehicle for transportation/transformation is an original theme that has resulted in several dynamic and compelling pieces. I am so pleased that she was able to display the work collectively and that so many people in the Schreiber Community have been able to enjoy her work,” said Ms. Best.

“It was the first time someone asked me to have an exhibition, and I was amazed that so many people loved my paintings. So I loved this whole experience and I couldn’t believe that my art pieces were filling the wall. I can officially say that it was the best experience in my high school career,” said Lee.

Not only had the exhibition received positive feedback, it also prompted many administrators to start discussing future ways to spread students’ artistic talents.

“If nothing else, I think this experience has opened up our eyes to more possibilities in the future. Ms. Suzzan, the director of art and music, has been in regular discussions with the art faculty, and we have all decided to step up our options for future shows. The art department has always run big shows but this was unique and we are interested in building on that,” said Dr. Fitzgerald.

Port institutions subject to fall sanitation testing

by Elizabeth Muratore

Contributing Writer

Health inspectors recently paid a visit to the Schreiber cafeteria. According to a recent article in the Port Washington Patch, an inspection of the Schreiber cafeteria was conducted on Oct. 3, and one critical violation was noted: Schreiber food workers were not using the correct utensils to eliminate contact between their bare hands and the cooked food.

“While I understand that these things happen, the most troublesome aspect I found to be the fact that I didn’t hear about any parents being notified. There was no letter sent home, no notice in the cafeteria, no update on the homepage, etc. Overall, little transparency or accountability,” said junior Jacob Bloch.

No announcements were made regarding this situation and no warnings were posted in the cafeteria or on the school website, leaving most Schreiber students in the dark.

“It’s so unsettling to know that I could have been eating possible contaminated food for the past couple of months,” said junior Juyoung Park. “It’s also really annoying how no one was informed about this violation.”

Evidently this violation flew under the radar of not only the entire Schreiber student body, but also its faculty. Assistant Principal Mr. Craig Weiss said, “I was completely unaware of any health violations in this school, so this is also news to me.”

Schreiber was not alone in receiving this violation, as ten other Port establishments, including Weber Middle

School, Daly Elementary School, and Gino’s Pizzeria also received critical health violations in 2013. In an inspection conducted on Oct. 29, cooked food in the Weber cafeteria was found to be subject to cross contamination by raw or unprepared food. The State Health department reports that most of the violations have been corrected.

After Mr. Weiss was informed, he shared his opinion.

“Along with the District Food Service Committee and the Food Service Consultant we hired, trained chef Julia Van Loon, we have worked very hard to provide better training for the food workers so we can provide better food for the students and faculty,” said Mr. Weiss.

However, some Schreiber students do not feel comfortable with the quality and cleanliness of their cafeteria.

Other students are bothered by the fact that Schreiber does not publish nutritional facts for any of its food options, leaving students unsure about the health value of their meals.

“One problem I do have is that I’ve asked for the nutrition facts on certain foods and they are not available. And that makes me upset as a consumer who wants to know what’s in their meal,” said junior Kim Winter.

The cafeteria workers and consultants declined to comment on this issue.

In recent years, Schreiber has tried to make its food options healthier by putting whole-grain and fruit based options in the vending machines and offering more nutritious cooked meals.



Jeremy Ettlinger



Jeremy Ettlinger

Top: Students enter the cafeteria kitchens for hot lunch. Bottom: Students eat lunch at cafeteria tables. The school cafeteria recently recieved health violations.

Two days of end-of-year celebrations for seniors

Gambol and graduation ceremonies no longer to be held on the same day

by Lena Kogan and Tessa Peierls

Staff Writer

Even though second semester has not started yet, administrators are already laying the groundwork for the graduation ceremony and the Gambol. For the past fourteen years, graduation has taken place the morning after the last day of school with Gambol scheduled for later that same day.

However, in order to accommodate requests from students and parents, the district broke tradition this year. For the class of 2014, graduation will take place at night, and Gambol has been moved to the following day in order to give graduates ample time to prepare.

“It gives the seniors time to relax and enjoy graduation,” said senior Yvette May. “In previous years, time was restricted and there was so much to be done in the small amount of time between graduation and prom. I think seniors will like the change.”

Many students felt they were rushed to fit in all of their plans on the day of graduation. Families wanted to go out to lunch after watching their siblings and children graduate, but they were pressed for time as many students begin preparing for Gambol more than five hours in advance.

“Concentrating the conclusions of major periods of 400 plus students’ lives to one eventful day is overwhelming,” said senior Matty DiGiovanni. “Separate days

are better.”

Moving graduation to the evening also allows students, faculty and family enjoy the ceremonies in greater comfort. In previous years, graduation took place outside between 10 a.m. and noon subjecting families to dangerous heat. While some families were able to reserve early seats in the shaded tents, the graduating students and many of their

“Graduation and the gambol are both special milestone events to take part in as students, family and community. They help us mark the passage from the K-12 experience to the next phase of life for all involved,” said Baer.

families spent the three hours under the sun.

“From my understanding, hosting the ceremony outside at high noon ensured most of the students and parents that there would be waterworks of more than one kind,” said DiGiovanni. “This does

not sound like one of the joys us seniors have been told to look forward to. Gambol being a different day is perfectly fine. I wouldn’t want those with long hair, girls or boys, to have to worry about their hair getting frizzy the day they live out one of their fondest, final adolescent memories.”

With this year a new tradition will begin, following the same overall structure of the old ceremony with some scheduling changes. This is because of the great feedback that was recieved.

“The reaction has been mostly positive. There was a potential conflict with Weber’s graduation, but this was resolved. Some traditionalists objected, but overall the feedback has been positive,” said Board of Education Member Alan Baer.

On the other hand, rescheduling graduation does pose conflicts to families who have students graduating from both Schreiber and Weber Middle School this year.

“I think it was a good idea to separate graduation and Gambol like that, but unfortunately they decided to schedule it as the same time as the eighth grade party, which I highly disapprove of because now a lot of younger siblings can’t come to their older siblings’ high school graduations,” said senior Simon Shapiro.

While this doesn’t pose a problem to everyone, it is still a complaint coming from seniors with younger siblings that they were hoping to see at their graduation.

“I think it could be helpful in making that last day less hectic, but it could cause a

lot of conflicts,” said senior Julia Zeh. “I’m leaning more towards it’s a good decision but I also don’t totally love it.”

Aside from scheduling , the break from tradition caused unforeseen consequences.

“I feel like if Gambol is the day after then it’s going to be a drag for most people,” said senior Stephanie Anne Thompson. “We already graduated. Why do we have to wait an entire day to never see these people again sort of feel.”

Nevertheless, hopes are high that this new plan will make for a much more enjoyable graduation this year.

“If running the graduation ceremony at night means cooler students and more comfortable parents, I’m all for it,” said DiGiovanni.

“Graduation and the gambol are both special milestone events to take part in as students, family and community. They help us mark the passage from the K-12 experience to the next phase of life for all involved,” said Baer.

“It puts an incredible strain on teachers who would like to go to graduation,” said science teacher Ms. Marla Ezratty. “In order to finish the day at ten in the morning and come back at five for graduation - well, I’m not coming back at five. For us to have our last day and then go to graduation and be able to spend some time with the kids before they head out, that was really special. That will put a major strain on me; I don’t know about anybody else.”

Parents petition InBloom contract for student privacy

State undertaking data-sharing program with third-party company

by Ana Espinoza

News Editor

School systems normally keep student academic, disciplinary, and medical records under lock and key. However, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is currently undertaking a controversial data-sharing program in which student information is stored in a database owned and operated by inBloom, Inc., a private company.

In response, Port Washington parents Ms. Deborah Brooks and Ms. Allison White have recently created a petition entitled “Protect New York State School Children.” As of Feb. 27 the petition has nearly 5,200 signatures, including those of Principal Mr. Ira Pernick and Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Mooney. The Board of Education also plans to take action.

The petition states, “NYSED’s actions violate the privacy of New York State’s public and charter school children, as well as those of their parents and legal guardians. Parents and guardians have the right to decide who has access to confidential information about their children.”

In her Dec. 2013 letter to the District, Dr. Mooney said, “The parental voice demanding assurances that your children’s privacy will be protected is a powerful tool that needs to be heard.”

New York school districts automatically sign up for the inBloom service when

signing up for federal Race to the Top funding. Although Port Washington is not a Race to the Top district, and is therefore not obligated to purchase a parent portal dashboard that requires more extensive student data uploads, NYSED still shares some information with inBloom.

According to the petition, more than 400 data points per Port Washington student will be stored in a data cloud hosted and managed by inBloom. These data points included names, addresses, academic records, disciplinary records, attendance records, economic information, special education status, family circumstances, and medical records.

“We’re talking about things that students and parents consider highly private,” said Ms. Brooks.

The potential dangers of cloud storage include the release of this personal information by hackers.

“The main question is about the security of this information,” said Mr. Pernick. “You don’t have to go very far to find breaches in security, like in the Target situation. We can kind of shrug off the Target stuff, even though we shouldn’t, but clearly everybody who promises that they can maintain information can’t. And now we’re talking about children’s information, and who knows who gets hold of that?”

The information is also potentially available to third-party vendors in the event of a security breach, who have the power to “flood parents with unwarranted solicitations for tutoring and test

preparation materials,” according to Dr. Mooney.

Ms. Brooks began researching this issue approximately a year ago, and the final petition drafted by Ms. Brooks and Ms. White asks for the cessation of information transfers to inBloom, the termination of NYSED’s contract with inBloom, the passage of strongly worded legislation pertaining to this issue, the restriction of the number and type of data points NYSED is allowed to solicit from school districts, and the review and handling of financial and emotional costs to students, parents, and taxpayers caused by the inBloom contract.

“I believe that petitions are one way to protest mandates that are unfair and unnecessary,” said Dr. Mooney. “They also provide politicians and lawmakers with evidence that their constituents are opposed and are making their voice known.”

Legislators hope to delay the implementation of the inBloom data transfer and/or pass legislation allowing districts to “opt in” or “opt out” of the initiative, or both.

Although New York State Regent Kathleen Cashin addressed parent concerns with the inBloom situation at a recent meeting, Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch and the Board of Regents have yet to formally vote on the issue. New York State Commissioner of Education John King and the majority of Regents send their children to private schools that are not required to upload student

information to the inBloom database.

The District is working with the Nassau County Council of Superintendents and several parent associations on this issue.

The Board of Education alone has limited power over the issue and plans to comply with the minimum requirements of the state-mandated policy.

The state has agreed to postpone any data transfers until April, so New York students and parents have a window of opportunity to act.

“We encourage students to speak with their parents, friends, and neighbors and to make their opinions known to elected officials,” said Ms. White.

Students over 18 and students who will be 18 by the next election are eligible to sign the petition, which is online at MoveOn.org. Ms. White and Ms. Brook also encourage all Schreiber students to get involved using Twitter, Facebook, and other social media outlets using the hashtags #student, #data, #privacy, #StopinBloom, and #NYSED. They can also tweet at the Twitter accounts of New York elected officials, including Governor Andrew Cuomo (@NYGovCuomo) and Commissioner King (@JohnKingNYSED). Questions about the petition can be emailed to protectnystudents@gmail.com.

“Every person and student at Schreiber has the responsibility to speak out when they see injustice in the world,” said Ms. White.

Art Honor Society students plan new mural near the Commons

by Sally Kuan

Staff Writer

In the past three years, the Art Honor Society has painted many murals throughout Schreiber. These include the “Psychology Wall of Fame” in the social studies psychology classroom, the “Hall of Tolerance” paintings in the social studies wing and most prominently, the large Viking mural in the cafeteria, which took Art Honor Society students two years to fully complete.

“The murals add character and beauty to the space while allowing students to leave their mark on the school,” said art teacher Ms. Miranda Best.

From spring and until the end of the year, the Art Honor Society will be repainting the mural previously on the wall adjacent to the Student Commons. The project was originally scheduled to be painted during midterm week; however, this was unachievable due to conflicting student schedules.

“A new mural would lift peoples’ spirits every time they see it,” said freshman Maria Kogan. “And due to the location, they would see it quite often too.”

Each time the decision is made for a new mural to be painted, a process for choosing a location begins. Club members walk together around the school during meeting times discussing potential sites for a painting.

Several other locations were considered, including stairways and other hallways, but the wall by the Commons was

ultimately chosen for its convenient proximity to the art rooms for supplies and its clear visibility.

“The area is an amazing choice, especially because it’s in the art wing,” said Kogan.

The previous mural was painted four years ago by art students Nick Gardella and Chelsea Morano, a tribute to honor the retiring art teacher Mary Lynn Conte-Lawe. However, because the mural was created using a combination of both latex and tempera paint, it did not hold up well over time. This further encouraged the Art Honor Society to paint a new mural on top, this time using only latex paint to avoid the results of combining types with different properties.

There have been several different ideas for the subject and design of the new mural up to this point. Some possibilities that the club is considering include a sports-themed mural to inspire the many athletes in the school, a New York City skyline with a unique twist, and a Banksy-inspired piece. The latter idea was prompted by the British artist’s October 2013 “residency” on the streets of New York City. AP Studio Art students followed this journey.

Another frontrunner is a scene from Maurice Sendak’s well-known children’s book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, an interpretation of which is currently being designed by AP Studio Art students senior Aeduk Lee and junior Juyoung Park.

“Our club looks forward to creating a new mural for the Schreiber community to enjoy this spring,” said Ms. Best.

Students of all ages gather together in the gym for Night of a Thousand Strings



Jake Knatz

On Mar. 26, Port orchestra students came together for a performance intended to inspire local string students to continue with their musical studies. The final piece, “Winds Through Time Port Washington,” was composed for the occasion by Ms. Deborah Baker Monday. The piece was funded by the HEARTS Foundation.

Point Counterpoint

Does the name of the college that you attend matter?

BY Anan Rayn

Staff Writer

Allured by a school's prestige, students tend to view top ranked colleges with admiration and respect. But why do students care so much about getting into these higher ranked colleges? There are several reasons that may contribute to this desire—the school's reputation, the desire to challenge oneself and excel, external pressure from student's family members, competition and overall quality of education.

Moreover, students are constantly stressing over school work, AP exams, sports, their GPAs, and the SATs. To some students, parents are the main factor contributing to the student's need to have a "perfect" college application.

Ivy League schools are among the highest ranked schools in the nation and are extremely selective. Getting accepted into these schools typically conveys a high level of intelligence and diligence that may attract future employers.

"I think as a teen preparing for higher level education after middle school graduation, names are always being thrown at us," said junior Ashely Meyer. "Even in middle school, if we hear that a high school student was accepted into colleges like Harvard or Princeton, we are conditioned from the first time we hear these names to know that those universities are highly selective in choosing."

Furthermore, most students, under enormous pressure from their families, set lofty goals for themselves.

Not wanting to disappoint their family members, these students work as hard as they can to put together the best college applications they possibly can.

As high school students at Schreiber are well aware, there is a lot of competition among students here.

"A lot of time when people don't really know each other and they ask which school a person goes to, they're looking for a way to identify that person," said junior Paige Torres. "Are they smarter than him/her? Not as smart? Just

as smart? Students tend to compare themselves to other students. They also want to know if they could make it into the same school, as maybe they consider themselves more capable of being admitted into the same college."

Students compete with each other to be at the top of their classes and to have a greater chance at getting admitted into the top schools.

Those who succeed and get into Ivy League and other top-ranked schools are viewed as the winners at Schreiber High School.

These big name schools provide an unparalleled quality of education and are recognized for opening many doors for their students.

"Everyone knows the Ivy Leagues by name because they're known for their unparalleled education," said junior Natasha Mohan. "So obviously if you went to one of these top tier schools you got a stellar education."

Pressure from society and family definitely does seem to play a large role in motivating students to attend top ranked schools.

However, students should also recognize that attending a top ranked school will provide them with greater opportunities after high school graduation.

BY Nicole Boyd

Staff Writer

This generation is intensely preoccupied with image. Fearing the judgment of our peers, we adopt a superficial air of confidence and attempt to assert dominance through the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, and other features that can be seen externally. For high school students, this preoccupation also extends to the world of academics.

Throughout high school, the grades we receive and the activities in which we participate progressively gain greater weight. With college looming in the future, new academic standards are put into place, and admissions officers become yet another imposing population of people ready to exercise judgment. "Where I would go was the most important thing to me," said senior Justin Truglio. "I believed the college I attended would make me into the person that I wanted to be."

Not surprisingly, this outlook is commonplace among most students. As top universities gradually become household names, we are led to believe that college is the apotheosis of success. Thus, in our minds, a hierarchy of academic institutions develops almost naturally.

Typically associated with high-class superiority and everlasting prosperity, top universities become as coveted as the designer brands that we adorn so proudly, while lesser-known schools are made equivalent to thrift and department store labels and are immediately linked to mediocrity,

disappointment, and long-run failure.

But this widespread idea is actually illogical. There is no doubt that a high-caliber education is extremely beneficial in all real-world pursuits. However, the top five colleges and universities are not the only places that offer such an education and, on the whole, are not required ingredients in the recipe for personal fulfillment.

In truth, success is not determined by the diploma that is received but by the quality of the work

completed in the process of receiving that diploma. If you graduate with high merits, you will be well-suited for the world that lies ahead regardless of the institution you attended. Some students feel that it is better to attend a university where they can excel and not struggle to keep their head above water.

"It is often better to be what they call a 'big fish in a small pond,'" said senior Yvette May. "You can go to Harvard, get that diploma, and be at the bottom of your class. But if you go to an 'okay' college and do really well, it would look a lot better to potential employers."

When choosing the right school, mental health must also be taken into account. After all, just because a college is considered to be "the best" does not mean that it is necessarily the best for all people. Not every individual is physically comfortable at every school. For instance, at an enormous institution, like Cornell or BU, some people may feel lost and insignificant. Likewise, at a more intimate school, such as Vassar or Middlebury, others might feel congested and limited. Such feelings of discomfort can hinder the quality of a student's life and studies. Therefore, it is important that everyone finds a place where they feel at home and where they can complete their best work.

A college's atmosphere, and whether or not that atmosphere complements a particular person, is similarly dependent on the personality of its student population. People may transfer from their initial schools in response to the rigor of the curriculum. However, more often than not, their reasoning is based more heavily on the fact that they are unhappy among their peers.

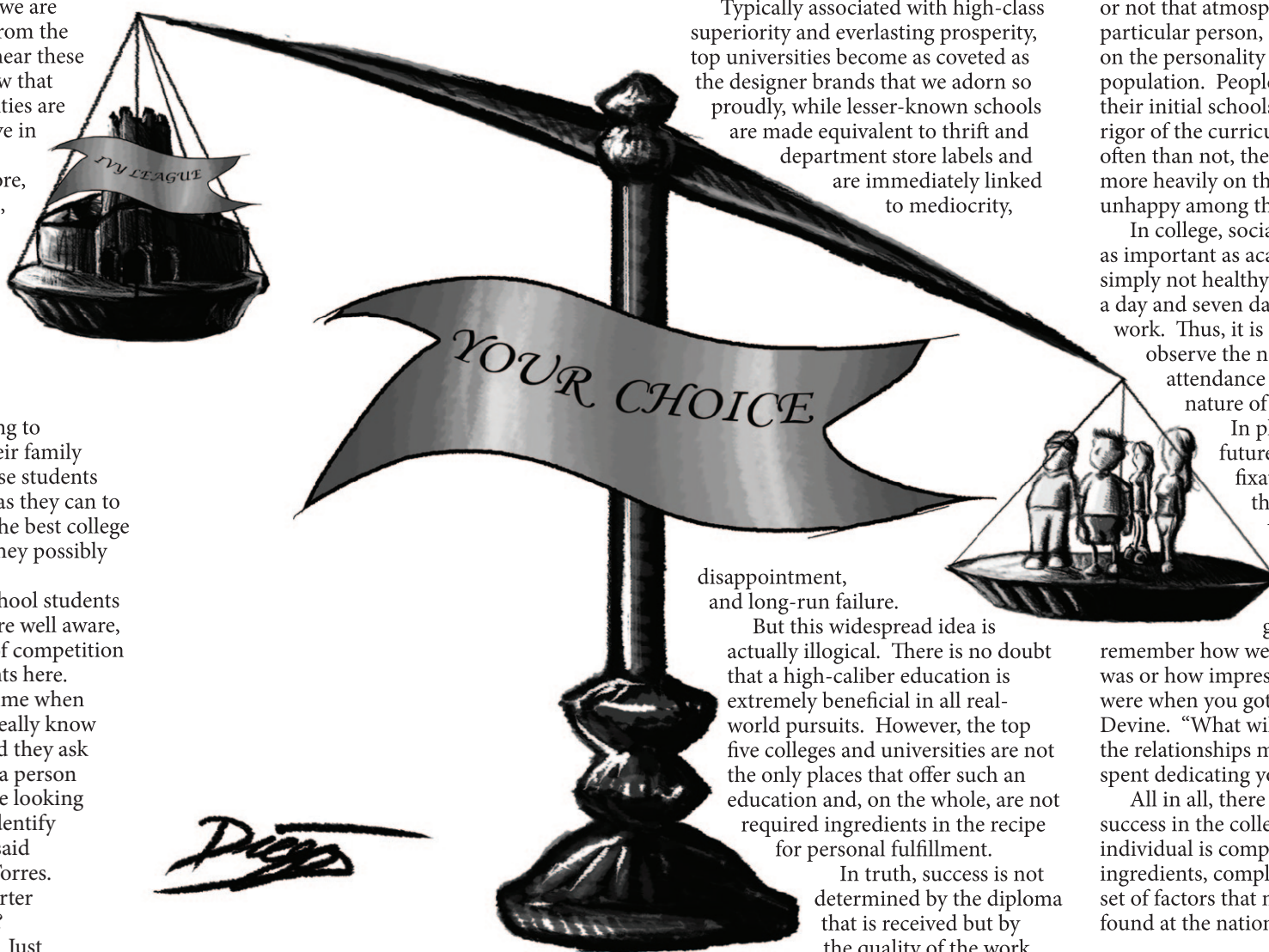
In college, social success is equally as important as academic success; it is simply not healthy to dedicate 24 hours a day and seven days a week solely to work. Thus, it is crucial that students observe the nature of the people in attendance just as heavily as the nature of the classes offered.

In planning their academic futures, students should not fixate on rank. Instead, they should dedicate their time to evaluating themselves and their educational goals.

"After graduation, you won't

remember how well known your school was or how impressed your friends were when you got in," said junior Neve Devine. "What will be remembered are the relationships made and the time you spent dedicating yourself to a profession."

All in all, there is no set recipe for success in the college process. Every individual is composed of unique ingredients, complementary to a unique set of factors that may or may not be found at the nation's premier school.



Mental health issues affect us all

BY **Michaela Gawley**
Opinions Editor

Recently in a yoga class during a difficult posture, the teacher remarked, “this is the real mental strength, this is about getting off the Prozac.” I had to stop and take a deep breath before I could continue because I could not get over the offensive nature of that comment, from an individual who was allegedly “enlightened.”

I also had an experience this summer in a psychology class where another student explained how she wished she had anorexia and that she respected the self discipline that those individuals have.

I spent time doing research in a psychiatric hospital this summer and noticed that the individuals I encountered with eating disorders were debilitated and extremely ill, not excellent dieters. However, these experiences were not unique and certainly do not make them bad people.

These examples just highlight the misconceptions and stigmas associated with mental illness that are commonplace in our society.

It is integral that as a society we take advantage of the knowledge that we now have about these illnesses to increase education and start conversations about these issues, in order to help those that are suffering.

Throughout history, those with mental illnesses have been thought of as possessed because those around them could not explain their behavior and were often times afraid of it. When we

are unaware of the way an illness works, or the way it can take over a person's life and rob them of the person that they used to be, we become insensitive. Any person who has watched a loved one experience this or dealt with it individually can certainly relate to the feelings of disconcertion that come with dealing with mental illness. In the 1840's, muckraker Dorothea Dix spent time undercover to investigate the horrible abuse that institutionalized mentally ill individuals were enduring.

Her efforts helped to establish the first psychiatric treatment center for the mentally ill and many other institutions that treated individuals in a humane manner. Her efforts were the beginning of an era that has had great success by focusing on improving mental health treatments.

“I think that it is good that our health classes focus so much on debunking mental health myths and educating us on real facts,” said senior Sydney Heiden. “Sometimes talking about mental health can make people uncomfortable because they don’t understand it and find it disconcerting, so having a safe place to discuss these issues is really important.”

In order to keep up with these innovations, we need to focus our efforts on understanding mental illness and not letting ignorance or fear lead to marginalization.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one in four adults will suffer from a mental illness at some point in their lives. It is almost impossible to find someone who has not had a loved one suffer from these illnesses and who

has not suffered themselves. This makes it clear that there is no room in our society for casual jokes about mental illness, as these issues affect a large amount of our population.

A major component of stigma is simply in the way that we talk about those with mental illness. It is common to hear people referred to as schizophrenic or bipolar, and while it might not seem that casual language used in conversation perpetuates stigma, it really does.

When we refer to someone as “manic,” or “bipolar”, and describe them by their illness, we forget that it’s their sense of humor or intelligence that they are defined by, not their illness. It’s much more sensitive to just say that they have this illness and talk about mental illness just the way you would about cancer or any other disease.

“I have worked in this district for 34 years and without a doubt there is much more awareness about mental health issues,” said school psychologist Dr. Dennis Meade. “Openness has definitely increased but not necessarily the sensitivity. I don’t think that casual remarks always come from stigma, I think that they come more from a place of thoughtlessness.”

As a school community and as a global community, we need to advocate for those with mental illness by refusing to treat those with mental illness any differently than we would treat anybody else. This is the only way that our societal attitudes can progress as much as our medical treatments.

Russia wins the gold for hosting the weirdest Olympics ever

BY **Will Berger**
Staff Writer

The 2014 Winter Olympic games in Sochi have finally drawn to a close and the focus on Russia is now shifting to its involvement in the Ukrainian revolution. But before we are forced to analyze Russian affairs seriously, let’s take one final lighthearted look back at some of the more bizarre aspects of Sochi that have sparked some very amusing conversations from all sides of the public forum.

First off, many journalists and athletes reported stray dogs roaming the once decaying resort town.

Either Russia has a dog problem or the international dog sledding coalition was so upset to find out that their event was cancelled that they decided to let some of their teammates wreak havoc on the masses of Sochi.

In fact, the stray dog problem was such an embarrassment to Russia leading up to the games that Sochi hired exterminators to kill the dogs, which has confirmed my suspicion that the Russians are cat people.

It would be remiss not to mention the many complaints of Sochi hotel guests. After being trapped in his hotel bathroom, American bobsledder Johnny Quinn was forced to break through the door.

The only thing that would have made his jailbreak any cooler would have been if Quinn had yelled “Mr. Putin tear down this wall!” seconds before bursting through the door.

Stacy St. Claire, a Chicago Tribune Writer, tweeted, “My hotel has no water. If restored, the front desk says, ‘do not use on your face because it contains something very dangerous.’” Less than an hour later St. Claire tweeted a picture of a glass of urine-colored water with the caption “I now know what very dangerous face water looks like.”

I suspect that Sochi may have used the same water for the ice skating rink, which would explain why the ice dancers’ costumes were all so luminous, almost as if they were radioactive.

Speaking of dangerous contaminations—Bob Costas’ eyes. After spending multiple days hosting NBC’s coverage of the Olympics, Bob Costas decided to step-aside because of an eye infection that was quite obvious to viewers and became progressively worse over time. Perhaps he had not received the same memo as St. Claire about the dangerous face water.

The most serious folly of Sochi is the allegation of corrupt Russian officials pocketing some of the \$50 billion spent to transform Sochi into an Olympic village.

Russia is quite a different place in contrast with the US—if you couldn’t already tell from the “Nightmare Bear” of Sochi’s closing ceremony.

After Sochi, the silver medal for the strangest Olympics goes to the 1992 games, which held an event known only as “Solo Synchronized Swimming.”

Valentine’s day is fun for everyone

BY **Aimée Levinson**
Contributing Writer

As winter drags on, our attention is drawn to a very special day on the calendar, Valentine’s Day. Originating in ancient Rome, it is a day of love and romance.

But as young adults in a stressful period in their lives, many find that they do not have time for romance.

So, is it right to for the school to host Valentine’s Day celebrations. Does it cause them to feel uncomfortable or maybe even ostracized?

“It opens the door for people to feel left out,” said freshman Anna Cohen. “But it is also beneficial because instead of people spending money outside the school...it goes towards things we need.”

This is the right way to look at the event. The focus is not on popularity, but on helping the school improve.

Also, the fact that events are held by school clubs change the situation a bit because it forces the students to think about the cause they are supporting. Valentine themed items are sold in the lobby and bakesales are held. It is as if you are sending a little love to the school.

Others like the idea of the event but find they are disappointed when they don’t receive anything.

“I think that it is such a sweet thing to offer at school,” said junior Erin McDonough. “I always counted on my sister to get me one...but this year she isn’t in Schreiber. So it’s a little sad.”

Even though it is a “sweet idea” it causes students to feel down, which begs the question of how sweet it really is. It is an alluring thought in theory, a flower for a loved one, but in reality not everyone will receive one.

Would they rather not have to suffer that blow?

Well, there are students who find that it does not bother them in the least bit. Flower or no flower they are indifferent.

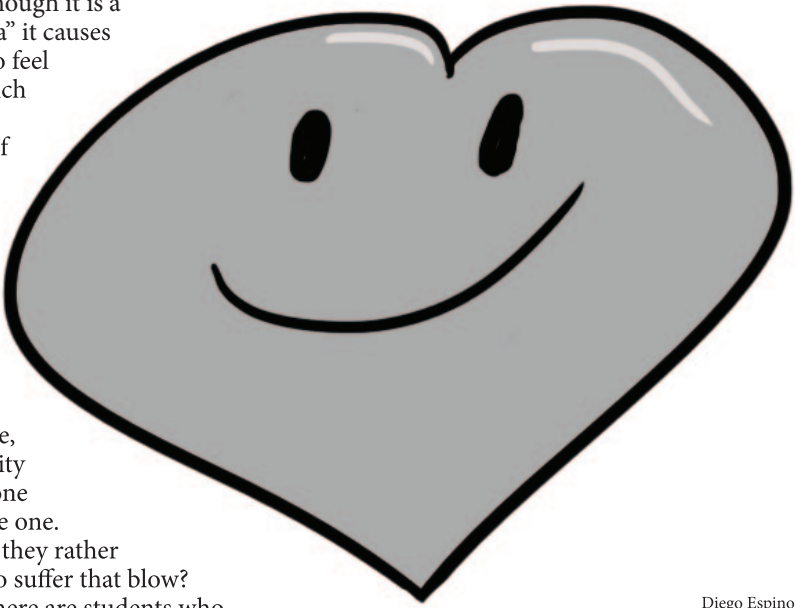
“It doesn’t really affect me at all, but I can see how it can make people feel ostracized because they don’t have a valentine and seeing it makes them feel alone,” said sophomore Helen Merlos.

So, is having a Valentine’s Day extravaganza a pro or a con?

It has its flaws because it is a reminder to all those single students that they are single.

But for the most part it is a pro. The event provides funding for a school club and perhaps provides a platform for students to be kinder to each other.

“The students are generally in a good mood on that day and tend to be nicer



Diego Espinoza

to each other than they normally would be,” said junior Roberto Vides.

After all, Valentine’s Day is not just about showing how much you love your sweetheart.

It is also about how much you love your friends and family. Therefore, there is no need to feel down or sad because there is always someone who you love and who loves you back. Make the best of it and take it as a day to be compassionate.

Smile in the halls, wave hello, and wish anyone you speak to a happy Valentine’s Day, it may just be able to take the place of a flower or a box of chocolates.

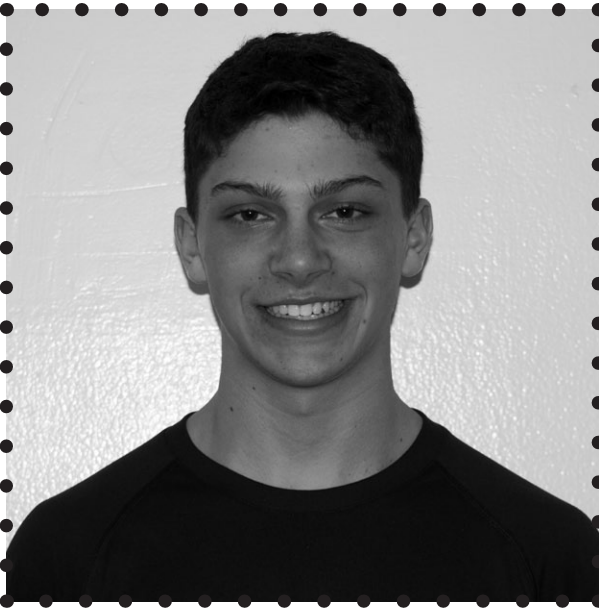
SchreiberSpeaks

What is your perfect snow day?



“I would go to a tropical island and get tan and come back.”

~Stephanie Ramirez, sophomore



“I would like to eat candy, go sledding, and have a snowball fight.”

~Aaron Siff-Scherr, freshman



“I would go to Italy. I would eat all the cannolis, pasta, lasagna, and everything. Then, I would come back.

~Melody Sagastume, junior



“I am not a very active person. I just want to sit inside with a cup of hot cocoa and just watch tv all day.”

~Andrew Costenoble, junior



“On a snow day, I would come to school anyway and go to the library to rewrite the last chapter in a history book.”

~Sandra Riano, junior



“If there was a snow day, I would spend the whole entire time shoveling all around town and make a ton of money.”

~Andrew Nam, freshman

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

Grammys Marriage Ceremony: A note in the right direction

BY Ana Espinoza
News Editor

The Grammy Awards, if not lauded for their spectacular recognition of independent music labels, succeed in capturing the American public’s short attention span every February. In wake of the popularity of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ single “Same Love,” this year’s program featured a mass marriage of 33 couples of varied sexual orientations. The ceremony was officiated by Queen Latifah, overseen by Macklemore and Lewis, and altar-sung by Madonna in a white tuxedo. The event was decidedly heartwarming, but it’s timing, as well as it’s very public nature, raises questions over the true extent of the music industry’s support of gay rights.

Since its release in 2013, “Same Love” has sold over 2 million copies. In the past two years, state legislatures and the Supreme Court have granted non-straight individuals in ten states the right to marry the people they love. HBO began airing a series about a group of gay friends in, yes, San Francisco. For good reason, the gay rights movement is trending. And the Grammys, in a stab getting more viewers than the Academy Awards, banked on that trend. 28.5 million people sat down in front of their television screens to watch the 2014 Grammy Awards: the show’s second-highest viewership ever. The circumstances of the marriage ceremony also cast doubt on the authenticity of the gesture. Namely, that this very personal milestone was shared with the aforementioned 28.5 million

people and followed shortly by a round of commercials. Even so, the stunt had more substance than attention-grabbers of Grammys past. “I think that these award shows all have their share of ‘moments,’ like when Kanye interrupted Taylor Swift, but all of those moments are hyped for a weekend and then die out,” said junior Sandra Riano. “This marriage, it’s not going to hype out; it’s a major controversy right now. I mean, are any of those moments ever appropriate on these shows? But this marriage symbolizes something about our generation and the war on humanitarian rights. It’s much more important and it grabbed the attention of whoever was watching it.” There has also been debate surrounding Macklemore’s contributions to the music industry, rap music in particular. Nonetheless, the moral of the

human rights story is that the ceremony and “Same Love” are promising signs of cultural acceptance for the gay rights movement. It even calls to mind Elton John’s 2001 Grammy duet with Eminem, who is often accused of writing homophobic lyrics. This is true regardless of how many people watched the Oscars or how Kendrick Lamar was, like, totally more deserving of the Best Rap Album Grammy. Schreiber parent Steve Gawley is a music executive who attended the awards ceremony. “Witnessing this marriage ceremony of all these wonderful couples was one of the most moving experiences I have ever seen in person,” said Gawley. “The feeling in the room at that time was unlike anything I have ever witnessed before at the show.”

Editorials

Towing due to snow

Since even before Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, students, parents, and teachers alike have complained about the snow and the cold weather.

With a few warmer temperature days interrupting the continuous below freezing temperatures, what began as a beautiful fluffy landscape of snow has transformed into infinite platforms of ice.

As a result of this ice, some of the student body has had trouble with transportation.

Those who drive themselves to school are stuck in an especially bad position because the original lack of Montfort parking spaces has resulted in even fewer spots with many blocked by ice. Students had been forced to pray for a spot even when there was no snow.

Now, with even fewer spots, more students are dismayed upon noticing, with no prior warning, that there are no spots in the morning.

With an increasing number of parkers, Rite Aid workers grew suspicious. Thus, more than six student drivers have recently had their vehicles towed.

While recognizing that it may be difficult to clear the Monfort parking lot, *The Schreiber Times* feels that the Schreiber administrative staff should acknowledge that the level of student inconvenience has elevated extensively with the icy conditions and aggravated Rite Aid employees.

Administration should work on further organizing the parking situation whether they accomplish this by limiting the number of parking passes they hand out or by other means.

Additionally, *The Schreiber Times* suggests that students remain wary of the fact that parking may be difficult and plan accordingly. Students should have a backup plan in case they get a late start.

As a whole, *The Schreiber Times*

understands that it may be difficult to reject students hoping to obtain parking passes; however, something must be done to end student inconvenience.

Letters to the Editor

I agree with the article, “New York State Regulations Create Inequality,” because it shows the difference between people who are born here and the people who come here and don’t know any English.

For example, when I came here, I felt strange because I did not know anything in English and I had to work and study. That put a lot of pressure on me. I have to learn English because it is the language of this country.

Some people are racist to us when we do not speak English. They think that English is easy for us, but it is not. But thank God in this school we have good teachers who understand us. Also, they have the ESL room to teach us.

Sincerely,
Ericka Perez

It was my pleasure to read the article, “New York State Regulations Create Inequality.” I agree with this article because since New York State’s education is getting more challenging, those students who are having difficulties with learning English would experience a lot more pressure taking the New York State Regents Exam.

In addition, there are students who just moved to the United States. For them, it would be extremely difficult to learn the language and other subjects in English.

I remember when my family and I just moved to America and had to adapt to and learn about the cultural differences between my original culture and the new culture.

I was fortunate that I had a decent

amount of time to prepare before I moved here.

But, there still is a major difference between my original culture and the new culture. Thus, from my own experience, forcing these students to learn something with unfamiliar language is not the best way to let them pass the New York Regent Exam.

The New York Regents Exam could increase the students’ learning ability much faster, but it will bring difficulties and a lot of pressures to them. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Luke Oh

I read the article, “New York State Regulations Create Inequality,” and it was really fascinating for me, as an ESL student, to see my experience from someone else’s point of view.

I agree with many points that Michaela Gawley mentioned in her article and I totally support her opinion that not every student is coming from the same family background, education, and advantage/disadvantage, which should be assumed by the State of New York.

My opinion is that you can’t expect the same performance from ESL students and native speakers.

I think the first priority of the State of New York is passing every student through the Regents with an equal opportunity for all students, although this is not true because there are so many disadvantages for ESL students. It is hard to learn the language and to answer difficult questions in English when you do not understand it.

But anyway, it seems like everyone is trying their best to make it as easy as possible for students for whom English is a foreign language.

When I first came here, my impression was that the ESL program is such a good system, which shows me that Schreiber really cares about their ESL students, even though it still seems impossible for some to pass the Regents according to the circumstances.

Sincerely,
Anna Otto

I agree with the article, “New York State Regulations Create Inequality,” because it is hard for ESL students to take

the Regents when they do not know a lot of English.

I haven’t taken any Regents yet but the stuff that I have been learning to prepare for them is really hard and sometimes I can barely understand what the teacher is teaching me.

I think that it is unfair for ESL students to take the Regents when they don’t know English and to not have another way to get the the credit to be able to graduate from High School.

Sincerely,
Mileidy Davila

Interested in writing for Opinions? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on March 14! All new writers are welcome!

Times Policy Statement

The SchreiberTimes’ 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.

Will You Buy Me Chocolate? by Ethan Bookstein



ESL Students tell their story



I am from Chile and I have been in this country for one year.
My country has many special things like Easter Island, mountains, no poisonous animals, and good land for skiing. The food is very special because each person has unique recipes. It also is a paradise and has a beautiful city.
The most difficult thing was to get a visa so you can enter.
It was also difficult to leave my parents because they are my life. Above all I miss my mom. It is so hard to live without them. You can become accustomed to the food and people here but you will always miss your family.
I like to ski and swim and when I am doing that I forget about everything. I only hear the small sound of the skis on the ice. When I am swimming the water is moving and it is relaxing.
Additionally I like to play flute, violin, cello, and I love theater. I like to make friends and share with them. I love to listen to Bob Marley and hip hop. I listen to pop when I'm with my friends.
I also love to cook and I care about other's feelings.
I love New York City because it is very beautiful and the people here are respectful and kind. There are also many opportunities to study.

-Estefania Moscoso



I am from Guatemala and I have only lived in the United States of America for six months. My country is very special because it has the pyramids that were constructed by the Mayans, lakes, many volcanoes and mountains and their foods and traditions.
My favorite part of America is New York. I like it because you have the opportunity to study and further yourself in life. It is also a country without violence and a lot of security to live here.
The most difficult part about leaving Guatemala was getting permission to enter the United States so that I would not have legal problems in this country. Thanks to the kind people who considered my paperwork and gave me permission to come to this country. Although it was difficult to leave my family, friends, country, and parents, I give thanks for the opportunities in America and for being able to learn English.
For me, it is special to study English and live in America and know new places and have new friendships and teachers who help me with my life. I also know that my parents are very proud of me.

-Daniella Garcia

I am from El Salvador. I have lived in the United States for two years.
A special thing from my country is the food and the beach.
It is really hard to live here because I left my family and my friends. I got a little nervous when I took the airplane to come here with my little brother because just my brother and me came to the United States.
Some special things for me are dancing, singing, and helping people. I like to be friendly and generous.
I am happy because my teachers Ms. Goldstein, Ms. Choit, Ms. Barbieri, Ms. Decker, Ms. Fran, and Ms. Leeds help me so much.
My favorite thing in America is the school because I learned English. I also like New York because it has a lot of restaurants and I like all of the foods.

-Roberto Leiva



Money doesn't seem to grow on Drama Club's trees

BY Amelia Pacht
Staff Writer

Thankfully, in this wonderful community that is Schreiber, we don't have as much of a problem with negative student attitudes towards drama programs.
Unfortunately, though, the lack of funding has become our crippling reality. At the start of this year, there were budget cuts in nearly every department. One program, lost all of its funding—the Main Stage Productions.
“We have honestly anticipated this cut for years,” says Ms. Foster-Holzer, special education teacher and musical director, “We understood it was only a matter of time before we lost it and we're glad to have had the money coming in for so long.”
The department has been trying to become more self-sufficient in recent years in anticipation of the cut. The school's Drama Club, a student-run club who puts on shows such as Actoberfest,

Dinner Theatre and the Young Playwrights Festival, produce them annually without a dollar from the district.
Main Stage has sought to beef up revenue in recent years by making cast members pay fees in order to participate. Students pay a fee for the makeup and costume pieces they require, the t-shirts, and for the program ads. These reasonable adjustments during this financial crunch are sensible and necessary for the success of the program.
One thing that cannot be saved, however, is ticket sales, which is the club's biggest source of revenue. This depends on student involvement and interest. Students are advised to see the winter musical, go to the art show, and maybe even make a small donation.



Jake Knatz

Nate Krantz and Amelia Pacht are two seniors (above) who have been active participants within the drama club since freshman year. This four year commitment is common for many of the club's enthusiastic members.

Schedule building: What factors play a role in student course selection?

As students begin to plan their schedules for the coming year, many wonder how to best equip themselves for the academic futures they desire. Students pick classes for different reasons, ranging from perceived reward to perceived difficulty.

Choosing What to Study

Students tend to show a correlation between the subjects that they feel are most important in their lives and the ones that they enjoy the most. Many students believe it is necessary to be able to see how learned information influences their lives. Others are comforted by the fact that their hard work in learning the information

“Some students are always more involved than others. I don’t find it to be a function of whether a student is in a core class or an elective, but on the type of student they are,” said Mr. Ray Di Venuto

will be compensated by the ability to actively use the information in their lives.

“I think a class is important if the person taking the class can get something out of it,” said junior Ariel Waldman. “All classes aren’t important to everyone who takes them. Some people say social studies isn’t an important class because we can’t use that in everyday life so it might not be important to them, but I think social studies is important because it helps me become an informed member of our society and I enjoy it.”

When asked what makes a class important, the overwhelming majority of students mentioned not only its application to their daily lives, but also how it influences their future career choices.

“People may say that a class can be important, but if you don’t remember anything from it two years from now, why did you take it?” said Waldman. “School is about making you a well rounded individual as well as helping you find your interests and possible future career path. If everyone liked and took the same classes, ultimately everyone would follow the same career.”

Although for the most part students agree that the classes they enjoy the most are the ones in which they are most interested in, there are a few exceptions. Many state that the teacher as well as the workload makes a difference in how much they enjoy the subject. Students often take the teacher’s disposition, energy, and love for what they do into account when determining whether or not they enjoy the

class.

“I normally don’t like history in school. This year, however, I have an amazing and funny teacher who is passionate about history and really cares about the students and how we perceive the subject,” said junior Paige Torres. “Surprisingly, I found myself having history as one of my favorite subjects, something I would have never anticipated. This can go the other way, too.”

The stress levels associated with each class may also contribute to students’ interest in the subject. To some, the more rigorous the class, the more they feel they see its importance. Others, however, state that the stress turns off their interest in the class, as they desire to finish the work solely for the sake of finishing it. Perhaps these students may be more attracted to the lower-stress subjects since they are able to get fully involved without scurrying to finish work on time.

“At the beginning of the year, there was a class that I thought enjoyed and thought was pretty interesting,” said Torres. “However, as the school year went on, the work piled up. It got so stressful that I began hating the subject and dreading going to class every day because I knew I’d get yet another assignment to do and have yet another test to take.”

Although they may enjoy subjects less because of these factors, overall the teachers and the workload do not affect students’ belief of a subject’s importance.

There are many who view school as a building that could not stand without a single one of its bricks, but there is a portion of people who believe also that certain subjects are more important than others.

“Overall, I would come down on English as the most important, as the ability to communicate both in the written word and in general speaking, forms the foundation for all other subjects and your day-to-day life,” said Board of Education member and parent, Alan Baer.

Teaching Techniques

Not all of the responsibility in determining student interest and enrollment is on the part of the students. Teachers play just as important a role as the curriculum in shaping student academic careers. Much of the time, the way that a teacher behaves in the classroom will affect a student’s desire to remain in study of a particular subject.

“I not only think about how every class affects my commitments before I take it. I also think about the teacher,” said sophomore Matthew Johnston.

Sometimes, the motivation for teaching a subject comes from the teacher’s high school experience. The same incentive can exist for teaching a subject as exists for learning it.

“I love foreign languages and I always have. I started my first foreign language in fifth grade, and in high school I started learning Italian. I just love the language and I want to share my enthusiasm for foreign language with my students,” said LOTE teacher Ms. Nancy Zove.

Occasionally the incentive for teaching a subject bleeds in to the reason that a

WHAT CLASS HAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CURRICULUM?

ENGLISH



MATHEMATICS



SCIENCE



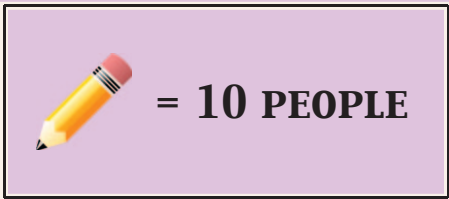
HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH



ELECTIVES



WHICH CLASSES SHOULD BE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FOUR YEARS?

ENGLISH



MATHEMATICS



SCIENCE



HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH



ELECTIVES



TO WHAT DEGREE SHOULD THE SCHOOL ALLOW EACH STUDENT TO DESIGN HIS OR HER OWN SCHEDULE?

OPEN CURRICULUM



FEW BASIC REQUIREMENTS



TRACK BASED REQUIRE



teacher has for giving a lesson every day. Some teachers’ high school experiences are responsible for entering their line of work.

“I was actually inspired to teach by a lot of the teachers that I had in high

have had an impact on teacher willingness to recruit and inspire students to enroll in their courses, but no teachers were willing to comment when asked.

Limiting Course Offerings

With stricter guidelines upon the implementation of the Common Core, United States education appears to be becoming more and more like that of many Asian countries, including Taiwan, China, and South Korea. These countries set up and solidify strict guidelines with extremely competitive testing.

On the other side of the spectrum, in Finland, the government sets a national curriculum guide without an explicit lesson plan. Teachers are encouraged to inspire creativity, teaching management and innovation skills. There is an emphasis on group work and problem-solving with less lecture based lessons. Thus, students become more free to design their own educations.

New York State educational standards trend towards the Asian model. Public schools are required to follow strict graduation requirements with few loopholes. There are benefits to this system, but students may also feel a lack of freedom as a result.

“I think it’s very important for students to be exposed to as many different subjects as possible even through college,” said Principal Mr. Ira Pernick. “Too often we become consumed with the connection between school and career, and while there is value in targeting a career through education I have found all my various studies have helped inform my work.”

“I believe that a diversified, liberal arts type schedule is very important for many students. It gives them the opportunities to explore a multitude of interests and determine what their true passion is,” said Director of Guidance Mr. Hank Hardy. “I also believe that whether the course is a classic core or elective, the same educational constructs, skills, and ideologies should be present in all.”

Yet, at the same time, such state requirements may limit schools’ capabilities to offer students a wider variety of options.

“I feel that some of the state mandates can limit what schools want to do,” said Mr. Hardy. “This in turn has caused schools to limit or eliminate programs.”

Additionally, some students are limited by the tracks in which they are enrolled. Specifically, AP tracks with few class offerings may cause problems.

“Some APs are only offered during one period,” said Mr. Hardy. “This limits the flexibility of the schedule and the chance to get all the requested courses.”

In the end, it may be difficult to find a balance between structure and scheduling flexibility.

By Aaron Bialer, Daniel Bidikov, Aaron Brezel, Rachel Kogan, Max Miranda, and Seth Barshay

school and elementary school. They were very motivating, many of them were funny (not as funny as me, but still funny), they got me interested in science, and I saw how positive it was when teachers related to students. It was a good rapport, and I always thought I would want to do something that would give me the same satisfaction as it seemed that they had,” said Mr. Philip Crivelli.

Other factors play into faculty motivation.

“I chose to teach science because it was my favorite subject to read. Also, I get summer off,” said science teacher Mr. Peter Travis.

Some teachers hold to the belief that students will choose classes purely on interest. Teachers can teach both elective and mandatory coursework and find that students will pick their lessons apart from the title given to the class.

“It varies, it really varies. Not as much by subject as with the type of students you get. Some students are always more involved than others. I don’t find it to be a function of whether a student is in a core class or an elective, but on the type of student they are,” said Mr. Ray Di Venuto

Students will choose their scheduling for a variety of reasons that can differ from what teachers believe.

Some make their course selections to optimize their college admissions potential.

“I took some classes that I didn’t necessarily enjoy because I was led to believe that it would improve my application. Sometimes I ended up getting a valuable experience and sometimes I didn’t,” said senior Emily Karmel.

Statewide curriculum changes may

Fashion

BY Caroline Ogulnick
Features Editor

Although spring is not right around the corner as we would hope, it is never too early to start your spring cleaning and shopping. This past fall, there were seven trends that dominated the Spring 2014 runways: Graphic prints, florals, fringe, pastels, crop tops, metallics and pleats. These trends are beginning to pop up across the country and around the world, and will debut when this spring hits.

Graphic prints allow you to make a bold statement. Whether it be in words, shapes or colors, simple t-shirts and sweatshirts are being embellished with unique designs, transforming them into head-turning apparel. Graphic prints are not for everyone, and sometimes call too



www.elle.com

A floral dress on Moschino’s runway.

Seven trends to look out for this upcoming season

much attention to an outfit. This trend, however, will definitely put you center-stage this spring.

Florals are always a spring favorite. Although this print is timeless and quite usual during warm weather seasons, you can’t go wrong with flaunting a pretty floral ensemble. Complete floral dresses and skirts allow you to take a more “girly” approach to the trend, but if you want to switch it up, try out a full floral pant-suit. This trend is easy to wear, and will freshen your spring wardrobe.

Fringe is a fun and daring trend. This trend is often correlated with a Bohemian-style look, paired with crochet and tribal prints, that one would wear to a summer-time music festival. For this season, fringe is not being styled how it usually is. More formal outfits and even evening dresses

are displaying fringe, adding a different flair to the typically casual trim.

Pastels embody this upcoming season. The most popular are baby blue, lilac and light pink, which resemble the soft colors that show up during springtime. Whether you wear the colors, as a top, bottom, or accessory, they will allow you to fit right in, and can be paired with any other trend of the season.

Crop tops are not often seen as a “high fashion” item. During the fall, however, these mini-shirts were exhibited on the spring runways by many top designers. This season’s crop tops are matched with high waisted culottes and full skirts, which are usually constructed in the same pattern or color as the top.

Metallics are a show stopping trend, but can be down played by combining it

with more muted tones. Silver, gold, and a recently popular rose gold are being shown for this spring, and offer a twist to typical matte ensembles. If you’re interested in being in the spotlight this season, flaunting a metallic piece will hit the spot.

Pleats add a preppy touch to this season’s most coveted trends. Pleated skater skirts, chiffon blouses, and mini dresses are among the prominent items that are being produced in this trend. Pleats give an outfit movement, and give you a lighter feel, which replaces more form fitting clothes that are unappealing in the heat.

During the spring, you can’t to wrong with these seven trends. Start your shopping now so you revamp your wardrobe for the upcoming season!



www.thetrendspotter.net

Crop tops can be combined with shorts, pants and skirts. The different bottoms offer an alternate take on the trend.

Flappy Bird soars to the top before falling off the charts

BY Jack Weinkelbaum
Staff Writer

It’s second semester, you’re a senior and that only means one thing: you’ve caught the yearly case of senioritis. But this year’s case will be an especially difficult one to fight because of the once-hot, now defunct app, Flappy Bird.

The new game released in mid-2013 was created by indie app developer, Dong Nguyen. Flappy Bird exploded in popularity in late January for an inexplicable reason. But one thing was for sure; everyone had Flappy Bird fever!

Flappy Bird users will confirm one thing: the game is addictive. Whether you repeatedly lose or suddenly beat your high score, Flappy Bird has convinced its users to always continue playing. While doing your homework or studying for a test, there is no such thing as taking a five-minute break from playing Flappy Bird. Those “five minutes” can turn into twenty very quickly, as you keep on saying to yourself “just one more round.”

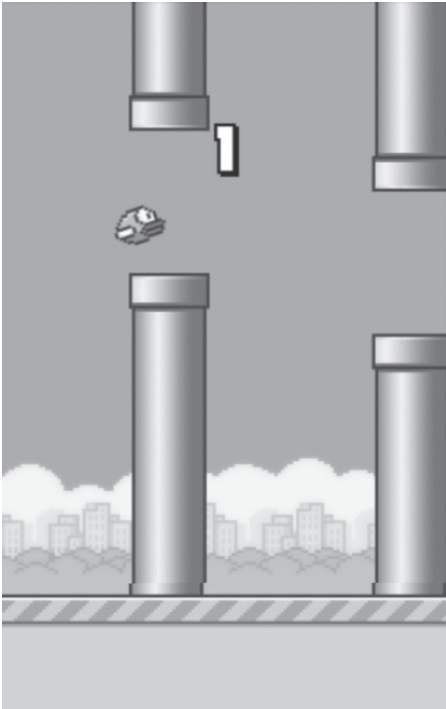
It seemed as though the Flappy Bird fever would never end, until an announcement was made on Feb. 8. Nguyen, who received massive attention for his new discovery, tweeted that he

would remove Flappy Bird from all of the app stores in twenty-two hours. When Nguyen pulled the game, he received many bitter responses, including death threats and suicide tweets.

People then rushed to get the game before it was removed to catch some of that Flappy Bird fever. But once the game was removed, the popularity of the game only surged.

A couple days after Flappy Bird was removed, Flappy Bird clones started to pop up in the App Store with a quick rise in popularity. These clones included games such as Ironpants, Splashy Fish, and even Flying Cyrus. Then there was the clone of Flying Cyrus called Flappy Miley. The list went on and on as developers capitalized on Flappy Bird’s fame. Makers became so desperate that some companies had job listings for developers to create a Flappy Bird clone before the popularity died down.

In any case, Flappy Bird, which ranked as the number one free app in 53 countries, has had Schreiber students hooked for the last month. There is no way to escape it or its clones. So no matter what Flappy Bird game you play, be cautious when you press that app icon, because your time may be gone sooner than you think.



www.phonearena.com



www.fool.com

Many users are grateful to gain just one point in the addictive Flappy Bird game. While the concept of the game is quite simple, the need to gain a new high score with each play leaves users hooked. Although the game is no longer on the market, this is not “game over” for its fans. People worldwide continue to use the app, and its clones, as the main source of their entertainment and procrastination.

Pure Barre gives the term “gym” a whole new meaning

BY Sam Bizenov and Danielle Tawfik
Staff Writers

Are you tired of your gym routine? Do you ever get bored of using the same machines over and over again? At Pure Barre Manhasset, different exercises paired with yoga replace a mundane trip to the gym.

Pure Barre debuted on Jan. 27. The new fitness inspired outlet offers a unique way to achieve a full body workout. Co-owners of Pure Barre, Jenny Bernholz and Deena Cavalli, are trying to give their clients the best possible workout in daily 55 minute classes.

“Pure Barre is the fastest, most effective, yet safest way to change your body,” said Bernholz. Every workout concentrates on the arms, thighs, seat, hips, and abs to build muscle tone.

The secret to Pure Barre’s success lies within the complexity of each work out session. Each class begins with the strength portion of the workout and is always followed by dynamic stretching to ensure lean muscles without bulk.

“We like to say that there is no wasted energy at Pure Barre; everything we do in class has a purpose,” said Bernholz.

Pure Barre classes are basically a mixture of Pilates, yoga, and various elements of dance. Their classes are high in energy, and have great music that livens up the class.

Pure Barre receives clients from all over Long Island, including surrounding towns such as Roslyn, Manhasset, Great Neck, Garden City, and Port Washington.

“We are so excited to be in such

a great area of Long Island,” said Bernholz.

Pure Barre differs from an ordinary gym since one is not obligated to sign up for a long term membership the moment one walks through the door. Clients of all ages and skill levels are trying barre -inspired workouts for the first time. “The

beauty of Pure Barre is that anyone can do it,” said Bernholz.

If these classes spike an interest to you, be sure to check out Manhasset’s latest exercise trend. Better yet, mention that you are a student and receive a 15% discount.



Students at Pure Barre practice various positions that mix Pilates, yoga, and dance to strengthen your muscles and improve flexibility.

Choosing your college may be like getting the perfect girl

BY Aaron Brezel
Editor-in-Chief

If you read the school newspaper avidly, then you most likely need help understanding the ins and outs of the dating process. Luckily, through my own expert sojourns in the primordial jungle that is wooing the opposite sex, I have developed my own unique set of tips that are guaranteed to land you a catch. Unfortunately, *The Schreiber Times* already has its resident lady killer so I will happily refrain from stepping into his shoes. Instead, I will be utilizing my talents for a much greater purpose.

In the past several months, I have found that my plethora of knowledge has aided me in an unconventional way. As it turns out, the process of finding and then subsequently getting a girl to notice you is strikingly similar to the college process. “Balderdash,” some may cry. I kid you not. Sit back, relax, and prepare to be educated.

Just like girls, there are three kinds of colleges you will encounter in your life time. Just as in any circumstance, there are costs and benefits to each, and the decision of which to bestow your undoubtedly priceless affection is not one to be taken lightly.

First, you have your reach school. Whatever your ideal destination is, this school is a perfect 10. She is smart, funny, classy, and most crucially, way out of your league. This is where the wisdom kicks in. If you want this college to accept you, then you have to put your best foot forward. Brush your teeth, comb your hair, and, for

goodness sake, take a breath mint.

Just like talking to that cute girl at the bohemian coffee shop, when applying to your perfect college you need to make yourself seem like the most interesting man in the room. I could say that if you really want the college to like you, then just be yourself, but this isn’t a romantic comedy so doing that will probably not help your case.

When filling out your application, might I suggest channeling all of your deep seated emotional insecurities to make yourself seem more vulnerable and damaged with a bit of edgy mysteriousness. Colleges find that sexy.

Maybe you are an athlete. Just like girls, colleges dig the sporty type. So if you have not already, pick up a lacrosse stick and start cradling because she is worth it.

Unless you are an Adonis like myself, there is already a good chance that you may strike out with your dream school. However, what good is having aspirations, whether they are in the academic or female persuasion, if you cannot drum up the confidence and take a chance?

On the other end of the spectrum, there is your safety. She is safe, and it is reassuring to know that she is there for you when no one else would take notice. Regardless of the quality of education, the name “safety” itself implies settling. When no other school at the bar would look your way, she greeted you with eager eyes. No doubt you think, “Surely I, the culmination of all human creation, am way over-qualified to attend such an institution.” Slow down, buddy, because everyone needs a backup.

Personally, I like to approach this

kind of school with a completely different tactical plan. You buy her an ice cool Coca Cola at the beginning of the night and after a night of chasing targets and reaches, you realize you almost forgot about her. When all else fails you can always come back to her, incessantly begging because she is still into you. Ideally, once she accepts you (after all you are the embodiment of human creation), you can sit back and relax in comfort. If you get stood up, you need more help than this guide can offer.

Finally, you have Goldilocks, the one that is just right. She is your target. You both match up on so many levels, a characteristic that I believe the relationship experts at eHarmony would call “compatibility.” Now that you have found that perfect school, all that’s left is to seal the deal. Now you are on your own, because when the love is real, there are no magic formulas. Smile, introduce yourself, and let the relationship build itself.

If you are anything like me, then choosing your colleges was less like a night club pick up and more like extreme speed dating. Through the blur of beautiful faces, it’s important to remember to make each and every college feel like the most important girl in the room. Might I suggest learning some key phrases such as “abundance of research opportunities” and “excellent student to faculty ratio,” so you can expertly feign in-depth knowledge about each school.

If you follow this guide to the letter, I have no doubt that you will find yourself the perfect college to introduce to your parents.

21

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BY Aaron Bialer
Copy Editor

Artificial light from the blank Microsoft Word document of my unwritten English essay pierces through the darkness surrounding me. I stand up and walk out into the kitchen, guided by the digital clocks of my kitchen appliances which tell me that I am refilling my coffee mug at 2:26 a.m. The next thing I remember is waking up unrefreshed atop my keyboard. The document begins, “uuuuAYyuuu...

In modern society, life moves fairly quickly. Logically, the first step may be to limit the amount of time spent on non-essential activities during the day. Illogically, many label sleep a non-essential activity. In actuality, the extra two hours spent studying till the wee hours of the morning may be better spent sleeping.

With new technologies, researchers have been able to accurately analyze sleep’s previously indeterminate functions.

As a substitute for overly excessive studying, sleep solidifies memories, while at the same time weakening neuron connections to conserve energy when recollecting important memories. Additionally, the brain removes information deemed unimportant and the glymphatic system (named due to its parallel with the lymphatic system and use of glial cells) removes toxins from the inner brain.

In addition to clearing toxins from the brain, sleep boosts the immune system. Sleep increases white blood cell counts and prompts tissue repair, also increasing the production of certain vital hormones.

One theory, though unable to explain a few situations, suggests that sleep is also used to keep animals safe, as an animal roaming around despite its inability to see in darkness will more likely fall prey to a nocturnal predator.

Even if you are unlikely to be hunted at night, sleep is crucial, especially to the developing teenage mind. However, it is not only the act of sleeping, but also the quality of sleep, that matters.

First and foremost, sleep should be part of a daily routine. Going to sleep and waking up at the same time every day contributes to more fulfilling sleep by following your developed Circadian rhythm. Some sleep researchers suggest following a strict bed time routine as well to prepare your body and mind with the activation of certain glands to produce sleep chemicals, such as serotonin and melatonin.

It is also beneficial to avoid artificial light before going to bed. A pathway leading to the supra-chiasmatic nucleus, a special center in the hypothalamus, is stimulated by retinal exposure to light. This nucleus sends signals to other parts of the brain, controlling factors that affect drowsiness.

Lastly, avoid alcohol, caffeine or other drugs that may decrease the quality of sleep.

In the end, sleep is often just as, if not more, important than the other activities for which its designated time is used. It all comes down to building a routine and developing time management strategies

Dylan Farrow speaks out against Woody Allen’s alleged sexual abuse

by **Lylia Li**
Staff Writer

Only 2-8% of sexual abuse charges are false. I open with this statistic because it is something many people do not seem to know, and because I think it’s an important statistic to keep in mind. Compare it to the mindset of our culture, which assumes that women, by default, are liars. Compare it to men and women who think that a woman, out of some kind of irrational, exclusively feminine rage, is more likely to lie about rape than a man is to commit rape.

Compare it to a society that would refuse to accept a seven year old girl’s testimony that her father raped her, that would turn its back on her and shrug and say “we’ll never know what really happened,” and that would continue rewarding her abuser with wealth, acclaim, and most recently, a Golden Globe lifetime achievement award, just because of his movies.

The controversy behind Woody Allen’s personal activity has become almost common knowledge. He married Mia Farrow only to divorce her and marry her adopted daughter, Soon-Yi. Shortly afterwards, he was accused of child molestation by his and Mia’s other adopted daughter, Dylan.

Even before the accusation, Allen had already been in therapy for his inappropriate behavior towards Dylan. Allen and his supporters claimed that Mia, to exact revenge, was behind the whole thing, coaching Dylan and feeding her lies to make her believe that Allen attacked her. Although he was taken to court, Allen was never prosecuted and continues to deny allegations.

Many who argue in favor of Woody Allen say that the situation is a case of “he said, she said.” Because either Allen or Dylan may have been lying in their testimonies, and there were no other witnesses and no concrete evidence as to what actually happened, we can never know the truth. But why do they give Allen the presumption of innocence over Dylan? Why, when we know that only 2-8% of sexual abuse charges are false?

Others say that it does not matter whether or not Allen is a pedophile and that we must separate the art from the artist. We can appreciate his films without also having to address his personal life. Our ability to watch *Midnight in Paris* with ease of mind takes precedence over the suffering of an anonymous, inconsequential seven-year old girl. That seven year old is now nearly thirty and, for the first time, has given her own account of the happenings this past month.

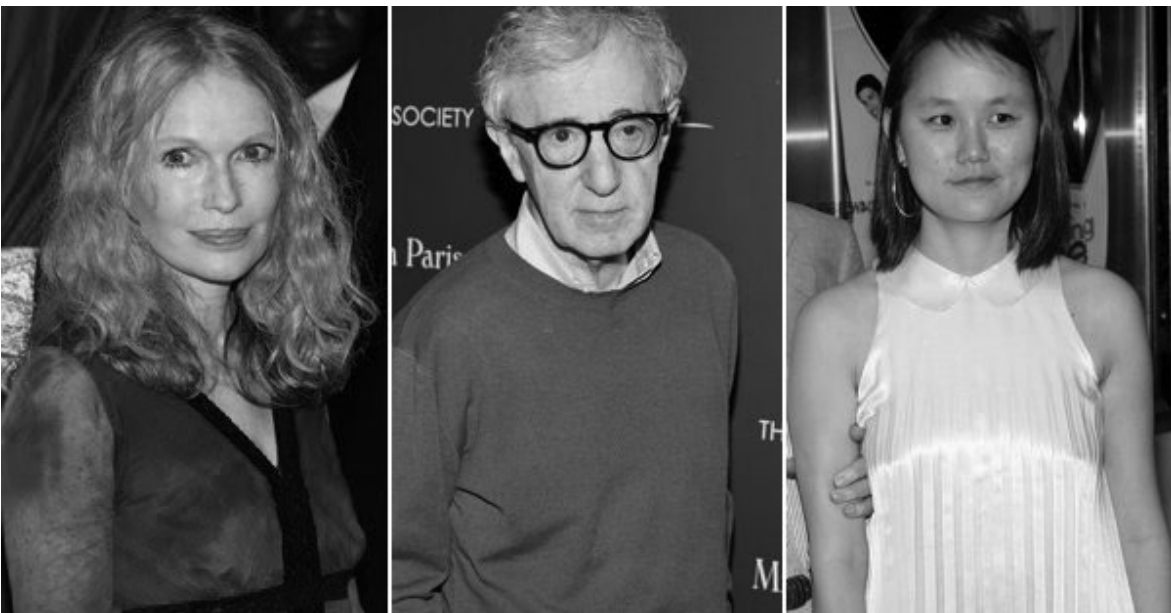
Although the case is old—more than 20 years old—it is important that we continue to discuss it. Woody Allen took his daughter into an attic and sexually

assaulted her. He then escaped from his crimes unscathed while the public turned a blind eye to the girl and gave him another award.

Is it possible that we will never know what happened with complete certainty? Maybe—but it doesn’t matter. We must believe Dylan Farrow. No matter how much we would like to give Woody Allen the benefit of the doubt—out of the subject being uncomfortable, out of how much we love his movies, out of how much easier it would be to watch them without having to think of their director being a sexual predator—we must believe Dylan Farrow. This is not a case where rapists are not held accountable for their crimes. This is about much more than just Woody Allen’s reputation.

Dylan can speak for herself much better than I can. You can find her open letter to Woody Allen on Nicholas Kristof’s blog on the New York Times website.

it is possible to separate the art from the artist. By lauding Allen’s contributions to the cinematic arts, we tell Dylan that she does not matter. When we tell Dylan that she doesn’t matter, we tell other victims of sexual assault that they don’t matter either. We silence them and refuse to believe their stories. In doing so, we create a vicious cycle in which rapes go unreported and



Woody Allen is being accused of molesting his daughter when she was a child. Allen responded with a *New York Times* piece, claiming the girl’s mother, Mia Farrow (left) had told her to say such things. Many people believe Farrow, because Allen married his adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn (right).

THE WRITING CENTER

“The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe.”
—David Hare



A place where any student can go for help with any writing assignment
WHERE? Room 212

WHEN? Every day during 4-1/4-2

arts & entertainment

Putting the musical season to bed in *Once Upon a Mattress*

BY Max Miranda
A&E Editor

The auditorium's buzz diminishes to but a whisper in a matter of seconds as the lights dim on two purple seals and a small table. The Minstrel (junior Jack Fishman) emerges from stage left and begins gently, yet powerfully singing the famous tale of the "Princess and the Pea."

He informs the crowd that this story was "not quite accurate," and his first-hand account of the events then begins to play out before our eyes.

The curtains open to nearly the entire cast waiting anxiously as Princess No. 12 (sophomore Alexandra DeAngelis), attempts to pass a test commissioned by Queen Aggravain (senior Sydney Ronis) for the marriage of her son.

The proctor of the test happens to be the kingdom's Wizard, played by freshman Christian Hill. Hill performed terrifically despite being the youngest lead in the cast.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself. I wanted to do well, because I realized that they really gave me an opportunity. I thought that if I screwed up now, they wouldn't take me serious after this. But I just ended up having a lot of fun," said Hill.

Naturally, the princess fails, a large disappointment to everyone else in the kingdom who has to wait until Prince Dauntless (senior Nate Krantz) is married, before they themselves may.

The discontented group breaks out into the musical's first group number, "Opening for a Princess." It was numbers like these that made the show shine.

"Despite the fact that there were a lot of people in the cast, it wasn't really hard working with this group because we had a really good group of people who were



Delia Rush

Schreiber's production of *Once Upon a Mattress* entertained audiences young and old alike. The musical is a twist on the traditional story of "The Princess and the Pea."

all really willing to work," said Rebecca Schaub, who played the Falconer.

From here, the story directly diverges from your typical princess tale. When the audacious Princess Winnifred (junior Megan Poulos) is brought back to the kingdom by Knight Sir Harry (senior Matty Di Giovanni), a conflict arises. While the Prince is hypnotized by Winnifred (lovingly nicknamed Fred), Aggravain would rather die than let her son marry such an undignified girl. Ronis brought an almost vibrantly cruel energy to the role.

Amid humorous numbers like "The Minstrel, The Jester And I," "Song of Love," and "Spanish Panic No. 2," a plan

is concocted to keep Winnifred from the throne.

Of course, this is where the famous portion of the story comes in, as Aggravain plans to put a pea under twenty mattresses to see if she is a "genuine princess."

The second act begins with the song, "Quiet," and there seems to have been a large divot in the energy—this was not the most memorable of numbers.

As the ensemble is preparing her test, Winnifred begins reflecting on the nature of her situation in the song "Happily Ever After" a beautiful song with an inspiring message that truly gets to the heart of the show.

"A huge part of life and growing up

is finding a place where you can belong with people who care about you. When you find that place, and those people, like Winnifred does in this kingdom with Dauntless, that's when you reach a true happily ever after," said Poulos.

Meanwhile, King Sextimus the Silent, played by junior Sameer Nanda, is forced to have the birds and the bees discussion with Dauntless. However, being that he is "silent" and communicates through elaborate charades, this creates a once-in-a-lifetime comic moment. Nanda's performance carried strong throughout, as both a comedic and emotional character, primarily through hand motions.

"I like how everyone has their own song and really their own little moment to shine. Each song highlights something special within the cast members. For example, the song, 'Very Soft Shoes' shows off the Jester's ability to perform and please a crowd," said Poulos.

In the end, the Minstrel figures out what the test is in advance, and stuffs the bed with objects to inhibit Fred from sleeping, contrary of course, to the princess finding the pea by her own abilities. As a result, Fred marries Dauntless and reaches her own "Happily Ever After."

Once Upon a Mattress was a highly entertaining production. The pit orchestra was incredible. The show certainly had something for everyone: the air of a fairy tale, a powerful cast, and a lot of laughter.



Delia Rush

During "Song of Love," Prince Dauntless (Nate Krantz) serenades his "incipient wife" Winnifred (Megan Poulos).

Kevin Spacey continues to play his cards right in House of Cards



Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) swears into office as the new vice president of United States in “Chapter 14.” *House of Cards* has recently been renewed for its third season, which fans hope to see in 2015.

by **Rami Chaudhry**
Staff Writer

“Let’s start this new chapter with a clean slate...” Despite the sentiment from Netflix drama *House of Cards* protagonist Francis Underwood (Kevin Spacey), he begins the second season right where he left off.

Underwood has played his hand correctly in the game of manipulation and, in doing so, has claimed the role of Vice President of the United States without a single vote being casted in his name.

“Democracy is so overrated” says Underwood during his inauguration.

He does so as he looks head on at the camera, addressing the viewer. Moments like these break the wall between the character and the audience, making the show engrossing and insightful, while stamping the popular series with its own trademark.

Continuing the story of season one, Frank and his wife Claire (Robin Wright) assume the roles of Mr. and Mrs. Vice President while Doug Stamper (Michael Kelly), Frank’s chief of staff, makes every effort to tie up any loose ends regarding the death of Congressman Peter Russo. A believed suicide which was in fact a murder by Frank’s own hand.

The show promptly shifts gears to events happening in the White House,

as the President struggles to control his administration. Frank immediately begins a plan to undermine the President. Frank attempts to sever relationships old and new in the White House, much to the displeasure of one of the President’s main advisors and powerful confidantes, Raymond Tusk (Gerald McRaney). This results in a blemished reputation of the President and a ruthless political war between Frank and Tusk. While Frank plays his hand in the climb to power in Washington, events set forth long ago still loom in the background, and could determine Frank and Claire’s future.

Although *House of Cards* has legitimized Netflix as a medium for original programming and has earned

a Golden Globe and three Emmys, the stylistic drama is not without its flaws. The new set of 13 chapters set aside a good amount of characters that became series favorites last season. Recklessly replacing old, beloved faces with new ones, some characters were sent off with care while others were forcibly pushed aside. The show also felt notably stretched out halfway through the season, almost as if the writers struggled to write all the intended 13 episodes. However, these flaws seem to be but minor distractions in the long run, since the entire story arc proved to bring back the same qualities of darkness, intelligence, and manipulation that allowed people to fall in love with the show.

House of Cards, similar to other serialized dramas like *Game of Thrones*, maintains a large ensemble cast. However, where *Game of Thrones* focuses on each individual character equally, *House of Cards*’ narrative ultimately revolves around Frank and Claire and no one else, following the role of a traditional television show. The other characters are there, and some play pivotal roles, but none as compelling as Frank and Claire’s dynamic characters. If anything, this trait of the show enhances the story, considering the performances of Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright are both fantastic and fun to watch. When such performances are combined with stunning cinematography and flawless direction, *House of Cards* is a complete package.

This season of *House of Cards* will certainly grab you in its strong, powerful hands, just as the first season did with millions of Netflix subscribers.

“Did you think that I’d forgotten you?” Frank tells the audience, “Perhaps you hoped I had... Welcome back.”

In The Lego Movie, everything is AWESOME!!!

by **Mike Colonna**
Staff Writer

Sure, you can dismiss *The Lego Movie* as some sort of convoluted product placement with zany visuals and characters meant to steal money right out of the wallets of kid’s parents. But you would be missing out on everything the movie has to offer, including hilarious rapid-fire comedy, beautiful brick-by-brick visuals, and surprising emotional depth.

Taking place in multiple Lego universes, the movie follows Emmet Brickowski (Chris Pratt), an ordinary construction worker with no discerning characteristics. He thinks, walks, and talks like everyone around him. However, one day, Emmet is mistaken for being “the Special,” a prophesied hero who will one day save the world from the evil Lord Business (Will Ferrell).

Hanging on for dear life, Emmet is whisked on a journey by Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) across the Lego lands to gather a team to fight Lord Business. Along the way, the audience meets a huge, colorful cast of characters, including Morgan Freeman’s character Vitruvius, Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, and Liam Neeson’s “Bad Cop” character.

Along with the colorful cast is a plethora of colorful, eye-popping, and



Emmet Brickowski (Christ Pratt) recruits Batman (Will Arnett) on an odyssey to save the Lego world as its prophesied hero.

truly stunning visuals. Everything is made out of Legos in this movie—not just buildings and huge landscapes, but explosions, lasers, and oceans as well.

The fast-paced animation propels the movie along speedily, while also making you wish the movie would slow down just so you can soak in every last bit of detail that went into each scene. The periodic insertions of stop motion into the production gives the movie an irresistible charm, as if these are real toys interacting

in a real world.

All of the voice actors excelled a job on the comedic aspects of the movie, bringing dynamism and life to every scene. Pratt especially manages to bring humor to each seen as the dimwitted, utterly ordinary Emmet. Yet there is an emotional charge behind the movie as well. Even Will Ferrell, known for his comedy, brings tears to the audiences’ eyes.

If you have ever played with Legos, or even just toys, at any point in your life,

bring a box of tissues. The movie calls into question what it means to be a kid, and the perils of growing up, in a way that hits you smack in the face.

One thing is for sure: *The Lego Movie* is certainly not meant only for kids. It may very well be one of the most fun experiences you will have this season. And you will inevitably leave the theater singing: “Everything Is AWESOME!!!”

Scandalous lives of Hollywood’s elite

BY Delia Rush
Staff Writer

From the ground that we call Port Washington, we can only gaze at the stars. Untouchable, magical, and captivating celebrities around whom our society seems to revolve. Stars of today can become all the rage with ease. Their lives, schedules, and fortunes seem all too far away from reality, which is what makes any gossip about these stars such hot news.

Recently, Justin Bieber’s arrest and Philip Seymour Hoffman’s overdose made headlines. Of course, a death is always upsetting news and given Hoffman’s supposed sobriety of 23 years, it was a

shame to see such talent leave the industry on such a tragic note. It is appropriate for fans and supporters to mourn the deaths of the talented, but citizens of today’s society, specifically teens, invest their lives into the lives of their favorite celebrities to a previously unseen degree.

In the days following his arrest, Justin Bieber’s name seemed to buzz through the halls. This says that as an age group, teens respond and react more than other age groups to celebrity news.

“Well, personally, it’s just frustrating and disappointing because it’s painful to watch someone who I look up to get targeted and scrutinized by the media, especially when they make him out to be such a bad person. In general, I don’t feel that celebrities are meant to be role

models. That’s what parents are for,” said sophomore Sydney Levy.

With the love that comes along with fanbases, stars are in the spotlight 24/7. There’s no doubt we don’t all like to be the center of attention once in a while, but being famous is supposed to be about talent, hard work, and bringing the joy of music, film, or television to consumers. Today, people are so-called “famous for being famous.”

“I love Harry Styles. I definitely find myself dedicating my own time and effort into learning about his life and other celebrities. It makes me happy and entertained, but I know their lifestyle is unrealistic, so obsessing over them is unnecessary,” said sophomore Dani Levitsky.



Pop singer Justin Bieber waves to photographers and videographers upon his release on Jan. 23. His bail was set at \$2,500 for DUI, resisting arrest, and expired lisence.

Billy Joel keeps a New York state of mind at MSG

BY Josh White
Photo Editor

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame performer Billy Joel is at the Barclays Center for his fiftieth anniversary. Before his concert in Brooklyn last December, it had been over seven years since Joel toured due to a severe depression he had been dealing with his entire life. However, he still sang in small events from time to time, like the 12-12-12 concert.

Many of Joel’s songs are about particular struggles he had in life like depression and difficulty with love. For

instance, one of Billy Joel’s well known song “Pressure” is about how he suffered from a writer’s block while his marriage was falling apart, while attempting to create a tribute to John Lennon who had just been assassinated at the time.

On Dec. 3, it was announced that Joel would become a franchise of Madison Square Garden, playing one concert per month indefinitely starting in January. It has been rumored that this “franchise” at Madison Square Garden would be terminated if he were unable to sell out his monthly concert. Despite that, Billy Joel has already sold out ten concerts and most of them within the first ten minutes

the tickets were available. Not only is Joel set to perform once a month at Madison Square Garden, he is also touring around the U.S. with two additional concerts a month on average.

In each of these shows at Madison Square Garden, Joel has played the same set of about ten of his top hit songs mixed in with other fan favorites that he “cycles” through concert-by-concert.

Joel, who turns 65 in May, is still as playful as he was when he started his career in 1964, and is able to reach all of his high and low notes.

Joel plays the piano and sings for most of his songs, occasionally breaking out the harmonica. He makes jokes and even interacts with his fans, giving advice for those trying to get home on the treacherous snowy roads that were left from the snowstorm from the day before: “Don’t drink and drive. Do what I do. Drink and have a chauffeured limousine drive you home.”

Billy Joel has transformed music with his phenomenal voice and picture-perfect piano playing. The six-time Grammy Award winner is a show that everyone should see at least once in his or her lifetime.



Billy Joel celebrates his fiftieth year as a singer with monthly concert at Madison Square Garden. Joel’s setlist includes “New York State of Mind” and other numerous hits he has produced.

Spotlight on: Ansel Elgort

BY Sophia Kim
A&E Editor

Move over Zac Efron, because Hollywood is welcoming a new heartthrob: Ansel Elgort.

Born and bred in New York City, the nineteen-year-old is another triple threat actor/dancer/musician. Elgort will soon become a household name among teens because he stars as the male lead in the much anticipated YA novel film adaption, *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Elgort plays Augustus Waters, a seventeen-year-old ex-basketball player and amputee with whom the cancer stricken protagonist, Shaleine Woodley’s Hazel Lancaster, falls in love. The novel, written by John Green, has a huge following which has translated into hype surrounding the film. From the looks of it, it will not be long until Elgort has a fandom of his own. Girls will be swooning over Augustus as he falls for Hazel in *The Fault in Our Stars*.

The young actor made his big screen debut in the remake of *Carrie* as Tommy Ross, the prom date of Chloe Grace Moretz’s telekinetic heroine. Although he played a supporting role in the dramatic horror, Elgort’s role in the upcoming movie *Divergent* is anything but minor.

Adapted from a popular YA dystopian series, *Divergent* centers around Beatrice “Tricé” Prior, played by Shaleine Woodley. In this film, Elgort appears in the film with Woodley as her brother, Caleb Prior, instead of her lover as in *The Fault in Our Stars*. If *Divergent* proves to be successful, Elgort is guaranteed at least two more big screen gigs in the *Divergent* trilogy.

While Elgort made his film debut in *Carrie*, he made his acting debut with a starring-role in the Off-Broadway drama production “Regrets” while attending LaGuardia High School last year. Although the run was discontinued, the young actor’s performance was met with warm reviews.

But Ansel Elgort’s specialties are not confined to the acting sphere, as previously mentioned. Though Elgort may not dance and sing while dribbling basketballs on screen or stage (yet), he has been trained as a ballet dancer from the esteemed coach who trained Natalie Portman for *Black Swan*. He found his passion to act and perform as a child when he danced in *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* at Lincoln Center with the New York City Ballet.

If his film and dance talents haven’t impressed you yet, then let’s see how his third talent fares. Using the stage name Ansolo, Elgort records and remixes dance music. He frequently tweets about his music career as @Ansolo_Music.

But the world of arts and entertainment was never foreign to Elgort. His father, Arthur Elgort, is a renowned fashion photographer who is most famous for his work with *Vogue* magazine. His mother, Grethe Barrett Holby is an opera stage director and choreographer who also founded American Opera Projects, so it’s not surpring that their son is making it on the big screen.

You can see Elgort on the big screen on March 21, when *Divergent* premieres. Until then, look out for any other news on Hollywood’s newest heartthrob.

Roboflop sets the bar lower than the original



The remake of the 1987 film *RoboCop* falls flat in every way. Director José Padilha does not focus on the features of an action movie that keep movie-goers captivated.

BY **Mike Colonna**
Contributing Writer

RoboCop proves to be an unsuccessful science-fiction remake of the 1987 Paul Verhoeven film of the same name. While the film makes some new, bold choices, many of the same plot elements are used, but the movie is hardly a remake of the original. It is a reinterpretation in response to everything that has changed in American life over the past 27 years. *RocoCop* addresses and exploits new threats, and offers a glimpse of where life may be heading.

The movie is set in Detroit, year 2028, and chronicles a short-tempered cop named Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman).

After suffering devastating injuries due to an explosion, Murphy is transformed into a cyborg at the hands of OmniCorp, the multinational conglomerate responsible for manufacturing cybernetic police force prevalent throughout the world.

This decision, to have Alex live as a cyborg, is a compromise to settle the controversy over whether or not to have robots patrol the streets as law enforcers. Although practically every other country has chosen this path, the American people want to be ensured that whoever wields the power of life and death has a conscious mind. However, Alex's humanity compromises the machine's programming, and he struggles to retain his human identity while OmniCorp uses

him to manipulate public opinion.

The 1987 *RoboCop* was more concerned with crime and a dystopian future, filled with dark, witty humor. In contrast, in the 2014 version, Director José Padilha explores themes relating to the nature of being human, artificial intelligence, and freedom without the bits of satire that made contributions to the original's success.

Although the ideas that *RoboCop* explores are intriguing and relevant, Padilha fails to create an entertaining, energetic action movie and instead produces a rather cumbersome character study. Alex struggles to hold on to his human side, and although meant to be robotic, Kinnaman's performance is too

dull for viewers to enjoy some of his witty, satirical lines, copied from the original script. Action scenes are too few and too spaced-out, contrary to the high-intensity film it was made out to be.

Ultimately, Padilha is too focused on connecting to viewers emotionally, instead of making it a modernized, visually appealing, and vibrant action movie. *RoboCop* has the right ideas, and strives to add commentary about military industrial complex and the war on terror, but it does not stack up to Verhoeven's original. Ironically, the attempt to sophisticate the movie with a complex lead character backfired, sidetracking it from the action movie it was supposed to live up to.

Pokémon breaks dimensions with Twitch Plays Pokémon

BY **Dan Bidikov**
Editor-in-Chief

An anonymous Australian recently repurposed a children's video game into an experiment in theories of mutualism. It is an Internet phenomenon known as Twitch Plays Pokémon, and its results are clear-anarchy works, and it is hilarious.

A PC-compatible hack of the original version of Pokémon (released in 1998) was broadcast via online video streaming service Twitch.tv, with a small twist. Instead of having the game rely on input from one player with an audience observing, all of the game's input would come from messages within a chat room that corresponded to in-game commands (for instance, a registered Twitch.tv user would type the word "up" as a chat message and the character on screen would move up).

The amount of participating viewers—likewise, the amount of inputs to the game—at times reached the six digits. The protagonist onscreen would then react in kind, walking in circles for hours on end and failing to complete basic gameplay tasks without entire days of deliberation.

Despite the fact that on paper the game was far from a spectacle, more resemblant

of a monotonous slog, the viewership at no point dipped below 50,000.

Given the description, the project's popularity seems pathetic and unwarranted. Yet Twitch Plays Pokémon is such a hit because it is more than a recording of a video game being controlled by a herd of stampeding frogs landing without reason on the buttons of a handheld game system. Rather, it is an engaging tale of self-organized human success.

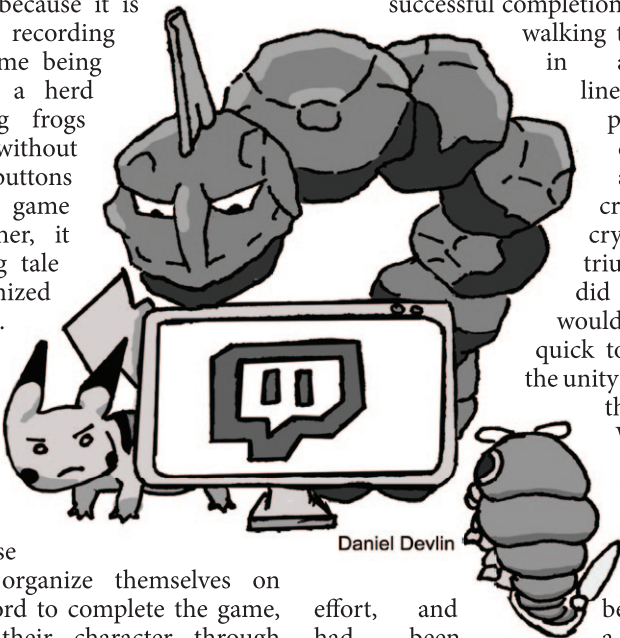
Faced with a dupliciously simple challenge, the completely random viewer base managed to organize themselves on their own accord to complete the game, maneuvering their character through mazes and commandeering him through strategic battles. The prolonged stretches of total nothingness were punctuated by moments of basic progress within

the game that were given new weight, as they came as the product of entire days of struggle for what was previously an afterthought to even the most juvenile Pokémon players. In each instance of successful completion (often times walking the character in a straight line between points), the distant and anonymous crowd would cry out in triumph. "We did it!" the users would exclaim, quick to make clear the unity so critical for their success. Where had been waves of random inputs now lay a coordinated effort, and had been a disparate mass of geographically separated and solitary Internet browsers from different walks of life now existed common ground. A type of culture

formed around the game, where viewers crafted stories and artwork surrounding the voiceless cast of mob-controlled characters. While the quality of the content may have been questionable, it existed, which is evidence enough that the event was able to make its own significance to the viewer.

Scholars have been back and forth in recent years regarding the effectiveness of the Internet in exacting social change. And here is unmistakable proof that technology unifies culture for action—100,000 people were able to communally abandon their responsibilities and virtually crowd around a Gameboy to press buttons at random.

Twitch Plays Pokémon is the kind of thing that is not passively enjoyed. It demands of its viewers an unexpected and seemingly ridiculous emotional investment. If you make this investment, you may be tempted to watch the "game" for a while. If you watch it for long enough, your computer screen will fall asleep at the lack of input and go black. You will see yourself in the reflection of the monitor and begin to question the fact that you just watched a poorly aged video game character walk into a wall over, and over, and over again. Sorry.



Daniel Devlin

Athletes of the Month

Emma Nadel



Josh White

Senior captain Emma Nadel sets herself up for a free throw against the Plainview JFK Hawks on Feb. 10. Nadel led the Vikings in scoring with 13 points, and helped the Vikings clinch a playoff berth with a win.

Joey Froccaro



Danielle Snyder

Junior Joey Froccaro looks for an open teammate to pass to on May 10, 2013. The Vikings went on to win this game against the Hicksville Comets with a score of 13-6, with Froccaro tallying a goal.

Boys basketball wins senior game, knocked out of playoffs

by Dylan Livingston and Josh White
Contributing Writer and Photo Editor

Honoring its departing seniors, the boys varsity basketball team played its annual Senior Game. The Vikings faced off against the MacArthur Generals on Feb. 7 in front of a packed crowd. The game started off with a ceremony including speeches from Head Coach Mr. Sean Dooley. Coach Dooley’s speeches were individually directed towards each of the senior players. In the speeches, Dooley talked about each of the player’s growth with the program, how much each of them have meant to the team, as well as college and what the future held for the players. Then, each of the seniors families came onto the court with pride and took pictures, while the players gave their mothers a bouquet of flowers. It was a touching ceremony for both the players and the fans in attendance.

The game started off with senior David Kobus scoring the first basket. The quick score energized the team and helped Port jump out to a 17-6 lead after the first quarter.

In the second quarter, MacArthur fought back and had a run of their own. Despite the General’s push, the Vikings countered and took a comfortable lead at the half.

In the third quarter, the Vikings showed its defensive prowess by holding MacArthur to just 4 points. After the third, the Vikings were poised for a win.

In the fourth quarter, Port sealed the deal at a score of 60-32. Notable performances for the Vikings came from senior point guard Matt Siegel, who did not score but dished out 12 assists in addition to pulling down eight boards. The high scorers of the game include seniors Ryan Kriftcher, who scored 16 points, and David Kobus, who tacked on 15 points.

With this win Port improved to a conference record of 9-3, which helped boost momentum for the playoffs.

“The senior game was such a special event for the team. The seniors have put in so much work to get to where they are, and they truly deserve the ceremony and credit they received. Seeing how dominant we were in front of such a large crowd makes me very excited to grow with the Vikings,” said sophomore Zach Jimenez.

Coming off the win against the MacArthur Generals, the boys varsity basketball team played the 10 seeded Massapequa Chiefs in the first round of playoff action.

After a loud first quarter, the Vikings led the game 14-12. The Chiefs then made a few adjustments to help them gain a lead by a score of 27-26. The stage was set for a competitive second half.

By the start of the fourth quarter, the Chiefs were up by only two points. After a back-and-fourth seven minutes of the 4th quarter, the Vikings were down 54-52 when senior captain Ryan Kriftcher was fouled on a shot.



Josh White

Head Coach Mr. Sean Dooley addresses the team during a full time-out to discuss their game plan on Feb. 14 against the Massapequa Chiefs. The Vikings went on to lose the playoff game 57-54

Kriftcher hit both free throws to help tie up the game at 54-54. After a few missed shots, Massapequa had the ball with 10.1 seconds left.

With the gym shaking, Massapequa brought up the ball and found an open man in the corner for a three pointer, giving the Vikings only 2.4 seconds.

The bucket put the Chiefs ahead by three, and ultimately gave them the win. The Vikings were led by Kriftcher who

had 24 points and by junior Noah Linder who tallied 13 points.

“We played hard and we all wanted to win the game. But, with the way we shot, it is hard to beat a team as good as Massapequa,” said Linder.

The Vikings finished with the season with a 9-4 conference record and an overall record of 12-6.

Boys varsity winter track runs through cold

BY Aaron Bosgang
Staff Writer

Neither snow nor rain nor polar vortex stays these runners. From the linoleum floors of the science wing to the red rubber of the track, the athletes of winter track brave both the elements.

Winter track may not initially seem to be as intense or competitive as its warmer season counterparts, yet some very elite races occur during the winter. Many of the male athletes on the track team this season have one major goal in mind—state championships.

“We ideally want to make it to state championships. We have a lot of talent on the team and I think we could go very far,” said sophomore Matt Kramer.

The focus on making it to the championships is something Kramer says is emphasized each day at practice.

The other week, the coaches gave some lighter workouts in order to prepare them for an upcoming meet. Although they work hard throughout the season, the team agrees it is nice to have some time to cool off, and catch their breaths. But besides that exception, the team works hard on most days.

Practices begin with a warm up followed by dynamic stretches. After that, the team breaks up into two different workouts—one for sprinters, one for distance runners. Workouts vary in terms of distance and rest periods. One workout

the team recently did was an 18x200m run set at a little faster than the individual’s mile goal pace. In between each piece, the runners are given a brief two minute rest. After that, the guys do what sophomore Matt Johnston refers to as a “strength session.” These sessions consist of different calisthenics that help improve strength in important areas of the body, like the core. It provides a good cool down while also focusing on some major parts of the body that need to stay in top condition in order for the runners to perform at their best.

“It is upsetting to think about all the potential kids who can get cut during the tryouts. They are kind of like brothers to all of us. But the guys who really work hard can set some major goals, for themselves, and this team,” said Johnston.

Goals are important to set for any team and especially in a sport like track. Many players believe in what the coaches have to say because of the praise that they give the runners. Some guys want to chip off some seconds on their fastest mile time, while others want to compete in top-tier races, and come out on top. All of this can be observed through the hard work shown in practice from all the runners of the team.

It is very difficult to determine who wins and loses a track meet, which is unfortunate for its participants. Because there are only a few relay and team events, winter track is heavily focused on the individual. Yet, in the conference, Port Wash-

ington runners really come together as a team. Each race is worth a set amount of points depending on where the team places in that race. The team with the most points is declared the winner.

“Runners such as Taro Katayama and Peter Kirgis have been doing a very good job at all our meets lately. Other noteworthy guys this season include sophomores Matt Kramer and Aidan Finnerty,” said senior Noah White.

In order to get into more challenging races, runners are required to have a fast enough time to qualify, along with how they have placed at other races. While the states is a goal for many, winning the conference is the track team’s main goal because it can have a big impact on its advancement to other big races.

Throughout multiple practices in treacherous conditions, the track team has continued to work hard in practice every day.



Josh White
Sophomore Matt Kramer (left) and senior Noah White (right) run around the track during practice. Despite cold weather, these runners were able to run outside with no problems.

Which two Schreiber varsity coaches played football professionally?

A. Girls track coach Mr. Jeremiah Pope and boys varsity football coach Mr. Janel Ramsay both played in the Arena Football League for several seasons. Mr. Pope was also a member of the Philadelphia Eagles practice squad.

Captains’ Corner: Girls Bowling, Olivia Maus and Vera Puglisi

BY Kyle Cohen
Staff Writer

me fix my mistakes with constructive feedback.

KC: I know being a captain comes with a lot of extra responsibility. How was your experience as captains this past season? Was it harder than you had originally thought it would be?

VP: Well, there were a lot of new girls who joined, which was helpful because we lost five seniors last year.

KC: Welcoming a new team is fun. When did you two start bowling with the varsity team?

Olivia Maus: I started in my sophomore year.

VP: And I did in my freshman year.

KC: How do you approach every bowling match? Do you have any rituals to get your mind in a certain state?

VP: I try and go in with a positive attitude and focus on the game, but remembering to just have fun is always important.

KC: How did coach Mr. Kevin Bradish help you to better yourselves as bowlers throughout the season, and your careers?

OM: He really helped to keep us focused. He always reminded us to have fun.

VP: He would watch me bowl, see what I was doing wrong, and then help

OM: It was nice having the younger players look up to us and ask for help.

KC: Do you guys feel more pressure in a sport like bowling because it is only you, rather than a team sport?

OM: The team scores are added together and you win based on whether your teams combined score beats your opponents, so it is like a team sport.

VP: For me, there’s not really that much pressure. The only thing is trying to keep up with your teammates.

KC: How much of being a successful bowler is a part of your mental games?

OM: I think you have to stay focused, but at the same time you still have to have certain skills to be a successful bowler.

VP: It’s mostly mental. If you aren’t focused, or you’re having a bad day, you won’t bowl as well as someone who’s focused.

KC: Thanks for your time!

VP: Thanks for having us!

OM: Bye!

Sochi Winter Olympics live up to high expectations

BY **Andrew Adelhardt and Peter Kirgis**
Contributing Writer and Staff Writer

On Feb. 23, the most expensive Winter Olympics in history concluded in Sochi, Russia. In the past, the Olympics has been unique because it is one of the only events in which athletics and politics have common interests. As a result, the Olympics have created some of the most dramatic moments in sports history.

In 1980, at the heart of the Cold War, the “Miracle on Ice” happened, where a bunch of college kids from the United States upset the mighty Soviet Union (a team that had won every Olympics since 1960) in one of the most improbable and memorable moments of US Olympic history.

Olympic moments like this one are important both for their athletic merits as well as their political relevance. In Sochi, countless athletes tried to earn medals to help their country improve in the standings. In events that range from ski jumping to skeleton, athletes from all countries tried their hand in some of the craziest and most difficult sports.

Hockey

Hockey is one of the Olympic sports that receives viewership and support from fans from almost every country. Hockey was also a chance for the United States to shine in a European-dominated games. The United States Hockey Team received a silver medal in Vancouver after losing to the Canadian team on a heartbreak-

ing overtime goal by Pittsburgh Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby in 2010. The Americans looked for revenge against the Canadians, but they fell short by a goal in the semi-finals. Canada went on to win the gold medal. No North American hockey team, until this year, had won gold in an Olympics in Europe since Canada in the 1952 Olympics in Oslo.

Aerials

When skiing, the most panic sets in the second you find your skis are off the ground. Imagine being upside-down 65+ feet in the air. This year’s Olympic champion from Belarus, Anton Kushnir, completed a “back double full-full-double full,” which is five twists packed into three head-over-heel flips. His jump is considered the maximum difficulty possible in the event. During the last Winter Olympics, American Jeret Peterson won with his famous “Hurricane,” another set of five twists, but with three twists in the middle of the jump. Peterson committed suicide in 2011 and was surely missed in Sochi.

Snowboard Cross

Alex Deibold, a 27-year old from Vermont, had never been the star American snowboarder. When neither American favorite made the final round, Deibold was suddenly in the spotlight. He was the underdog, and he had beaten out stronger competitors, so why couldn’t he achieve his next goal and get on the podium? With a great run, Deibold did just that. After barely making the Olympic team,

Deibold had achieved the highest honor in winter sports, an Olympic medal.

Nordic Combined

The Nordic Combined is considered a tougher event in the Winter Olympics. It merges some of the scariest and the most enduring events in winter sports: ski jumping and cross-country skiing. It is rare for athletes to possess the courage to jump 132 meters in the air, and then ski 10 km as fast as they can. The ski jump is the first event, and the winner starts the cross-country ski first. The skiers start in order based on the distance of their jumps. Norway dominated the event, which came as no surprise, considering it is named after their country. Norway’s Joergen Graabak and Magnus Hovdal Moan took gold and silver, respectively.

Alpine Skiing

Alpine skiing combines speed, strength and precision. Athletes participate in combined, downhill, slalom, giant slalom and Super-G, which forces the skiers to have a broad set of skills. The alpine skiing events are most well known for their speed. During the Super-G, skiers speed up to 90 mph down the 1.5-mile course. Although the warm weather in Sochi made it difficult for skiers, the events were a success. Some top finishers included Matthias Mayer, Dominique Gislin, and Bode Miller.

Skeleton

Skeleton takes place on the sliding track where the luge and bobsled also take place.

Rather than luge, in which athletes lie on the sled with their feet first, skeleton athletes sprint down the beginning of the track and dive headfirst. As they speed down the 1,365-meter track, skeleton athletes apply pressure and shift their weight to steer while still maintaining speed. The United States, Russia and Great Britain were projected to be the strongest teams, and that proved true. Elizabeth Yarnold of Great Britain had a great showing and won gold in the skeleton.

Slopestyle

Making its Olympic debut, slopestyle skiing and snowboarding combines the grace of acrobatics and the flying ability of aerials. Traditionally an X-games event, the Olympic committee decided to add this thrilling event to its repertoire. With the majority of the competitors from the United States, the US had high hopes for the event.

In men’s skiing, the United States achieved its goal of sweeping the podium. Joss Christensen was the United States’ top competitor, and took gold. In the snowboard event, Jamie Andersen took gold for the women. With much positive feedback regarding the event, the Olympic committee has high hopes for slopestyle in the future.

In the end, the host country, Russia reigned victorious, leading the medal count with 33.

Calling the Shots

BY **Seth Barshay**
Sports Editor

In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier for Major League Baseball (MLB), paving the way for countless athletes and more tolerance in sports. As we approach Jackie Robinson Day, the anniversary of his major league debut, we can look back at 2014 so far as a momentous year for the LGBT community in sports.

On Feb. 23, Jason Collins signed a 10-day contract with the Brooklyn Nets.

He played that night in an away game against the Los Angeles Lakers, which made him the first openly gay athlete to play in any of the four major American sports leagues: the NBA, the MLB, the NFL, and the NHL.

Collins, currently playing his fourteenth season in the NBA, came out publicly in a *Sports Illustrated* cover story published on May 6 of last year. Before that, he had played for the New Jersey Nets, the Memphis Grizzlies, the Minnesota Timberwolves, the Atlanta Hawks, the Boston Celtics, and the Washington Wizards.

During his first tenure with the Nets, he was a teammate and good friend of Jason Kidd, who is now the head coach of the team. Kidd was one of the advocates for signing Collins.

In his first game back with the Nets, Collins wore the number 46. However he has since changed his number to 98, which he has worn throughout his career.

He has chosen this number to honor the late Matthew Shepard, who was brutally tortured and murdered for his sexual orientation in 1998.

Since the announcement, he has been praised by the likes of Kobe Bryant, re-

Collins, Sam pave the way for gay athletes

cently retired NBA commissioner David Stern, and even Barack Obama.

On March 3, Collins signed a second 10-day contract with the team. Even though it is not currently known whether the Nets will retain Collins for the remainder of the season, the signing is still a move in the right direction and a success for equality in sports.

Another openly gay athlete has the chance of joining a major American sport before the year’s end.

On Feb. 9, Missouri Tigers football graduate Michael Sam came out as gay. He had met with Collins a few days prior to his announcement to discuss it with him.

If the reigning Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year is drafted this coming May, he will become the first openly gay NFL player. Sam is currently projected to be picked within the mid-to-late rounds of the draft.

Out of the major American sports, the NFL in particular has had a reputation of having intolerant, sometimes racist teams.

Recent incidents, such as the case of Richie Incognito bullying Jonathan Martin, show that some teams may not be ready to have a gay player in their immature and bigoted locker rooms.

In another incident, longtime Minnesota Vikings punter and gay rights advocate Chris Kluwe was released by his team in May 2013, allegedly for his public support of same-sex marriage.

Players such as New York Giants cornerback Terrell Thomas and current free agent linebacker Jonathan Vilma have expressed concern with having a homosexual player as a teammate, citing that it would be uncomfortable seeing him in the locker room.



Brooklyn Nets power forward and center Jason Collins prepares to check into game against the Los Angeles Lakers on Feb. 23. This is the first time in any of the major sports in the United States that an openly gay athlete has played in a game.

The fact is that an athlete’s sexual orientation should not matter. What should matter is the player’s talent and his ability to contribute to a team.

Sports are one of the only areas in our society where homophobia is prevalent, and hopefully these announcements by Collins and Sam could pave the way for our future, just as Robinson did for his.

These principles also apply to Schreiber sports.

“I honestly believe that Schreiber sports embrace anyone that will be a great team-

mate or leader and help the team win,” said Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon. “Sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic status, academic prowess do not deter from the mission of fair and competitive play and sportsmanship. Sports are the one place where individual differences come together for a common goal. The one thing these signings can do is continue a conversation about tolerance and respect among teammates that can extend beyond the team and into the school day and real life.”

VIKING SPORTS

Port swimming finishes season with a splash *Five departing seniors confident in team's ability for years to come*

BY **Eric Fishbin**
Sports Editor

After a full season of diving and thriving, the Port Washington boys swimming team concluded its year with a win. The Conference II team finished second in Division B with an 8-4 record (two in-conference losses), only behind Syosset.

As the season progressed, there were many memorable victories and moments for the Vikings.

"The most memorable moments for me this year have to be our wins against Cold Spring Harbor and Great Neck South. We have had a few matches against each of these schools, but had never beaten them. It was nice to get ourselves a win against them," said senior captain Gavin Walsh.

These were two crucial wins for Port, as they would help their conference record moving forward. The meet against Cold Spring Harbor was the closest of the season, with only nine points between the teams.

"Our meet against Cold Spring Harbor was probably the best of the year. We had never beaten them in prior years to this, but as a team, we managed to get the win this time around. It was an exciting meet, proving to be the most memorable," said sophomore Owen Walsh.

Unlike many other sports teams at Schreiber, the swimming team is highly based on the individual. An individual swimmer can qualify for the Nassau County Final Meet, and can be recognized as All-County, or even All-State. Senior captain Will Smith has qualified for the Nassau County Final Meet five times, every year he has been with the team.

"Individual swimmers need to qualify for a spot in the meet by getting a certain



Courtesy of Daniel Rich

Senior Derek Moss jumps from the diving board on Jan. 17 during a meet against the Syosset Braves. Moss is taking part in the 1m diving event. The Vikings went on to lose the meet by a score of 108-78. This was the Vikings second to last conference meet of the season

time in that race. As a five-time finalist, it has been a great experience. There are only a few swimmers who have met the time requirement and I am humbled to be included in that group," said Smith.

Although the team will be losing a few cherished seniors, those who are departing are excited for the team's potential, along with talent coming up from Weber.

"The team is in good shape for the next couple of seasons as we have young talent arising. Sophomore Owen Walsh is

a key swimmer that will make the team stick out. The swimmer to keep an eye on is Derek Knight who is currently in 8th grade and will be a Viking next year. His times qualify him for certain meets despite his young age," said Smith.

Coach Mr. Joseph Lennon, an elementary school teacher at Manorhaven, enjoyed his season, along with the rest of the team.

"Thank you for my greatest county experience for the boys team. You are the

hardest working and most dedicated team I have ever coached. It was a great showing today. Amazing," said Coach Lennon in an address to the swimmers at the county meet.

Not only was Coach Lennon proud of the team, the five departing seniors were as well.

"As it was my last season, I really could not have asked for a better team, and a more memorable experience. We were able to achieve almost all of our goals as a team, and individuals. Not only did we show our improvement through our results, we bonded, and were able to connect as a team. I will certainly remember my time with the Port swimming team," said Smith.

Upcoming leaders on the team include O. Walsh, the younger brother of graduating senior captain G. Walsh.

"This past season was actually one of the best years we have had. Multiple swimmers broke personal records, along with some of our top swimmers breaking school records. We were able to accomplish a good win-loss ratio, and we are definitely proud of that. As for the future, we expect that we will continue on the right path, and our team will get better each year. We have some exciting talent coming up from Weber, which we all look forward to," said O. Walsh.

From the start of the season, some of the swimmers did not expect as good of a year as they had. Despite it not being one of the more well-known teams at Schreiber, the boys swim team had one of the most successful years of all thus far.

"I would say we did really well this season, and we definitely exceeded most of our expectations from last year. It was great for us seniors to go out on such a high note," said G. Walsh.



Courtesy of Daniel Rich

Senior Will Smith takes part in the 100m breaststroke event on Jan. 17 against the Syosset Braves. This season, Smith set a school record with a time of 107.27 seconds in this event. Smith won his event, but the Vikings went on to lose the meet.