





**Chris Herren** -News-Pg. 3



**Boys Basketball** -Sports-Pg. 24

**On-Site Admissions** -Opinions-Pg. 9 **Almost, Maine** <u>-A&E- Pg. 17</u>

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES NEWS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

IN THIS ISSUE...

News. Chris Herren p. 3 NYSSMA p. 4 Robotics p. 5

**OPINIONS.** Jake's Take p. 8 Briefly Summarized p. 8 On site admissions p. 9

#### FEATURES.

Yummy Gyro p. 11 New Year's resolutions p. 15 Trader Joe's p.16

#### A&E.

The Hunger Games p. 17 Almost Maine p. 18 Katie Lowes interview p. 19

#### Sports.

Underclassmen to watch p. 22 Boys winter track p. 23 Boys basketball p. 24



Junior and AP Digital Photography student Amy Zack took this photo at Welwyn Preserve County Park in Glen Cove. She used the concept of unity to compose this photo.

#### E W S RIEF S

#### **King Kullen Closing**

King Kullen, a central location in Port Washington, is scheduled to close at the end of December due to an expiring lease. The store's slogan proudly states that King Kullen is "America's first supermarket." The store's existence in Port for over fifty years is further evidence of its longevity.

Port Washington residents are expecting to be affected by the disappearance of the town staple. According to two-year King Kullen customer service employee Angela DiCaterino, this change resonates more strongly with the elderly, as they have had a profound connection to the store ever since its opening in 1962.

"They shop here ritually and regularly, and one woman even cried when she found out that King Kullen is closing," said DiCaterino. "The customers are like family here?

King Kullen is not the only closing business in the Soundview Marketplace.

"The whole shopping center will probably be foreclosed soon," said DiCaterino. "Payless Shoe Source, Port Bikes, and Rite

ping center, and the fact that they havent done many improvements, we are leaving," said Port Bikes manager John Pappas. "If the rent prices were more reasonable, we probably would have stayed."

The tenants' have complained of unreasonably high rent contributing to the possible shopping center collapse.

Aside from the high rent and expiring lease, King Kullen faces another threat. Less than half a mile away, Stop & Shop, a larger, newer supermarket, has been a threat to King Kullen since it opened its doors in 2004.

As for King Kullen's employees, they will be transferred to alternate locations. However, they will not be informed of their new workplace until a week before Port Washington's King Kullen closes.

King Kullen is practically my childhood," said junior Tracy Naschek. "I'll hate to see it go."

~ Adi Levin and Caroline Katz

#### **Screen Writing Contest**

"I think it is a wonderful idea for NHTV to have this contest," said junior Sydney Levy. "It's a great way for anyone to discover the field of screenwriting and get experience."

The winners will have their show air on NHTV, a government-run television program. The program airs on channels 18 and 63 on Cablevision and Channel 46 on Verizon FIOS. It also airs online at www.mynhtv.com.

The competition is divided into two categories: one for people under the age of eighteen, and another for people age eighteen and up. One winner from each category will be chosen.

All participants must be citizens of North Hempstead, and the film must be taped in the town and incorporate no more than two facilities or parks. The script topic is open to the screenwriter's imagination but all topics must be appropriate for general audiences.

"This competition gives the screenwriter lots of freedom," said junior Alexandra DeAngelis. "I am looking forward to watching the winning films.

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Aid are all in trouble."

Although these stores are not closing for sure, Port Bikes has decided to relocate.

"Because of the disarray of the shop-

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> Ira Pernick, principal Craig Medico, Evelina Zarkh, advisors © 2014, The Schreiber Times

Are you interested in film production? Well, North Hempstead Television (NHTV) is giving aspiring screenwriters the opportunity to compete in The First Annual NHTV Screenwriting Contest.

All scripts must be emailed in a PDF format to scripts@northhempsteadny.gov. The deadline is Jan. 15, 2015.

~ Madi Reiter

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## Chris Herren leads school-wide assembly on addiction



Dante Bombardiere

Motivational speaker and former NBA player Chris Herren speaks to parents during his second talk on addiction. At this event, and during his student assembly, Mr. Herren spoke about his expereince playing basketball, the pressure that was placed on him, and the substances he turned to as an escape. He advised students against such decisions and told parents about the reality of teenage drinking and drug use.

By Tori Finkle and Jesse Moskowitz

The gym was silent on Dec. 10 as students gave their undivided attention to former NBA player Chris Herren. Mr. Herren, previously a Boston Celtics player, spoke about his experiences playing basketball and the factors that contributed to the development of his drug addiction.

Mr. Herren attended B.M.C. Durfee High School in Fall River, Massachusetts. Considered one of the best high school athletes at the school, Mr. Herren was recruited by many programs. During his high school career, he gathered 2,073 career points, was named Gatorade New England Player of the Year (1993-1994), Boston Globe Massachusetts Player of the Year (1992-1994), and became a member of the McDonald's All American team of 1994 Social pressures seized control over Mr. Herren's life at a young age. He escaped this stress through drugs such as alcohol and marijuana during his high school years, but Mr. Herren never imagined himself having to depend on drugs in order to live life. After he was recruited by Boston College, Mr. Herren's drug use began to escalate. At the age of 18, he decided to do his first line of cocaine in his dorm room with some friends. It took Mr. Herren 10 years to walk away from the substance. In his early college career, Herren was thrown out of Boston College due to his misuse of alcohol and cocaine. However, he was soon offered a second chance to play at Fresno State University in 1999. Herren was signed by the Celtics in 2000. Mr. Herren's drug addiction escalated to a point where he needed drugs to feel healthy and make it through pre-game warm-ups.

One night, Mr. Herren's car with his unconscious body inside was found wrapped around a telephone pole. Mr. Herren referred to that moment as the one when knew things had to change.

"People have told me it must have been the worst day of my life... I look at it as the best day," said Mr. Herren. "That is the day that started me on my journey to where I am today."

Mr. Herren has remained sober since Aug. 2008. He has since dedicated his life to telling his story around the world and to try preventing other people from falling into his previous lifestyle. He has refocused his life and dreams, and aims to make a difference for at least one kid each time he speaks somewhere.

"Mr. Herren touched the hearts and opened the eyes of many, including myself," said junior Harlee Tung. "I was amazed by his inspiration and confidence." preventing addiction and substance abuse stems from being confident and satisfied with oneself.

"No matter what be true to you," said Mr. Herren. "There is not a substance in this world that's going to make it better. The kids who would go out on a Friday or Saturday night and have fun without using drugs or alcohol, they're the warriors. Take great pride in being you 24/7."

This message struck many students at Schreiber and left many others speechless.

"Unlike the message relayed to us by health teachers and other educators, Chris showed us first hand the damage substance abuse can cause and hit people where it counted," said junior Aliza Herz. "Whether you have drank or done drugs or not, Chris inspired us to be ourselves on weekends rather than use substances to 'lighten up' our moods."

Mr. Herren also held an event for parents to attend, in which he sent the



Courtesy of Gale Federman

Kerri Kahn, owner of 24ave, a company dedicated to easing individuals in the

The school was able bring Mr. Herren to Schreiber through a \$25,000 grant for substance abuse and anti-bullying education from New York State Senator Jack Martins. The co-chairs of the Safety and Abuse task force at Schreiber, Ms. Stephanie Johannon and Ms. Karen Sloan, played a major role in giving Schreiber students the opportunity to hear Mr. Herren speak.

"He was different then most speakers and really seemed to captivated the students," said Ms. Sloan. "His message was unique and more relatable than most speakers we've had here at Schreiber."

Mr. Herren's high school habits are something many students can relate to. He emphasized the message that type of message and had a similar impact.

"His speech was raw and real," said Ms. Kerri Kahn, Port parent and part founder of the company 24ave. "He did an excellent job in relating to people who are recovering addicts, but also to parents throughout the town that don't know the dangers of their kids spending too much time in the basement."

Following the presentation, Kahn reached out to speak with Mr. Herren. She told him about her experiences with addiction and life after 12 years of sobriety. She explained 24ave's mission and the two soon decided to collaborate.

"We are trying to revolutionize recovery for the 21st century," said Mrs. Kahn. "I don't know the capacity or the way in which Chris will work with the company, but he expressed great interest process of recovery from addiction and supporting those who are sober, embraces Mr. Herren as she hands him a gift from her store.

in supporting us and possibly having his own line within it."

Mr. Herren stressed the idea that not experimenting with substances, such as alcohol and marijuana, is the most reliable way to avoid addiction. He explained that once someone starts, it is impossible to tell where that person will end up.

"I thought it was extremely eye opening and extremely relatable," said junior Milan Sani. "Rather than lecturing us not to drink and smoke, he showed us that he was not very different from us and that there is the same chance that these drugs can take us down the same path."

## Students perform in statewide concerts

By Ilana Grabiner and Maddie Lane

Students were selected to showcase their musical talents at the All-State NYSSMA Concert on Dec. 7, in Rochester New York. The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is a wellknown organization that puts together annual state-wide events for young aspiring musicians.

Students who decide to annually participate in NYSSMA can participate at a level from one to six. At NYSSMA levels 5 and 6, and at the All-State competition, a judge assesses an individual's performance on a scale of 1 to 100. Concert Band teacher Mr. Mark Brenner, chaperoned the event, and weighed in on the audition process.

"Students wishing to be considered for all-state must prepare and perform a NYSSMA Level 6 solo, with an accompanist, for an All-State judge," said Mr. Brenner. "The judge not only gives the student a score for their solo, but ranks the students on a proficiency list. In August, all of the proficiency lists are reviewed by a committee and the top 900 students are selected for all-state and another 500 are selected as alternates."

The Port Washington School District provides all students who partake in musical classes with the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA competitions. Students who practice music at home are also allowed to participate.

This year Schreiber students senior Chris Bendix on the french horn and seniors Wyndham-John Daly Stopford and Tessa Peierls in the mixed choir qualified for the All-State NYSSMA event; each of these three students excelled in their school music classes and received high scores in this past spring's general NYSSMA evaluations. Bendix, Stopford, and Peierls performed at the All-State concert, where they met students who



Courtesy of Stephanie Zielinski

The statewide recital had students selected based on their NYSSMA scores, and took place in the Eastman Theater in Rochester. The All-State mixed choir performed on Sunday, December 7, and is pictured performing "Noel," an African tune written by Todd Smith.

shared their passion for music.

"I enjoyed every single minute of every rehearsal I had with the full choir," said Stopford. "The talent of the other students and our conductor Dr. Joe Miller never ceased to amaze me."

The students independently learned their music prior to the event. Between arriving on Dec. 4 and performing on Dec. 7, the musicians rehearsed for a total of 22 hours. Although ten hours of rehearsal per day may seem overwhelming, Stopford explains that he found the event exciting.

"I thought that 10 hours of rehearsal per day might at least get a little boring, but it never reached that point," said Stopford. "There were great parties hosted by the organization each night that really kept us excited about the event."

The mixed choir sang "The Star Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key, "Noel" by Todd Smith, "And the Glory of the Lord" by George Frideric Handel, "Nunc Dimittis" by Gustav Holst, "Lacrymosa" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, "Elegy" by Daniel Elder, "Ballade to the Moon" by Daniel Elder, and "Ride in the Chariot" by Brandon Waddles.

Although it took up a school day and the entire weekend, Stopford felt the trip was well worth his time.

"I enjoyed every single minute of every rehearsal I had with the full choir," said Stopford. "The talent of the other students and our conductor Dr. Joe Miller never ceased to amaze me."

Mr. Brenner also felt the trip was worthwhile, for both students and teacher chaperones.

"This year's All-State groups were incredible, and the guest conductors were superb," said Mr. Brenner. "They chose wonderful literature and were able to connect with the students in the various ensembles. The workshops for teachers were superb and overall, it was a very positive experience for both students and teachers."

Stopford qualified for the eastern division of the National Association for Musical Education (NAFME) next April in Providence, RI. This division selects students from All-State concerts throughout the East Coast to participate in the convention. No student has attended this prestigious event in years.

### Mathis Month in Schreiber History

#### December 2, 1925

The following chant was performed: "Bill Carmen is our left-half, as a linebacker he's a whale, when Manhasset saw him coming, they cried 'Gangway for the U.S. Male."

#### December 22, 1933

In a section that interviewed students, a female senior said she loved sneaking under the subway turnstiles to avoid paying the nickel, and that she hates long underwear. The interview ended when she asked the interviewer "Wanna buy a duck?"

#### December 2, 1949

Students were asked who their favorite teacher was, with responses ranging from "Miss Hallock, because her room is nice and homey" to "No preference, they're all monkeys."

#### December 15, 1971

Stray dogs roamed the halls of Schreiber, wandering in and out of the cafeteria. The ASPCA was called to rectify this, but students prevented the dogs from being caught and the ASPCA told the principal they would not come back to the school.



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

## Robotics club hosts first competition and gains recognition Students hope to attract members and share knowledge while their robots battle in cafeteria

BY Mikayla Hyman

For the initial 45 seconds, robots autonomously try to gain points with no human intervention. The team with the most points from this gain extra points in the final count. Subsequently, another 1 minute and 45 seconds are delegated for robots to attempt to gain points while being controlled by students. After the fight, points are tallied and a winner is declared.

This was the format of the first ever VEX competition hosted at Schreiber on Dec. 13. The competition took place in the cafeteria in a twelve by twelve foot square arena, dotted with 22 red cubes and 22 blue cubes. The robots competed head to head to gain points by building sky rises with tubes and placing cubes on poles.

"This competition was very exciting because it demonstrates our hard work and allowed us to share our passions locally," said senior club member Evan Kaminsky. "It also lets us get support from people who wouldn't usually experience the competitions."

The planning process began in September, when technology teacher and club adviser Mr. Donald Schaefer asked Assistant Principal Mr. David Miller to gain permission from Principal Mr. Ira Pernick.

"It took a while to figure out all of the planning and be able to coordinate with all of the different bureaucracies in Schreiber, but overall it wasn't as difficult as it could have been in other more conservative districts," said Kaminsky.

Next, the team planned out the events' logistics. The cafeteria was chosen as the arena because of its abundance of outlets. However, even the various charging stations around the room still were not enough for a robotics meet. Mr. Schae-



Robotics club advisor, Mr. Donald Schaefer, works with seniors David Walmart and Adam Hussain on a robot for the competition.

fer worked with the maintenance staff to make more outlets available.

The work put into the event had a purpose greater than the competition itself. One objective of the meet Mr. Schaefer explained, "is to drum up members." Mr. Schaefer wants the robotics team to expand. The robotics club has few members.

"I'm sure they're a good team . . . but I

just don't know about it," said senior Greg Basham.

Another reason to host a meet was to share and spread knowledge. Mr. Schaefer stated that the ultimate goal of every meet was for "everyone to learn something." Ultimately, members of the robotics club as well as Schreiber staff members, believe that the meet was a success.

"I was very happy that we were able to

host a competition at Schreiber this year and it really shows our commitment to robotics," said senior Robotics Club member Adam Hussain. "As the president of robotics I was extremely happy with the way our whole team competed on Saturday and I couldn't have asked for better team spirit."

## Musical theatre workshop led by coach Wendy Perelman



By Evan Gilmore

On Friday, Dec. 5th, acting and musical theatre coach Wendy Perelman held a workshop during a Drama Club meeting to work on singing and acting techniques with the club's members.

"I've been doing private musical theater coaching here in Port Washington for the past several years. I thought that it could be fun to expand my teaching by

Hair, worked with the student to improve.

"Rachel Bay Jones and I have been friends for a long time and not only do I know her to be amazingly talented and articulate, so I hoped people would be excited by the chance to study with her," said Ms. Perelman.

The workshop and feedback the actors got was well timed, because the auditions for the musical were just the next week.

Ms. Perelman will hold many more workshops in Port Washington. Her class on Nov. 16 also featured Rachel Bay Jones. There will also be a workshop on Dec. 14 that includes coaching by Kip Driver, a member of the cast of Les Miserables and Cats, and Jim Athens, a stage manager who has worked on several Broadway plays. The fee for this workshop will be \$150. Other workshops will be held on Jan. 25 and March 1 with guest stars like Dani Davis and David Truskinoff. "By creating group classes that feature guest artists with different areas of expertise (acting, singing, directing, producing, stage management, etc.), I thought I could offer students a unique opportunity to learn from working pros without having to leave Port Washington," said Ms. Perelman.

Josh White

Left to right: Juniors Evan Gilmore and Jordan Youner, senior Jesse Epstein, Wendy Perelman, seniors Ariel Waldman, Lena Kogan, Elizabeth Muratore, Laynie Calderwood, Sophie Brett-Chin, Sameer Nanda, and Kim Winter, sophomores Sophia Andreatis, Anna Cohen, Sarah DeMarino, Alison Winter, Sabrina Lorson, Sydney Morresy, Jeffrey Lockom, and Nicole Manasseri on stage after participating in a theatre workshop led by Ms. Perelman.

collaborating with my professional theater friends and colleagues from the time I was a college student at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, through my years as a musical theater actress in NYC," said Ms. Perelman.

Ms. Perelman designed each of her workshops to resemble a New York City acting class. She hoped to help strengthen students' abilities in a specific aspect of musical theatre.

"This workshop was extremely helpful and I definitely think the club will be able to incorporate the advice we have received into our acting," said senior Sameer Nanda.

The recent workshop also included previously prepared student performances that Rachel Bay Jones, an actress who starred in the Broadway shows *Pippin* and



## Should teachers assign tests after the winter break?

BY Aaron Gindi and David Han

Point

As the holiday season quickly approaches, students are faced with a plethora of exams. Many teachers give their tests at this time before the break to make sure that students do not forget their subject matter. But because so many teachers do this, their well-intentioned acts turn into a great burden, as students scrounge to study for all the exams.

Although many individuals may want to enjoy their vacation without an overwhelming amount of work, many others find that they are more productive when they can study under less pressure and with more time. Because they have more time, students will likely score higher on the exam than they would if they had taken the test before break.

School is about learning, not about cramming. If the "big test" is the Tuesday or Wednesday after break, students would have the entire break to study instead of cramming for a test the next day. The problem with cramming is that the information is stored in the memory only temporarily. As a result, students likely forget the crammed material after the test.

"Looking back now, I think the most stressful times of every school year have always been the weeks before breaks," said senior Crystal Ren. "I had unit tests in every class, usually alongside other major deadlines. Having some of the tests after the break would help stagger the stress and allow people to spend more time on each subject and on the assignments. It provides a nice mental reassurance."

School is not only about learning the material, but also about enjoying it something that pre-vacation testing hinders. If students are not cramming for exams but instead studying the material gradually over vacation, the learning process is extended, leading to better student to engage in active, conscious processing, whereas a massed repetition or a single presentation tends to evoke shallow, effortless processing."

In layman's terms, this means that if students are allowed to study over break, rather than forced to cram a few days before break, then they can truly understand the information better.

"Papers and other projects should be due following the break," said senior Jacob Bloch. "This way, students who want to work on them over the break get to have that opportunity, and students who don't want this can finish them in advance anyway."

Our lives are already stressful, and building up exams adds to the high levels of external pressures. The Friday before break can begin to feel like judgment day: a day after which everything is irrelevant. And that is a terrible way to look forward to a vacation. If students are under enormous amounts of pressure, they will most likely be sleep deprived and anxious on test day, and thus may receive a lower score than they deserve. However, if the tests are after break, then students have the opportunity to study the right way, and hopefully succeed.

"Sometimes I feel overwhelmed with the amount of work I'm given before break," said senior Wyn Stopford. "I think teachers should assign tests after break so that students aren't full to the brim with pressure."

As we prepare to enter this tumultuous test-taking time, we hope that you could all stay trained on the light at the end of the tunnel, and know that afterwards there is a two-week vacation waiting for us.

### BY Timothy Serignese

Counterpoint

There is a debate as to whether exams should be given before or after break. Although many students would prefer the latter, teachers generally give tests on the days before break.

Many key details about subject material learned are forgotten over especially long vacations. According to the American Educational Research Association, "A review of 39 studies indicated that achievement test scores decline over prolonged vacations. The effect of the break was more detrimental for math than for reading and most detrimental for math computation and spelling."

Taking tests before the vacation, rather than after, leads to higher scores and averages, while taking a test directly after the break can significantly harm a student's grades.

"Over a vacation, it is easy to forget about the material you learned," said senior Paige Torres. "In addition, breaks should be spent relaxing and spending time with family and friends rather than studying. They should not be used for schoolwork."

An argument can be made that the two-week vacation allows students to spend more time studying. However, most students go away for a portion of the vacation and thus do not study at all.

Even those who stay at home during the vacation do not study sufficiently. To be proficient at a specific topic, students need to learn and review the information in class. Doing twenty problems over the course of two weeks is unlikely to help students retain information, much less help them understand the topic.

Many psychologists agree that shortterm memories, such as the information retained from a textbook, are likely to be forgotten after a protracted time period of not thinking about the information or rereading the textbook. Tests directly after break would require a student to reread the text every few days or so to remember all of the important details on a test.

Furthermore, two weeks without the analytical thinking done in school could make it harder for students to make the complex deductions and logical decisions necessary to make educated guesses.

"It's such a relief to have a test before break," said senior Ilana Zweig. "Students don't have to worry about balancing social life with schoolwork."

Inversely, if teachers do not have a test before the break, they might assign homework or material that a student must teach him/herself. This can also have an impact on test grades.

An influx of information without proper reinforcement by a teacher disturbs not only the clarity of the new information learned and memorized, but also the old information that can be forgotten.

"Many people go out of the country during vacation and for some, this is the only time they can meet their relatives and childhood friends," said senior Anan Rayn. "I personally can't focus on or remember the material when I'm in Egypt."

Finally, a recent study suggests a correlation between exercise and increased student performance in school. A significant percentage of students get

> a majority of their exercise from gym class.

Two weeks without this exercise, coupled with the characteristically unhealthy eating habits of the winter, could negatively affect cognitive functioning. It is in the best interest of both students and teachers to assign tests before break as it is the most effective means of ensuring mutual success.



performance on midterms, finals, and regents.

Experts agree that taking tests after break is beneficial. According to Harvard Magazine, a psychological phenomenon known as the 'Spacing Effect' states that humans have a better ability to retain information if there is a space between the time that the information is learned and the time that they are tested on it.

According to Dr. Frank N. Dempster, a professor at the University of Nevada's department of educational psychology, "spaced repetitions require the

Diego Espinoza

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES **OPINIONS** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

## Guidance counselors: Schreiber's unsung heroes

BY Aimée Levinson Staff Writer

The way a guidance counselor assists students is best explained by a guidance counselor.

"Guidance fulfills many roles for students and that role will vary depending on many factors, including the grade the student is in and the unique circumstances that come with each situation," said guidance counselor Mr. Joseph Lorge.

The range of services that our counselors and the entire guidance department provide is incredibly wide, and important to the daily functioning of the school. Some of their more common functions include planning schedules with students, acting as liaisons between students and teachers, and aiding in personal counseling. They also conduct workshops for parents in the evening and during the school day for students.

"My guidance counselor is a goddess. She's literally capable of helping students in whatever way possible," said senior Sameer Nanda.

As for me, I feel that my guidance counselor has been more than helpful in all of my academic queries, including assistance in choosing the right classes that both fit my interests and give me a strong foundation for my future field. The first memory that comes to mind is a fateful day as a sophomore when my counselor made a suggestion about a class that changed my direction com-

pletely. I was just looking for a class to fill my schedule but he stopped and evaluated my strengths and interests and made a suggestion for an accounting class. I had never thought about going into accounting. To be honest, it seemed boring and monotonous. Yet, he insisted that it would be a good fit. It was only a month into the course that I had found that it was anything but dull. It was a subject that I enjoyed and thrived in. Two years later, it is what I plan to major in at college, but I never would have known had

"My guidance counselor is a goddess. She's literally capable of helping students in whatever way possible," said senior Sameer Nanda.

#### he not suggested it.

This isn't just me; for every senior, a guidance counselor is vital to navigating college applications. There are a myriad of little details that can frustrate anyone to the point of madness. Yet, like a knight in shining armor, your guidance counselor appears with answers to all of your questions. And like dragon slayers, they conquer all problems and negotiate all tricky situations you may be in.

"As someone who always has ten million questions in my mind, I started

going to my guidance counselor freshman year," said senior Sophie Brett-Chin. "And up to this day she still answers any frantic questions I have."

Guidance counselors strive not only to relieve stress or excess pressure, but to also form a strong relationship with their students. That is where our counselors go above and beyond.

They get to know you better so you can go to them for any issues, school related or non-school related," said senior Maddy Katz.

In a situation like this one, guidance counselors provide a type of companionship that is invaluable. To have someone within the school whom students feel comfortable sharing issues and receiving real advice from creates for a more meaningful high school career and a strong support system. As students who are still growing and learning, with so much that we do not know how to conquer yet, having someone who is on your side clears the way for success. Without my guidance counselor, I can't imagine what my future would be like.

"My guidance counselor is like my confidant; I can be fully honest with her and know that she is actually listening to what I'm saying and taking it into consideration," said senior Jenny Garofolo.

The guidance department is one of the most vital in the school, providing awareness, education, and support for students and their families. It deserves a loud round of applause.

## Briefly summarized

#### **BY Sabina Unni**

Assistant Opinions Editor

January: In the United States, the Affordable Care Act went into effect. ISIS (the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) took control of Falluja, Iraq.

February: The Winter Olympics took place in Sochi, Russia. The Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa began, an epidemic which has infected over 18,000 people because of the cultural stigma associated with Ebola and lack of cures; the death rates continue to skyrocket.

March: Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 disappeared mid flight. Russia dispatched troops to Crimea. Violent protests erupted in Venezuela. North Korea held legislative elections, with 100% voter turnout reported (which is probably not true)

April: Donald Sterling, owner of the LA Clippers, was banned for life by the NBA for making racist remarks; he sold the team for \$2 billion dollars. Boko Haram, a militant terrorist group, kidnapped more than 250 school girls in Chibok, Nigeria. A South Korean ferry capsized, killing approximately 300 people.

May: In the largest recorded election of all time, Narendra Modi was voted prime minister of India. Tensions increased between China and Vietnam because Chinese ships hit Vietnamese vessels. General Prayuth Chan-ocha staged a military coup in Thailand.

June: Mosul and Tikrit, both large cities in Iraq, were taken over by ISIS. The Palestinian Government announced a "Government of National Unity." The Taliban attacked Pakistan's largest airport, Jinnah International Airport.

July: Eric Garner, an unarmed, black Staten Island man, was killed by police via a chokehold, which the medical investigator ruled a homicide. The World Cup took place in Brazil; Germany won.

August: Michael Brown, an unarmed, black teenager, was killed by police in Missouri, igniting protests. ISIS beheaded American journalist James Foley.

September: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un disappeared for over a month, resulting in huge speculation and nationwide panic. Pakistani protesters clashed with the police in Islamabad, resulting in schools shutting down in Islamabad. Scotland voted to remain united with the United Kingdom.

October: Ex-president of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaore, resigned after 27 years in office following widespread riots through the country, led by both citizens and high ranking government officials. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, bombed Kurdish rebels. November: The Republican Party received a majority of the seats in the midterm election in the House and the Senate. Former Iguala mayor Jose Luis Abarca was charged in the disappearance of 43 Mexican students. **December**: The Senate Intelligence Committee released a report of the CIA's torture techniques. A hostage situation erupted in Australia, and continues as of this newspaper's press date. Keep in mind that the media reports on the negative; I've yet to see a news story about kind dogs. This year seems to be turbulent in comparison, but there is still a lot of good that has taken place.

## Jake's take: the most wonderful time of the year

#### **BY Jake Arlow**

Staff Writer

The holidays are a beautiful time. The anticipation of cozy, festive nights with family and friends makes this month something special. But to me, a real Christmas-time purist, the holiday season culminates with the Twelve Days of Christmas. As some of you lesser merrymakers may not know, the Twelve days begin on Christmas Day and go until Jan. 5, which, in a crazy turn of events, is Twelve days after Christmas Day. I will now allow all for you to experience the most beautiful twelve days of the year along with me; come, let's begin.

Day one: You catch a cold. You had been feeling something coming on for a while, but this morning you woke up and snot dripped onto your pillow. Let the Christmas festivities begin! Day two: Your grandpa comes to town. The good times roll when he starts lamenting the condition of today's youth, and you notice that most, if not all, of the comments are passive-aggressively directed towards you. Don't fret! The celebrations are just getting started! Day three: Your friends and you bring the holiday spirit to school. The science wing can be so drab, so you search for the nearest ceiling hole held up by a stick, tarp, trash can, and faith in the American government. Good thing you found one conveniently located by the biology classrooms! You spruce it up with some great décor. Now, the science wing goes from a depressing-eye-sore to festive-eyesore.

you are the reason they're sick. There are definitely not tons of germs out there in the world. You are no doubt the sole reason for the sickness of every person close to you. Nice going there.

Day five: Gingerbread men are great Christmas treats that just happen to currently be attacking your family. You should've stopped making them at the first sign of sentience, but you didn't want to have extra gumdrop buttons. No holiday weight gain for you!

Day six: Halfway there! You celebrate with some hot chocolate, and on the first sip you burn your tongue and cannot taste anything for the rest of the month.

Day seven: You watch Netflix all day. You should be studying for midterms, but isn't watching House of Cards basically studying?

Days eight through ten: You enter a comatose state from the amount

Enjoy it!

Day eleven: Your mom tells you to stop celebrating Christmas, as it is Jan. 4 and stores have already begun advertising their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day sales. She obviously does not understand the sanctity of these twelve days

Day twelve: You return from Christmas break a changed person. You have learned a great deal about yourself and others. Mostly, that you would rather be at school than spending time with your family or sitting alone with your thoughts.

So this holiday season, savor each

it is a healthy

alternative

to butter.

and every day. Go out and spread joy, but more importantly, spread tapenade on your bread because

Day four: Your cold is worse than ever and now everyone is adamant that

of sugar you have ingested and family togetherness you have endured. The Arthur's Perfect Christmas album is playing at a low volume in the background the entire time you are asleep. You can relive your childhood while listening to Muffy faintly sing about her dissolving





MThat is your bast baliday are arise

Photos and reporting by Stacey Kim, Sabina Unni, and Josh White, Opinions Editor, Assistant Opinions Editor, and Photo Editor

## On-site college admissions: the benefits outweigh the harms

BY Elizabeth Muratore

via the Common App, (3) have a teacher of waiting until March to hear from your choice schools.

Staff Writer

For seniors whose college lists are already too long and whose stress levels have long exceeded healthy limits, taking valuable time out of the school day to apply to college may not sound enticing. But just when the college application process is becoming a nightmare instead of a headache, wouldn't it be nice to be accepted into a college, even if that school is not your "reach"? This is where the many advantages of on-site admissions come into play.

The process of applying on-site to a college is, compared with the regular application process, very simple. All a student has to do is (1) set up a time slot for an interview, (2) apply to that school print out their recommendation, and (4) show up to the interview. Five minutes later, that student will most likely be accepted into college. (This is because the guidance department only arranges onsite interviews for students who they feel confident will be admitted to that school so the possibility of getting denied on the spot is minimal.)

"Getting in on-site was a relatively simple process; it seems intimidating but when I talked to my guidance counselor, the procedures actually weren't too difficult," said senior Anan Rayn.

Seniors who think that the on-site schools are "beneath them" may shy away from on-site admissions. But the reality is, everyone wants to be in college as soon as possible. Why not start the process with a quick interview in December instead first school?

"I think the on-site is an incredible and invaluable experience for high school seniors," said senior Sameer Nanda. "It's very relaxing and reassuring to get an acceptance in a matter of minutes, especially during a very stressful academic time. I also think it's a great comfort for many students to get into some incredible schools!"

In addition to relieving some of the stress of the application process, on-site admissions are financially beneficial. The yearly cost of the schools themselves is usually reasonable, and the majority of students accepted to schools on-site receive some sort of scholarship. These scholarships can be useful tools when, later in the year, students are negotiating financial aid packages with their top----

"On-sites are a great idea for anyone applying to college because they give you an admission decision on the spot and are free to apply," said senior Mia Crowley. "Although these schools may not be a lot of people's top choices, it still makes you feel accomplished when you get in, especially with scholarship money."

On-site schools are not always dream destinations, but they are good options for even the highest-achieving student. There are no emotional or financial disadvantages to setting up an on-site interview, and applying to a school that may offer you a full ride is both a sound academic decision and a fantastic ego booster. After all, onsite interviews increase most students' self-esteem. During stressful times like the first-semester of senior year, everyone deserves some flattery.

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES **OPINIONS** FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

# Editorials

## Fire drill confusion

The minute a fire bell goes off, students can be seen rushing from the building, eager to practice safety procedures and to get a small break from class. However, this was not the case when the bells went off on Dec. 9 during period 4.2.

In the middle of the period, the fire alarm went off prompting the usual evacuation procedure. Teachers and staff members, who are typically warned of fire drills in advance, were forced to assume that this was not a drill and that an emergency was actually occurring in the school.

When classes arrived at the exits, they were hesitant to venture outside into the pouring rain. Some classes, including the gym classes, did exit the building. Others waited closely by the doors for further instruction. Many went back and forth between their classrooms and the school exits. A majority of students in the cafeteria went outdoors, but some were not sure whether or not to this was a real emergency and decided to stay inside to avoid the rain. Students in the library went down the usual flight of emergency stairs, but were quickly instructed to come back upstairs.

Throughout the school, different teachers made different decisions on how to proceed. In many areas of the school, the situation became chaotic. Students did not know what they should have been listening to: the constant ringing and flashing of the alarm, or their teachers telling them that it was okay to stay inside.

Eventually, the sound was stopped but the lights remained flashing. Throughout the day, students returned to classes, but the alarm turned on and off irregularly. After some investigation, the cause of the alarms was determined to be a malfunction with one of the alarm boxes in the courtyard due to the intensely heavy rain that day.

Throughout the process, most were unaware as to what they should be doing. After quite some time, an announcement was made to disregard the chime. In some areas of the school, including the A wing, it was nearly impossible to hear this announcement and the others that followed. The administration did not give much information nor it mollify the confusion.

The Schreiber Times urges the administration to be more active in advising teachers and students during future complications. Making students and teachers aware of what is or may be happening in the school and what they should do can greatly ease tension and disorder in the event of an emergency.

## Guidance interruption

Prioritizing one subject over another is an unjust policy. However, this is precisely what the school has done by assigning most administrative announcements, like Dignity for All Students contract and Preliminary Standard Academic Test announcements, to take place during all social studies courses. *The Schreiber Times* believes that this reflects an administrative feeling that social studies teachers require less time to teach their class than teachers of other subjects.

Imagine being a teacher whose academic agenda is scheduled up to the minute, and then taking away up to a half an hour of class time for PSAT meetings.

Perhaps the most egregious part of this policy is how easily it could be remedied. By simply having one representative of the CollegeBoard make the announcement in a call to junior students, a tremendous amount of time would be saved: by representatives, teachers, and students alike. Any handouts necessary for distribution to the students could be sent to the students in the mail.

The Schreiber Times hopes that with careful planning in the future, such disregard for particular subjects will no longer exist.

### Snacking in classrooms

Throughout school, students have been complaining that they are not allowed to snack during classes. To them, it is very tough to get through that time between breakfast and lunch without indulging in a little snack. We at *The Schreiber Times* agree with these students and find the notion that students should not eat during classes unreasonable. When on an empty stomach, it is very difficult to stay focused, so not being able to eat can decrease productivity, and having a snack during class can benefit students.

The argument that eating during class can distract students is understandable, but being hungry provides an even greater distraction. If students were permitted to eat "quieter" foods during class and avoided foods that make crunchy noises like potato chips, it would not distract others and would only assist the students.

Another prominent issue is that of students with allergies. If someone were eating something in the same classroom as a student with severe allergies, it could prove to be detrimental to that student. Also, if someone had been eating something containing the food that a student is allergic to while sitting at the same desk, the student could be negatively affected.

However, these should not be reasons to put sanctions on students eating in classrooms, as there are simple solutions to these problems. First, students should be made aware of the allergies of fellow classmates. This is no different than what should happen if students were not



If foods that can cause allergic reactions are avoided and noisy foods that can cause distraction aren't eaten in classrooms, there is no good reason that students shouldn't be able to increase their focus by snacking during class.

Interested in writing for The Schreiber Times? Then come to the next newspaper general meeting on January 15! All new writers are welcome!

#### **Times Policy Statement**

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

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

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

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

Editorials printed in this publication reflect the opinion of the majority of the editors. If the situation warrants, minority editorials will be published. Editorials do not represent the views of the Port Washington Union Free School District. We will not publish advertisements if they are deemed libelous, obscene or likely to incite criminal activity. Prices of advertisements are standard and price schedules are available upon request. Advertisements do not necessarily represent the views of The Times. We will establish new policies if the need arises. Until such a point occurs, The Times will follow the policy described in this space as well as the guidelines of common sense and reason.

## **Holiday Mistle-No! by Ethan Bookstein**



## Authentic Greek restaurant spices up the scene on Main Street

#### By Jenna Hecht Business Manager

Lately, Port Washington has been keeping it fresh in the restaurant game. From Italian to Mexican and now Greek, many new restaurants have recently opened on Main Street. If you are looking to try new foods, craving Mediterranean dishes made with fresh ingredients, or searching for a juicy feta burger with a side of fries, Yummy Gyro, located at 82 Main St., will satisfy all your needs.

Serving up Mediterranean cuisine, the restaurant offers a menu like no other. It offers "Pita of the Gods," pita dishes named after the Greek gods Hades, Hercules, and Poseidon. In addition, Yummy Gyro has cold appetizers such as hummus and seafood platters, spinach pies, beef and lamb burgers, and crispy fries.

For all you health nuts, Yummy Gyro offers many types of salads. Their Greek salad contains romaine or iceberg lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, and crumbled feta cheese, served with vinaigrette dressing.

The gyro wrap, which has your choice of beef gyro or chicken gyro with tomatoes, sautéed onions, feta, olives, and tzatiki sauce, served with the famous Avgolemono Greek soup, is among many menu favorites. Yummy Gyro also serves vegetarian pita sandwiches and falafel which is convenient for people with restrictions to meat in their diets. To top it all off, the restaurant offers homemade baklava for dessert, a Greek <image>

dish made of Phyllo dough, nuts, butter, and sugar. The prices range from \$5.95 for a burger to \$21.95 for a lamb chop platter. Although it has a \$10 minimum fee for delivery, Yummy Gyro can easily become a part of your lunch or dinner.

"I really like the Avgolemono soup at Port Diner so I was a little skeptical to try the one at Yummy Gyro," said junior Lyndsay Dalimonte. "The soup was actually really good and I plan on getting it again."

Yummy Gyro advertises its foods as high in monounsaturated fat, molecules that are proven to lower peoples' risk of heart disease. Every dish at Yummy Gyro is homemade with the freshest and healthiest ingredients, as well as with the restaurants' love and care for a customer's delicious culinary experience.

"Walking on Main Street you only see Japanese, Italian, Mexican, and American restaurants," said owner of Yummy Gyro, Agusti Mendoza. "I wanted to bring my Greek food to Port Washington, and bring something new and different to town. I wanted to open a restaurant that people would enjoy. And this is what I did. I hired the right staff and found the perfect location for Yummy Gyro. I also have another chain in Williston Park, and I know that this new location has even more potential. So far business is great!"

Open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Yummy Gyro serves authentic Greek food at reasonable prices. Even if you are a picky eater, Yummy Gyro offers so many options that you are bound to find something you enjoy. So order that Greek salad, chicken gyro, or other Mediterranean dish. Order whatever you like; Yummy Gyro will satisfy you.

Joe's works on limited runs. This means

that once the products on the shelves are

sold out, that is it; you can not buy them

again. In addition to this, Trader Joe's

will often discontinue products in order

to keep a constant rotation of new and

improved products on its shelves. Many

of these products are the company's own

Residents of Port Washington enjoy a light appetizer while awaiting their chicken and rice gyro which is carefully being made in the kitchen.

## By Adi Levin & Caroline Katz

Bareburger Preview

Watch out Smashburger, with the opening of Bareburger in just a few weeks, competition is quickly approaching.

BareBurger is not your conventional fast food joint. In addition to their highly raved about beef burgers, BareBurger has alternate choices on their menu. Some of their unique burgers include organic ostrich, elk, and venison patties, each one bursting with unique flavors.

This chain will be opening a store on Main Street at the end of January. Port Washington residents are eagerly anticipating the new location.

"I'm super excited and so are my girls," said Port resident Ms. Suzanne Pikoos. "I can envision it as a place we can go frequently, maybe once a week... I can't wait!" BareBurger offers delights for meatlovers and vegetarians alike. With over ten different salads and customizable toppings, people can order almost anything imaginable. The menu likewise features a wide selection of foods specific to vegan, gluten-free, and nut-allergic clients. This franchise is well-liked and rated highly by food guides. Both those who have been fans of BareBurger for a while and those who have never tried its food are excitedly awaiting the restaurant's opening in Port. "I've heard great things about BareBurger, and I'm looking forward to trying it," said freshman Julia Ruskin.

## Hero of healthy foods: Trader Joe's or Whole Foods?

ву Aliza Herz & Izzy Gold

<u>Staff Writers</u> When you hear the words "Trader Joe's" or "Whole Foods," do you think healthy and organic? If so, you are right. Both stores do sell healthy organic foods. However, the decision to shop at either of the two stores can be quite cumbersome. After all, Trader Joe's and Whole Foods both contain similar food products.

Organic foods are often cheaper at Trader Joe's than at Whole Foods. For example, a package of quinoa, a proteinpacked grain, costs \$9.99 at Whole Foods but \$4.99 at Trader Joe's. A significant difference, right? Additionally, glutenfree Cheese Pizza at Whole Foods costs \$7.49 while at Trader Joe's it costs \$4.99.

Trader Joe's might win in the field of better prices, but in terms of promoting label brand, 365. According to Whole Foods, all of its foods are sourced to avoid GMOs. Whole Foods also keeps a list of "unacceptable ingredients," items that will never appear in its line of products. 365 offers quality ingredients as well as a great range of products, which explains the high prices.

"I think Whole Foods is overall



brand.

Iosh White

<u>11</u>

community-wide philanthropy, Whole Foods takes the prize. Whole Foods offers a money-lending program to local farmers called, the Local Produce Loan Program. The program offers low-interest loans to independent local farmers and food artisans. Furthermore, Whole Foods buys from regional farmers, ranchers, and growers to support small businesses. To take its message of good will even further, Whole Foods stopped offering plastic grocery bags as of Earth Day in 2008. By doing so, the company saved 150 million bags its first year. For many, this message is enough to convince them to shop at Whole Foods.

Many people today are worried about genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Whole Foods, however, makes it easy to avoid these GMOs with their private



better than Trader Joe's," said junior Talia Silverstein. "I feel that there is a much larger variety of items and it is much more convenient since there is one right on Northern Boulevard while the closest Trader Joe's is in Garden City."

But don't get us wrong, Trader Joe's certainly has its perks.

Although Whole Foods and Trader Joe's give out free samples, Trader Joe takes food tasting to the next level. It is the company's policy that if a customer were to ask a store employee about a product, the employee can personally find it, open it, and let the customer taste it. To make the franchise even more unique, Trader Both are organic, both are healthy, yet the two stores are known for different products. Whole Foods is revered for its fresh produce such as seafood, while Trader Joe's is known for its frozen foods such as cookie butter and frozen Mac and cheese.

"For me, Trader Joe's is a much better choice because I prefer a smaller store and the prices are much cheaper than at Whole Foods," said Schreiber parent, Ms. Ila Scheckner.

So there you have it: the pros and cons of both stores. Now it is your turn to decide.

www.blog.fooducate.com

# <u>ensio</u>

"I understand the feelings of the protesters, and I don't completely agree with the decision of the cases, so I am not really surprised that the protesters are doing what they are doing," said junior Gabrielle Sanft. "However, I do not agree with their actions because I do not believe they are effectively accomplishing anything. The same thing could be said about sitting there and doing nothing. But in protesting, the people involved are just making bad names for themselves, and getting nothing out of doing it. The people cannot change the decision of the court."

Many people, including students, have taken to voicing their opinions online. On Nov. 24, the day that Robert McCulloch, prosecuting attorney, announced that the grand jury would not indict Officer Wilson, the Internet exploded. At 8:30 p.m., the Twitter hashtag #FergusonDecision peaked for the night at 200,000 tweets per half hour. The topic was also trending on Facebook, and protesters from Ferguson and other parts of the country broadcast recordings of the police and other protesters on Vine. Tumblr users were sharing posts that demonstrated their anger and spread information about the events. Many student Internet users shared links to articles and made Facebook posts, and others reported that their feeds were 99% Ferguson-related that night and the following day.

Although Americans have been pro-

to their protests. Photos from these protests and American protests alike quickly spread across social media.

formation on protests they were organizing. Pages like this helped gather massive numbers of people together.



A protestor holds up a sign at the Dec. 13 Millions March protest. At least five Schreiber students demonstrated their support for Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and other victims of police brutality at the rally.

Social platforms helped allow more sides of the Ferguson and Garner stories to be told.

"It's better to learn about politics via

"Social media totally changed what I knew because I found that CNN and the like weren't really showing the Vines and Tumblr posts—lesser known media, I guess—of people who were actually there," said senior Sarah Sigman. From not standing for the pledge, to attending protests, to posting about it online, students have gotten involved with the movement. Some of the student body participated in the recent Millions March NYC protest on Dec. 13, along with almost 30,000 other people. "I found out about the march through Facebook actually. One of my good friends from the city who has been part of the protests since they started posted about it, and it was just an anyone can add themselves and say they're going kind of group-just a public event," said senior Pam Hidalgo. "The experience at this march was liberating since, to be quite honest, I had my doubts about going. But the turnout was unbelievable. As you

walk down the street to reach Washington Square, you could already hear the chants and just everyone involved. Everyone had a voice, and I began to get goosebumps over the realness of it all, that my friends and I were a part of this, and it was an eye opener."

At the march, the protesters held signs that displayed many of the popular phrases and hashtags such as "#BlackLivesMatter" and "I Can't Breathe." The peaceful protesters chanting about the racism in the police department walked four miles to the NYPD headquarters. Residents of skyscrapers on the route opened their windows and went to their balconies.

One of the younger people at the protest was a Bronx sophomore named Raymond, who discussed how the decision affected him personally.

"I thought that the decision did not affect me," he said. "But then I realized anybody could be Mike Brown or anybody could be Eric Garner-anybody of any age could be a victim of police brutality."

While the protests may not bring back Brown or Garner, they certainly could help prevent another unnecessary death. Already since the outset of the protests, President Obama has announced a \$263 million program to train and supply police with body cameras.

If students want to get involved, there are opportunities available. They can share posts about events of police brutality from reputable sources, donate to bail and legal funds for those arrested during protests, sign petitions on whitehouse.gov, and call upon elected officials for change using scripts available online. "I think now, people are understanding this isn't just about two victims, people are upset with the system, so this is just a step forward to changing the flaws in it," said Hidalgo.

"A nation is its people-all its people," said senior Olivia Mann. "And if one person that is one part of the nation suffers, so too does the whole."

testing for civil rights for decades, use of social media has changed the movement. Protests erupted across the country and even the world. In cities like Hong Kong and Mexico City, those who were already protesting their own governments added the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" sign of putting their hands above their heads

social media because there's broader opinions and a large spectrum of perspectives," said senior Nikki Sabilia. "Social media shaped everyone's opinions about Ferguson, which is good and bad. It's important for people our age to be informed and have an opinion-we're all going to be voting soon."

The Brown family's public statement, in which they called for people to "channel [their] frustration in ways that will make a positive change," was shared quickly when posted online. Social media platforms also allowed users to organize huge protests in various parts of the nation and find out when and where protests would be happening in their area. One Tumblr blog called "the Ferguson National Response Network" listed events by location and date and allowed users to submit in-

By Rachel Cho, Ana Espinoza, Zareen Johnson, Rachel Kogan, Eli Lefcowitz, and Max Miranda. Photos by Pam Hidalgo.



ear noon on Aug. 9, 2014, 18-year-old black man Michael Brown was fatally shot by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. The six bullets that left holes in Brown have torn holes in American race relations, American police relations and faith in America's justice system.

Weeks before Brown's death, Eric Garner was accused of selling "loosies," (single cigarettes without tax stamps) by New York City Police Department officer Daniel Pantaleo, who then employed what is considered by some a "headlock" and by others a "chokehold." This maneuver caused Garner to have a heart attack, which tragically ended his life an hour later. The man had suffered from asthma. obesity, and cardiovascular problems.

These cases and others raised serious concerns about police brutality across the United States. Neither case led to an indictment of the police officer involved,

creating a firestorm of protests, the likes of which have not been seen since the Civil Rights Movement. Some demonstrations were peaceful, such as those by Columbia University students in response to the Garner ruling. Other protests were more physical. In Ferguson, Missouri, 11 have been injured and 205 have been arrested.

The United Nations has gotten involved by publishing a study on American police brutality, and inviting Michael Brown's parents to testify in Geneva. The United Nations' involvement is a sobering reminder of the grim nature of this conflict. Everyone from Katy Perry to LeBron James has expressed opinions about the matter. These racial tensions will undoubtedly be marked in textbooks.

With this news of riots, rallies, and protests splattered across the media, many Schreiber students cannot help but become engulfed in the unfolding situation. The issues stemming from the Brown and Garner trials have become up close and personal, as many take the initiative to search the Internet for more information regarding the trials. As a result, student

Senior Mirian Molina stands amidst participants in the Millions March, held on Dec. 13. More than 30,000 people joined the New York City protest to support black victims of racially motivated police brutality.

Some students expressed their concern regarding the ambiguity surrounding the

reactions vary

"It's better to learn about politics via social media because there's broader opinions and a large spectrum of perspectives," said senior Nikki Sabilia. "Social media shaped everyone's opinions about Ferguson, which is good and bad. It's important for people our age to be informed and have an opinion—we're all going to be voting soon."

#### Brown testimonials.

"I don't feel, from what I've seen and read, that there was enough evidence on either side to conclusively say what happened," said senior Kim Winter. "The flaw in our justice system wasn't that they didn't indict him. It is that nobody knows what happened."

Because the two verdicts were revealed within the same month, people have searched for similarities and differences between the two events. Many students are taken aback.

"A nation is its people — all its people," said senior Olivia Mann. "And if one person that is one part of the nation suffers, so too does the whole."

Many Schreiber students are passionate about gaining an understanding of the situation, regardless of their own race or ethnicity.

"Obviously the events that transpired are terrifying," said senior Jesse Epstein. And if I feel that way, then it must be so much worse for someone who can relate better to these victims, whether it be due to race or social class."

With new protests occurring daily, many students find themselves focusing

more on the Garner rather than the Brown verdict. Some students have turned their attention toward understanding the protests in New York City.

"There has to be some denial about the continuing racism in our society and law system," said senior Mia Crowley. "The protests are the best thing that can come out of these two cases. It makes me confident in our society to see how many people are ready to stand up for justice. I hope, since these cops didn't get punished, that they would never be allowed to forget about the lives they took."

Others question the validity of police authority.

"I support peaceful protests to better our society; however, I feel that in order to prevent such events from recurring, we need higher standards for police officers," said sophomore Allison Winter. "We need to feel protected, not endangered. Shouldn't the people we are willingly giving guns be qualified enough to not endanger citizens?"

Other students believed that protesters have been taking the situation too far.

"I think they are absurd," said senior Erin McDonough. "I have a few good friends that are police officers in New York City. There are protestors chanting 'What do we want? Dead cops. When do we want it? Now!' It is extremely unsettling and nerve-racking hearing that. These people that are protesting don't understand that the police officers that they want dead are in fact protecting them."

Some traffic blockages due to the protests have disrupted emergency services. Situations like these have made some students question the necessity of the prolonged protests.

"Well first, I think that they have gotten their point across," said McDonough "I think that the fact that they are still protesting, over a week later, is insane. Nothing has changed in the government's decision, nothing will change it, and the protesting is not going to bring back either Michael Brown or Eric Garner."

Other students look at the look at the methods of protesting with skepticism. Some have expressed their feelings as the protests being useless with regards to changing the jury's verdict.

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Many people, including students, have taken to voicing their opinions online. On Nov. 24, the day that Robert McCulloch, prosecuting attorney, announced that the grand jury would not indict Officer Wilson, the Internet exploded. At 8:30 p.m., the Twitter hashtag #FergusonDecision peaked for the night at 200,000 tweets per half hour. The topic was also trending on Facebook, and protesters from Ferguson and other parts of the country broadcast recordings of the police and other protesters on Vine. Tumblr users were share ing posts that demonstrated their anger and spread information about the events. Many student Internet users shared links to articles and made Facebook posts, and others reported that their feeds were 99% Ferguson-related that night and the fol-

Although Americans have been pro-

#### testing for civil rights for decades,

ment. Protests erupted across the country and even the world. In cities like Hong Kong and Mexico City, those who were already protesting their own governments added the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" sign of putting their hands above their heads

"I understand the feelings of the pro- to their protests. Photos from these protests and American protests alike quickly spread across social media.

formation on protests they were organizing. Pages like this helped gather massive numbers of people together.



A protestor holds up a sign at the Dec. 13 Millions March protest. At least five Schreiber students demonstrated their support for Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and other victims of police brutality at the rally.

Social platforms helped allow more sides of the Ferguson and Garner stories I knew because I found that CNN and to be told.

social media because there's broader opinions and a large spectrum of perspectives," said senior Nikki Sabilia. "Social media shaped everyone's opinions about Ferguson, which is good and bad. It's important for people our age to be informed and have an opinion—we're all going to be voting soon."

The Brown family's public statement, in which they called for people to "channel [their] frustration in ways that will make a positive change," was shared quickly when posted online. Social media platforms also allowed users to organize huge protests in various parts of the nation and find out when and where protests would be happening in their area. One Tumblr blog called "the Ferguson National Response Network" listed events by location and date and allowed users to submit in-

"Social media totally changed what the like weren't really showing the Vines "It's better to learn about politics via and Tumblr posts-lesser known media, I guess—of people who were actually there," said senior Sarah Sigman.

From not standing for the pledge, to attending protests, to posting about it online, students have gotten involved with the movement. Some of the student body participated in the recent Millions March NYC protest on Dec. 13, along with almost 30,000 other people.

"I found out about the march through Facebook actually. One of my good friends from the city who has been part of the protests since they started posted about it, and it was just an anyone can add themselves and say they're going kind of group-just a public event," said senior Pam Hidalgo. "The experience at this march was liberating since, to be quite honest, I had my doubts about going. But the turnout was unbelievable. As you

walk down the street to reach Washington Square, you could already hear the chants and just everyone involved. Everyone had a voice, and I began to get goosebumps over the realness of it all, that my friends and I were a part of this, and it was an eye opener."

At the march, the protesters held signs that displayed many of the popular phrases and hashtags such as "#BlackLivesMatter" and "I Can't Breathe." The peaceful protesters chanting about the racism in the police department walked four miles to the NYPD headquarters. Residents of skyscrapers on the route opened their windows and went to their balconies.

One of the younger people at the protest was a Bronx sophomore named Raymond, who discussed how the decision affected him personally.

"I thought that the decision did not affect me," he said. "But then I realized anybody could be Mike Brown or anybody could be Eric Garner—anybody of any age could be a victim of police brutality."

While the protests may not bring back Brown or Garner, they certainly could help prevent another unnecessary death. Already since the outset of the protests, President Obama has announced a \$263 million program to train and supply police with body cameras.

If students want to get involved, there are opportunities available. They can share posts about events of police brutality from reputable sources, donate to bail and legal funds for those arrested during protests, sign petitions on whitehouse.gov, and call upon elected officials for change using scripts available online.

"I think now, people are understanding this isn't just about two victims, people are upset with the system, so this is just a step forward to changing the flaws in it," said Hidalgo.

By Rachel Cho, Ana Espinoza, Zareen Johnson, Rachel Kogan, Eli Lefcowitz, and Max Miranda. Photos by Pam Hidalgo.

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES FEATURES DECEMBER 19, 2014

## Fashion

#### BY Sydney Rosenthal

#### Contributing Writer

Christmas is that time of year when people get together with family and friends, write letters to Santa, exchange holiday cards and presents, and engage in personal traditions of all sorts. A common tradition includes decorating both the house and Christmas tree with lights. But there is one tradition that many young children abhor but older people adore: ugly Christmas sweaters.

Ugly sweaters have earned a reputation for themselves. Family members are often forced to wear these sweaters for family photos, or around the house when guests arrive. Wearing these sweaters is a real fashion disaster. It is a loud statement that, unfortunately, is not fashion forward. Though you will not see these sweaters The invasion of hideous sweaters The peculiar trend of ugly Christmas sweaters lives on

with big obnoxious sayings on them in magazines, they will almost certainly be part of your Christmas celebration.

For all of you hipsters out there who insist on always being fashion forward, it is possible to find one of these sweaters that suits your liking. Trendy stores such as Urban Outfitters as well as other local places sell ugly sweaters. And if that is not enough for you, there is an entire website dedicated to these sweaters called uglychristmassweater.com. Whether you wear these sweaters to look fashionable or to honor the Christmas season, they seem to be a very exciting and popular addition to the holiday season.

During the year, people want to look their best when seeing family and friends. But when it comes to the Christmas holiday many get caught up in tradition.



Josh Whit

Christmas sweaters with embellishments and buttons add texture to seasonal sweaters and can be dressed down with a pair of leggings or jeans for a more wearable look. Patterned sweaters with more traditional prints, such as reindeers, has a vintage feel as well as being warm and comfortable.



www.trriviera.com

Clothing people would not be caught dead in during the year, is suddenly proudly worn during the holiday season. These sweaters are garish and unappealing. But, we wear them anyways to show our affection towards others and love for the season. The sweaters may bring joy to a loved one. That when paired up with a holiday card, even one that shouts "look at this hideous sweater," makes a cute gift. Additionally, wearing these ugly sweaters makes people laugh, an important part of the holiday season.

"Most people would not wear these types of clothes on any other holiday during the year," said freshmen Allie Chase.

So, it looks as though wearing these sweaters is here to stay! till follow through with it to celebrate the holiday season. This time of year is meant to be spent with loved ones. Instead, it does not matter what type of clothing you choose to wear.



14

Assistant Features Editors

At last, the most festive time of the year is finally here. Yes, we can practically hear the sleigh bells ringing. But the holiday season would be nothing without the beloved flavors that come along with it.

Nothing beats the sweet smell of peppermint, gingerbread, cinnamon, or apple spice that has become the true trademark of the holiday season. Trudging through the snow whilst carrying a warm cup infused with these flavors is arguably one of the best parts of winter.

Luckily for us, living in Port means that there are endless options of coffee and tea Christmas flavors from which to choose. Between Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks, this essence of the holiday season seems to follow us everywhere.

Just walking into Starbucks brings that thrilling feeling to your bones, the feeling that Christmas has truly arrived. From the red and green décor to Christmas music playing in the background to the zesty drink in your hand, the store is a Christmas paradise.

Each year, wintery joy is packed into the Starbucks holiday menu. It offers holiday classics like the peppermint mocha and caramel brûlée lattes, as well as some new and exciting drinks like the praline and eggnog lattes. Each unique taste offers you Christmas in a cup.

"The other day I tried the gingerbread latte and it was beyond amazing," said senior Eliza Scheckner. "I'm always so excited for Christmas because of the new exciting flavors that I get to try."

Holding up its side of the competition, Dunkin Donuts got super creative this year as well. Instead of going the typical peppermint route, it introduced drinks such as the Sugar Cookie and Snicker Doodle Cookie lattes. After seeing the signs on the window for these incredibly innovative flavors, we ran a little too quickly through the doors to get a taste of what Dunkin had to offer.

As usual, Dunkin did not disappoint. The Sugar Cookie Latte tasted exactly as it sounds. Imagine biting into a warm buttery cookie with extra sprinkles, in the form of a drink. Yes, this really is what the experience of tasting the new drink felt like. As peculiar as the drink's name may sound, we urge you to try it.

While the Snicker Doodle did not ste exactly as the cookie does, it still brought upon the warm flavorful taste of the winter. This drink is exceptionally rich and delectable. So make sure you come to Dunkin with your sweet tooth ready! For the inner kid in all of us, we could not leave out winter's most famous drink, hot chocolate. In all honesty, there is not much that can put a smile on your face the same way that a creamy cup of melted chocolate can. And with options such as added peppermint, salted caramel, or cinnamon, hot chocolate during the holidays is as exciting as ever. So, take advantage of the flavors in store this season. Try to spice up your typical coffee routine. Do not be afraid to experiment with new Christmassy flavors! After all, springtime will be here before you know it, and these flavors will become a distant memory.

## Ultimate guide for all of your gift giving worries

BY Miranda Tanenbaum Staff Wrtier

Holiday season has arrived! Are you still scrambling to find the perfect gift? If so, you've come to the right place! I can help you find the perfect gift, whether it be for your friend, family member, or significant other.

One of the most common New Year's resolutions is to begin eating healthy, working out, and maybe shedding some pounds. Why not buy your friend or family member a gym membership to give them an extra boost?

that anyone could possibly need at any given moment, for only \$15.

Is your girlfriend a jewelry lover? So many cute little earrings and bracelets are sold at so many places, and they aren't too fancy or, more importantly, too expensive!

The Citrus Spritzer, made by Quirky, is a "great little gift for the one who adds citrus juice to everything," said Buzzfeed writer Alessia Santoro. "Shove it in a lemon and spray!"

Another great gift is the Ring Stylus by Kikkerland. It's genius for a parent or grandparent who is having trouble transitioning into the 21st century, or for an artistic friend. This small gadget makes doodling on a tablet fun and easy. Lastly, a great gift for anybody who loves board games is Cards Against Humanity. This fun game is guaranteed to make you laugh with whomever you're playing with. When all else fails, clothes are always a great gift to fall back on, if you know the person well enough. If you don't, gift cards to their favorite stores are acceptable. If you are ordering the clothes online, Ebates.com, takes you to the online stores you are already searching, while providing you with discounts. All you have to do to access it is sign up! And finally, if you are on a really low budget, you can always make gifts yourself. An adorable DIY gift idea is a studded phone case. All you need to make it is a blank phone case, some studs, and glue.

"I love DIY gifts," said sophomore Katie Oppenheim. "They are really made from the heart!"

Another great idea is a geode ring. You can look online at Uniqueusa.com for instructions on who to mold your geode or pyrite, blank ring, and glue together.

Personalized DIY cork coasters are also adorable. All you need to do is cut out a circular piece of cork and decorate according to your gift-receiver's distinct coaster preferences. Last but not least, personalized mugs are not only useful, but also meaningful and charming. If you have blank, boring mugs, you can draw on them with Sharpie and bake them in an oven at 350 degrees. Wait 30 minutes and you have beautiful, artistic, wonderful, and exciting mugs! Have fun this holiday season and shower your loved ones with gifts. The holidays are about giving more than you are already receiving. Often times the best gifts are not items worth a fortune, but presents made or purchased with affection and appreciation. This time of year, it really is the thought that counts, so do not be intimidated by those daunting price tags, and nosedive into the holiday spirit with the beautiful tradition of gift giving.

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Even if it's only for one month, the gym membership is affordable and will help them get started. Don't know where to find a gym membership? Try Groupon.com. The site has great deals and discounts on everything gym-related.

We all know people who want to get healthy, but do not want to go to the gym to workout. Get these people something from Our Harvest, an online grocery store that sells fresh and healthy fruits, vegetables, meats, and other groceries for affordable prices. Gift cards are also available. They donate food to a local food pantry for every food order above \$25.

It you are looking to buy stocking stuffers, the possibilities are endless. One perfect gift for girls is the Minimergency Kit, a pocket size pouch with everything

## DIY: how to transform your room into a winter wonderland

**BY Delia Rush** 

Features Editor

Twinkling lights, indescribable sensations, and joyous memories: all are unique to the holiday season. Don't you wish you could bottle up this spirit and take it inside? There are easy and affordable ways to capture the essence of all things magical during this glorious season, and selfishly hoard it in our bedrooms.

For many of us, our bedrooms are private spaces. Some use them just for sleeping purposes, others for studying. There are, however, some humans whose knack for interior design allows them to transform their four walls and a bed into a sanctuary for self-reflection. Secretly, all of us are those humans. Some of us just need to learn to access our home design skills.

With the holidays just around the corner, your inner interior designer is beckoning to come out. Perhaps you haven't heard the little guy screaming out from the inside, but that little jingle you hear in your head every time you see a string of Christmas lights? That's him.

"I always recommend using any holiday decorations because it really boosts up your spirit," said Home Goods employee Debbie Oyarzun, Schreiber class of 2013. "It's good to decorate all year round, no matter the season."

Allowing yourself to tap into your trapped Buddy the Elf can give you that final push to finally get into the holiday spirit. With tests, projects, and just regular old homework that seems to pile up in these last few weeks leading up to vacation, feeling the holiday cheer is a little bit more difficult than it was back in the day. Remember when the last week of school going into the holidays consisted of "Winter Wonderland parties" and multiple viewings of seasonal favorites like "Elf" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas?"

Your first step is to find inspiration by scrolling through Tumblr, flipping through magazines, or watching room décor videos on YouTube. Try to find the accessories you like.

Unfortunately, most of us cannot afford to completely redo our rooms for just a few weeks of the year. So, the most

practical solution is to fill your room with seasonal decorations and rearrange your furniture.

An easy go-to for the season is to hang Christmas lights around your room, whether it be up high by the ceiling, around a window, or resting along your bed's headboard. This may be a rather cliché accessory, but it can make a garbage bin seem beautiful.

Now that you have an idea of what you want, go find it! Raid Home Goods and department stores like Macy's, which has an out-of-this-world interior design section, for great holiday deals.

"For Christmas, an arrangement of nice little holiday pieces is an easy way to decorate, and you can never go wrong with a bold accent piece, like drapes," said Oyarzun.

Buying simple and inexpensive design pieces creates a multitude of decorative possibilities. Throw blankets and pillows, candles, and small festive accents can really tie a room together.

"I decorate with lights around the

windows and above my bed," said junior Kristen Capozzi. "I also put up a Merry Christmas sign, a mini Christmas tree, and a light-up Santa hat on my dresser,"

Purchasing items of a similar color scheme can transform any room into a winter wonderland. Searching for accessories on sale can help you keep a budget but still add some festive touches. Another option is to search your attic or basement for some older pieces of furniture or accents that could add a vintage touch to your room.

However, despite the work you put into it, your room may still not be perfect. Delve into your hidden creativity and pursue a DIY (Do It Yourself) project. A trip to a crafts store like Michael's is inspiring in and of itself.

There are plenty of ideas and tutorial videos online to help you out. Just search through any popular beauty guru's recent videos and a room décor video is sure to come up. Some of these may even include DIY projects.

These projects range from handmade



Small and subtle accessories, such as Santa hats or Christmas lights, can completely change the ambiance of your room. Simple decorations can help freshen up your room, no matter the season.



#### Stringing lights around a doorway adds a festive and welcoming touch to any room.

wreaths to personalized wooden candle stands. DIY décor can completely change your room for no more than \$20 and is completely subject to your personal preference. The bonus? DIY projects make great gifts too that are sentimental and meaningful to both the giver and the receiver.

Some YouTubers who have videos on this include Bethany Mota (MacBarbie07), Meredith Foster (StilaBabe08) and Ingrid Nilsen (missglamorazzi). These popular vloggers upload videos frequently with detailed DIY tutorials and inspiration for any seasonal room decorations. Simply visit YouTube and you're bound to find hundreds of these videos.

So whether you are having some trouble getting into the holiday spirit or just want to change your room up a little bit, check out some "roomspiration." Make a list of the little things you want to add to your room, find some good sales, and buy some festive steals. Explore the corners of your home, hang ornaments, make something with your own hands. Whichever route you choose, do not forget to blast some holiday tunes, light some gingerbread-scented candles, and plunge into the holiday spirit.

## Reinventing yourself with New Year's resolutions; well, kind of Some tips on how to not completely miss your goals during 2015

**BY Jake Arlow** Staff Writer

every month of the year," said senior makes you stressed and anxious, maybe first week of February. Mano Beys. "Even if it means kidnapping the best New Year's resolution would If you want to show them and bonding with them against their be to stop putting so much pressure on

Cristen Capozzi

If you want to show your perseverance and hold out until at least the second week

As the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, fear strikes in many people's hearts. The dreaded time has come: they must actively (if not futilely) attempt to complete their New Year's resolutions. Throughout the month of December they happily told anyone that this year they plan to "get fit," "eat healthy," and "actually take my guinea pig out of its cage because it needs from fresh air, that poor thing."

These proclamations are nothing more than that, an announcement of a plan. New Year's resolutions seem so fun and practical in theory, but when it comes to following through on their word, people have an even harder time than Congress in enacting resolutions.

Some people already have ideas of what their New Year's resolutions will be.

"I really want to make a new friend

will. I'm really committed."

For those of you who are not as inspired, here are some simple ideas: you could pick up a new hobby—something you are really passionate about, like chess or gardening or building world-dominating robots. Try writing a handwritten letter to your relatives once a month. It'll make them happy and plus you won't have to talk to them on the phone and repeat loudly the thing you just said.

Floss your teeth—your poor gums will thank you, not to mention your dentist and every other person you've ever been in close contact with. Write a diary-it will never judge you for not following through on your resolutions, unless you stop writing in it, then it will judge you as harshly as an 18th century school marm.

If the idea of all of these resolutions

yourself.

The world will keep spinning if you are unable to go to soccer practice, then babysit for five hours, then do homework, then cook dinner for your entire extended family, then watch eight seasons of Parks and Red on Netflix in one night. Try to say "no" sometimes to more responsibility.

"Maybe I'll try to actually laugh out loud when I type 'LOL," said senior Matthew Nicholson, "I think that will really make a difference in my life."

This one might be ambitious, but it's still a resolution. Whatever you plan on doing this new year, you'll need some tools to follow through with your resolution. Don't be discouraged by ghosts of New Year's Resolutions past, despite the fact that an estimated 80% of the "New Year's Resolution" gym crowd stops going by the

of February, here are some strategies: you could do this is by recording yourself saying your resolution 1,000 times angrily and passionately until you lose your voice. This will give you purpose and drive.

Another way to make sure you complete your resolution is to tell other people your plan. By doing this you will be held accountable and can be mocked endlessly when you inevitably fail.

"Last year I swore off murdering people," said senior Jina Lay. "And then the last person that mocked me about it never mocked me again. I have the same resolution this year."

Don't worry too much about this New Year. You may not follow through on your resolutions, but the new year is still a clean slate. You have a chance to start fresh and fail on your promises again next year.

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES FEATURES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

### Transform your break into the ultimate stay-cation

#### **By Maddie Cohen**

Features Editor

Ah, finally. Your tests are done, there is no school for two weeks, and the holidays are approaching. You feel as though a weight has been lifted off your shoulders. Now you can focus on the most important task for this time of the year: getting into the holiday spirit.

The first few days of vacation feel

great. You finally catch up on hundreds of hours of sleep you missed, and to top it off, your workload is, hopefully, light. You are finally able to kick back and relax. So you decide to scroll down your Instagram feed. And what do you see?

Blue waters, sandy feet, palm trees, piña coladas (virgin, of course), and beautiful sunsets. By the tenth picture, you get the point. You are stuck in the bitter cold while all of your friends are tanning, swimming, and lounging. But before you begin to lash out at your parents for not taking you anywhere, I advise you to put the phone down and stop your finger from any further scrolling.

My friend, do not let these photos and Snapchat stories ruin your vacation. Although you may not believe it, there is plenty to do at home. And the best part is, there is no need for struggle whilst packing your suitcase.

1. Step up your Netflix game. Take some time to unplug and unwind. Besides, with all of those tests, Netflix has been desperately awaiting your arrival. It is time to grab your favorite blanket, get comfy, toss your phone to the side, and catch up on your favorite shows.

"During the break, I sleep, eat, watch Netflix, and find any other way to avoid my relatives," said senior Jina Lay.

Trust me, do not let this window of opportunity go because in three weeks, when midterms roll around, you will be wishing you had time to watch TV.

2. Day trip to the city. After you're recharged and prepared to face the cold, take a day trip to Rockefeller Center. Ice skating and taking a picture with the famous eighty-five foot Christmas tree will fill another day in your not-so-boring stay-cation! After all, people come from all over the world to visit New York City, so make sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

Give yourself a spa day. Like I 3. said before, a spa day will be needed once January rolls around. Whether it be treating yourself to a massage, getting a mani-pedi, or lighting candles all around make snowflake-shaped cookies or red velvet cupcakes with green frosting, your friends and family will much appreciate your presentation of the holiday spirit. If you ned ideas for cool recipes thedomesticrebel.com has super creative and fun recipes.

7. Volunteer. The holidays are a time to give back to the less fortunate, whether it is by running a food or clothing drive or helping out at a soup kitchen. Just



your house while meditating, you do you. Besides it is a new year, and you need to be ready for a fresh start.

4. Catch a movie or go bowling. Yes, it may sound cheesy, but it will bring you back to your childhood days filled with bowling parties and Justin Bieber movies. Besides, either of these activities are great for a family or group of friends. So grab your bowling shoes and go to moviefone. com to check out the latest movies in theaters.

5. Eat food. Go on a food crawl. Whether you go to restaurants in Port, the city, or another town, indulge in all types of food and don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone and try new foods. Plus, you can stick it to all of your friends on vacation because food Instagrams can definetely outdo pictures of palm trees or Caribbean sunsets.

6. Bake. Hopefully you are not discouraged by the banned bake sales at school, because with the holiday approaching it is a great time to bake all your favorite desserts. Whether you Google New York City or Bronx volunteer opportunities and you will find hundreds of options. Not only will it look good on that college application, but also you will feel proud and fulfilled for helping others.

8. Go on a college tour. Although college may be the last thing you want to think about during the holidays, go for it. Nothing bad can come from getting a head start (or in some cases, getting a late start). It may seem intimidating at first but hey, look at it this way: you're finally getting out of Port!

One last tip: If you really want to escape the cold, you may want to consider hibernation. It doesn't sound too bad if you ask me.

But for the rest of you, relax and enjoy yourself this vacation. Although you may not be flying on a plane or getting a tan, there is still plenty you can do to have a memorable stay-cation!Regardless, a sixteen day break from school is all that us hard working students can wish for.



Features Editor

Freshman Dara Kaufman devotes her time and energy to making jewelry and selling it to charity. Seeing overpriced necklaces at various stores and knowing that she could easily sell jewelry for a more reasonable price, Kaufman began working with her mom to make pearl necklaces for just five dollars a piece. Kaufman later expanded her business to selling black chokers for three to six dollars a piece.

"My mom and I have raised over \$500, and that has all been given to North Shore Animal League," said Kaufman. "It's very easy. Almost anyone can do it. I keep up with the trends, and my mom and I are very creative and crafty."

The North Shore Animal League in Port Washington is an animal rescue shelter committed to stopping animal cruelty. They describe themselves as a nokill shelter, meaning they save all animals that can be adopted and cared for. The League has used Kaufman's generous contributions to purchase food and toys for the rescued animals.

"I have always loved animals and I believe the North Shore Animal League is an amazing organization that truly helps animals in need," said Kaufman when asked why she selected the North Shore Animal League as her charity of choice.

Kaufman makes and advertises jewelry during her free periods and after class. She keeps extra materials in her backpack to make jewelry whenever she has time. Kaufman sells jewelry during her off periods and after class. Her carefully crafted items have been purchased by many people including her friends, family members, Schreiber students, and teachers.

"It's fun and I like being an entrepreneur," said Kaufman. "I hope that more people will buy so we can help the animals even more."

Kaufman's ideas for the future include making beaded bracelets, but she and her mother are always searching for new, creative designs.

### What's all the recent buzz about the addictive media site, BuzzFeed?

**BY Katie Oppenheim and Carly Perlmuter** 

Staff Writers

accomplished is finding out that I know way less about Mean Girls than I thought. BuzzFeed is so addicting, but also so much fun!"

It can be fun to see which friend knows the most about '80s song lyrics, or if that of the Buddy Media Kass Lazerow said Kanye West quote is real or fake.

"If I see an article or quiz about food

High-profile investor and co-founder to Business Insider that BuzzFeed is "the defining media company for the social

Have you ever heard of BuzzFeed? If so, then you are definitely a procrastinator. BuzzFeed has so many interesting facts and quizzes that once you start browsing, it is nearly impossible to stop.

If you ever wondered how much you really know about the Disney princesses, or how "on fleek" you are, BuzzFeed is the website for you. BuzzFeed staff reporters, contributors, cartoon artists, and the public update the website's content several times a day to keep it as current as possible. It includes topics such as music, beauty, sports, pop culture, politics, DIY ideas, technology, fashion, books, food, and animals.

"Sometimes I need a break from doing my homework, so I check out the latest buzz," said junior Hannah Altuch. "Next thing you know it's 11 p.m. and all I've

BuzzFeed was created in 2006 by Jonah Peretti in New York City. Peretti originally created the website to test and record viral content on the internet. In its early stages, the original projects were random. In August, the website raised \$50 million from the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, double its previous funding. With these funds, BuzzFeed was able to start using native advertisements, or advertisements that match the content of their articles.

People do not always spend time on this site on their own. Many of the posts are so relatable that friends often think of each other when reading articles, and subsequently share them on social media sites such as Facebook. BuzzFeed is also a great way for people to connect with one another based on common interests. I'm immediately interested and I know my friends are too," said sophomore Remi Mankes. "I'll post it on their Facebook wall, and hopefully brighten their day a little bit."

Critics are beginning to wonder if BuzzFeed will be the future of journalism. This future is not too bright. These critics question the validity and importance of BuzzFeed material to the global community.

"I find the website to be stupid and a big waste of time," said sophomore Alex Devas. "I feel that very little relevant information is shared, and I truly believe that if this is the future of journalism, then our society is in deep, deep trouble. I think that BuzzFeed has the right idea though, and that they can turn the site around and get back on the right track!"

age."

All of Buzzfeed's weird lists, breaking news, celebrity gossip, picture stories, and quirky quizzes have been shared with friends, family members, co-workers, and teammates across the globe. Whether you are surfing the internet, or scrolling down your newsfeed on Facebook, you will not miss a buzzfeed article.

Dangerously addicting, BuzzFeed will leave you giggling uncontrollably and craving more knowledge of random facts. What started as a simple idea has quickly snowballed into a nation-wide craze. Based on its rapid success, BuzzFeed is likely here to stay. Of course, it will have to correct any of its current flaws. But when that happens, get ready for a BuzzFeed takeover



## With help from writer, students take on love in Almost, Maine

#### **By Tessa Peierls**

Assistant News Editor

Almost, Maine, a play composed of a series of interconnected one-acts about love, is a beautiful comedy that left audience members cheering. The play took place Nov. 20-23 on the Schreiber stage and was directed by Ms. Christine Nelson and produced by Ms. Lauren Foster-Holzer. Senior Ariel Waldman served as assistant director.

"I think that people who didn't know the show were a little wary about the choice because it's very different from the other shows we've done recently, but people who knew the show were really excited," said Waldman. "Once we did the readthrough, everyone realized that this was something special and got excited. The excitement kept going because everyone only came for their scene and didn't see everyone else for months so it was really fun to see how the scenes looked next to each other, when the time came."

The cast was lucky enough to be visited by writer John Cariani, who discussed the characters and inspired the cast. His visit paid off, as each cast member was able to take his suggestions to heart and transform themselves into the characters that created a unique and hilarious show.

The only characters to be in multiple scenes opened and closed the show, creating a sense of unity. Sophomore Sarah DeMarino and Junior Evan Gilmore played Ginette and Pete, respectively, a shy couple that tied the play together. Their scenes were short but important in introducing the theme of love. Both actors captured the awkward innocence of the relationship in a sweet and comical Sophomore Christian Hill and junior Alexandra DeAngelis played Easton and Glory in the act "Her Heart." The scene started off convolutedly as DeAngelis' character showed up in Easton's yard clutching a bag, but all was revealed in a neat monologue by Glory, who explained that her broken heart was inside the bag. This scene also showcased an incredible set that took the audience by surprise. The curtain detailed with lights was on full display and brought the audience into the starry night. The Aurora Borealis projected onto the ceiling of the auditorium stunned attendees. "Sad and Glad" charmed the audience in the beginning with its light humor and won the audience over with its hopeful, albeit cliché, ending. Senior Jesse Epstein played Jimmy, a heating and

cooling guy who learns that his ex, played by freshman Sarah Mannix, is getting married. Freshman Isabelle Verdino played the waitress with whom Jimmy seemed fated to end up with. Although the female cast members were both freshmen and thus did not have as much experience on the Schreiber stage as other cast members, both were fully dedicated to their characters and kept the audience's attention.

The third scene had the audience in hysterics over the well-staged and realistic physical comedy. The reference to the concept "love hurts" was startling, when Steve, played by junior Jordan Youner, was hit in the head multiple times with an ironing board. Aside from the scare, "This Hurts" was a sweet scene that brought sophomore Anna Cohen to the front, where she captured the funny and bold character Marvalyn perfectly.

Seniors Wyn Stopford and Laynie Calderwood closed Act I with a bang in "Getting it Back." Calderwood put humor into Gayle, who demanded a physical representation of her love back from her long time boyfriend, Lendall (Stopford). When Lendall gave Gayle an engagement ring, he won the audience's hearts and brought the mood up from the previous slightly chilly scenes. The scene was poignant and humorous, leaving the audience wanting more.

Senior Oren Barasch and sophomore Christian Hill played Randy and Chad in "They Fell," which focuses on two friends who start to "fall" for each other, literally and figuratively. While the metaphor was very obvious and somewhat silly, the scene was wellacted, and Barasch and Hill handled the scene well.

"Went" contrasted with most of the other scenes because of its focus more on lost love than growing love. Phil and Marci, played by seniors Wyn Stopford and Rachel Ellerson, were a married couple who were no longer happy with each other. Marci spoke of the difficulty of being in such an emotional scene.

"It could be a little painful at times since it really is such a horrible thing to go through no matter what the circumstances may be. As an actress I try to find the emotions for the characters I play within myself, and accessing those emotions can be difficult at times and even hurt," said Ellerson. "I really enjoyed the experience though and ended up learning a lot about theater and myself."

While this scene was less motivational and left a melancholy aftertaste, it was an important scene in the show that the cast did not shy away from. The vibrant acting in "Where it Went" truly captured the attention of those watching.

Senior Elizabeth Muratore and freshman Jack Gilsenan won the audience



Oren Barasch

17

Ginette (Sarah DeMarino) and Pete (Evan Gilmore) are shown holding hands after Ginette journeys over the entire Earth to find Pete again. The couple began and ended the show, tying together the production.

> with a great performance of one of the more awkward scenes, "Story of Hope." Muratore played Hope, a woman who traveled the world only to come back to the man she had left years ago. Gilsenan played a man who turned out to be the same man Hope had left. While Hope's chattiness and the general melancholic tone of the scene could have been offputting, Muratore's genuine and honest interpretation of Hope stole the audience's hearts.

> The final scene had the audience lling on the floor. Seniors Megan Poulos and Oren Barasch delivering each line with perfect comedic timing. Poulos' character Rhonda, a tough woman, cannot understand the painting Dave made for her. The audience later found out that the drawing was of a simple heart, a foreign object in Rhonda's mind. Poulos in particular drew everyone's attention with her bold choices and physical acting. Almost, Maine was praised by Senior Haley Sambursky students. discussed the highlights. "I was astounded," said Sambursky. "The whole production came together really nicely. It was funny, it was serious, the acting was great, and the sets were gorgeous. It was a really nice show "



Oren Barasch

Phil (Wyn Stopford) showing his wife Marci (Rachel Ellerson) a planet that he believes to be a star. This serves as further proof to Ellerson that her husband does not pay adequate attention to anything, especially her.

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES A&E FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

### Fame past Schreiber: an interview with Katie Lowes | Evolution of gaming

BY Rachel Ellerson

18

Many people know rising star Katie Lowes ('99) as an actress from the show *Scandal*. But what most people do not know about her is that she attended Schreiber. While at Schreiber, Lowes was part of a production of *Anything Goes*, which the school is currently rehearsing.

**Rachel Ellerson**: What is the most challenging role you have ever played and what made it so challenging?

Katie Lowes: I think the most challenging role I ever played was a character named Veronica in a play called Accidental Blonde with my LA based theatre company called IAMA Theatre Company. It was a world premiere play and she was incredibly dark, complex, bitter, and most likely bi-polar or manic. For the life of me I couldn't figure her out. A month of rehearsals and I still felt like I was missing pieces of her. Sometimes that just happens though. Sometimes you try your best and it's not enough. It's one of the reasons I love acting, the show must go on right?

**RE**: In what ways is acting for TV different than acting on the stage?

**KL**: The camera is like a microscope. It catches every little thing. So acting for the camera is small, honest, mostly behind the eyes and laser focused. Acting for the stage is all about the fact that you have to reach the person in the back row. Which means you have to use your voice, your body, and your breath in a much larger capacity so the entire audience can see and feel the story you're telling.

**RE**: Which do you prefer and why?

**KL**: I love them both for different reasons. And I think both are incredibly important to practice all the time.

**RE**: What is your favorite episode of *Scandal* and why do you like it?

KL: Hmm, I think my favorite Scandal episode was in the second season called

"752." It's when Huck loses his mind and keeps repeating "752" over and over again and all the Gladiators in Olivia Pope and Associates have to perform a monologue to Huck to try and get him to snap out of it. We got the scripts the night before at 8 p.m. and I was the first monologue up at 8 a.m. the next day. I was in a panic to cram the lines in. We have to be word perfect on Scandal and speak at an incredibly fast pace so you can imagine how stressed I was and didn't sleep a wink. We all worked so hard that day and rallied around each other. The whole cast and I were running lines with each other and that day something just clicked for me. I learned that we are a family and a true ensemble and we are all only as strong as our most exhausted link so everyone came to support me and it ROCKED!

**RE**: Do you watch *Scandal* or is it weird to watch yourself acting?

KL: I watch it every week so I can live tweet with the fans! I hate watching myself act on screen. I watch it once and then that's it.

**RE**: Do you find anything about Quinn relatable?

KL: Quinn season 1 was relatable to me. She was the newbie, the rookie, the youngest, and a bright eyed girl. And that's how I felt at the time. Now that she has evolved so much, she's tougher and stronger and does some pretty crazy things, however, I still think she wakes up a hopeful person and that is something she and I have in common.

**RE**: If you could give Quinn some advice, what would it be?

KL: I would tell her to go find a normal dude to date. Unfortunately, I know that's way too boring for Quinn!

**RE**: What was your Schreiber experience like?

**KL**: Schreiber was wonderful! I was able to flourish there and participate in so many things that shaped who I am today. I had access to artistic outlets that were



The Schreiber alumnus is now an actress on the ABC drama *Scandal*.

so important in those formative years. I was in chorus, chamber chorus, women's choir, band. I got to participate in many musicals, and plays, and drama club, and Shakespeare Day... IT WAS AWESOME!

**RE**: What was your favorite Schreiber theater production to be a part of? Who did you play? Why did you like it so much?

KL: *Equus* was HUGE for me. I played a horse in the background. I don't think I even had any lines. It was the first straight play I had ever done. Before then I had always only done the musicals and loved it, but this was my first drama. I was 14 and didn't know plays like this existed and I was HOOKED.

**RE**: Schreiber is currently putting on *Anything Goes* like you did when you went to Schreiber. What if any advice do you have for the current cast and crew?

**KL**: YES! I love that musical! My advice would be to commit 100 percent; practice, practice, practice and HAVE FUN UP THERE! If you're having fun so will the audience!

### Cosby allegations create contention about Hollywood idolization

BY Eli Lefcowitz

Staff Writer

Until recently, Bill Cosby was the embodiment of wholesome family entertainment. Many students have fond memories of watching The Cosby Show in middle school or Fat Albert on Saturday mornings. His comedy was innocent and timeless. However, "America's Dad" recently became the subject of controversy after more than 25 women accused him of rape. Cosby's position as a role model in people's lives was ruined, as well as his entire life's work. Nobody could have expected such allegations towards such a seemingly innocent and inspiring man. Ever since Hollywood has become a fixture in American culture, people have looked to it for idols and role models. However, recent allegations should arouse skepticism about celebrities. Bill Cosby was a ground-breaking comedian with quite a backstory. After dropping out of school in the tenth grade, he enlisted in the Navy. Soon, he was able to acquire a sports scholarship to Temple University, honing his skills for comedy

while playing fullback on the school football team. Despite a couple failed television shows, he premiered The Cosby Show in 1984. The show was different in that it portrayed an intelligent, affluent African-American household. Within months of its premiere, the show garnered great ratings and a multicultural audience. Cosby later said he created the show in response to the violence and sex that was becoming more prevalent on TV. Rather ironic when viewed in the context of these allegations. Cosby became a renowned comedian applauded for comedy that touched on serious subjects such as disabilities, teen pregnancy, and poverty. Children growing up in the '80s have fond memories of watching and learning from The Cosby Show. For some, these achievements make allegations against Cosby hard to believe. However, the magnitude of 25 women alleging the same thing has been able to convince others of the unthinkable: their role model is a criminal. Most of the women said that Cosby drugged and raped them, some going on to include details of violence. These actions are disturbing by

themselves, but that such a trusted figure was accused shocked America.

Many critics are already skeptical about how much we look up to and trust Hollywood, and their case is furthered by the fact that the first rape allegations regarding Cosby surfaced over ten years ago, in 2000. Even with this allegation, he was listed as the third most trusted celebrity, according to an American marketing group. After the latest rape allegations, he fell into the high 2000s on the list. America should not have such strong trust in the characters they see in the media. As after all, a character is just that: a completely fictional person and personality. Judging an actor based on the characters they portray is extremely unwise. They are entertainers, and their job should extend beyond that, especially with all the real role models that exist. From scientists to politicians to philanthropists who unceasingly pursue a better society, there is no shortage of role models. And yet, Americans choose to worship entertainers.

BY Will Day Contributing Writer

According to the National Purchase Diary, over 90% of children ages 2-17 and around 97% of teens in the U.S. play video games. This is a result of both the expansion of video game technology and the development of mobile gaming. When broadly analyzed, it seems that certain games are popular in different school grade levels.

In elementary school, most of the children will mainly play simple, uncompetitive games like *Minecraft*. In middle school, children will usually play simple first person shooter games, such as *Call of Duty*. Finally, in high school, some kids will move on to competitive player vs. player games, such as *League* of *Legends* or *Starcraft*, while others will choose complex campaign-based games, such as *Grand Theft Auto* and *Assassin's Creed*.

Although many of these games do not use traditional advertising, they are all still marketed towards a target demographic. Minecraft has not spent a cent on advertising, but has sold over 17 million copies. At first, the game was quite simple and lacked the gun violence that is prevalent in many popular games. As it grew, the game's developers realized that the lack of guns in a game that could definitely have guns was not a weakness, but rather a marketing asset. The reason that the game is so popular among elementary school children is that it seems like a lesser evil to many video game-adverse parents. The lack of guns, paired up with the game's encouragement of curiosity, exploration, and cooperation, appeals to parents, making Minecraft an extremely popular and accessible game to younger children.

One game that does heavily utilize traditional media advertising is Call of Duty. It targets boys between the ages of 10 and 14. This marketing approach has worked wonders, with the NPD estimating that 36% of teenage boys are Call of Duty players. The game's appeal derives from its combination of simplicity and competition. You shoot your enemies. Although unsettling, this simplicity can be comforting for young adolescents whose lives are transitioning from the innocence of childhood to the complexity of adulthood. Also, there is some primal pride in defeating your enemy that is not present when you outperform them academically.

As these players continue to grow up, many will certainly outgrow the simplicity of Call of Duty. Many will turn to the Multiplayer Online Battle Arena genre or MOBA. Starting out in 2003 with Defense of the Ancients, MOBA games now account for over 30% of the hours of video games played each month, about double the next most played genre. The combination of quick critical thinking and complex strategies has led to these games being extremely popular among older teens. These games are more complex than the ones that younger children are used to, so not many begin playing them before the age of 13. The average age of a MOBA player is around 21. The fact that video games are playing an ever-increasing role in a child's upbringing is reflective of the evolution of the children's tastes in video games. As a child's outlook, knowledge, and disposition changes, his or her preference with regards to video games alters as well.

## Stephen Hawking's life story brings everything into perspective

**BY Ruthie Gottesman** Contributing Writer

The Theory of Everything starts out as your typical romantic flick: boy catches the girl's eye from across a crowded room, boy and girl get to know each other, girl meets boy's parents, boy takes girl to a ball, the two watch the fireworks, and the two share a dance and a kiss. However, most movie-goers know from the start that this will not be your typical cinema romance.

This is a movie based on the life Stephen Hawking, a world-renowned physicist living with Lou Gehrig's disease.

The movie covers twenty years of Stephen Hawking's life, focusing on how Hawking deals with his illness and pursues happiness, despite his disability and dim prognosis.

What makes The Theory of Everything unique is that it does not obey the public's desire to see a perfect love story, where a couple defies all the odds and manages to stay together. Instead, it takes an untraditional route, honoring the complications of life.

The movie was based off of Hawking's ex-wife Jane Wilde's memoir, Traveling to Infinity: My Life With Stephen, and the movie is as much Wilde's movie as it is Hawkings. Eddie Redmayne, who plays Hawking, does a surreal job of transforming himself. Stephen Hawking himself has been reported as saying that at times thought it was himself on screen, and not an actor.

replicates Redmayne flawlessly Hawking's physical degeneration. Each progression, from crutches to wheelchair to machine that voices his thoughts, captivates the audience.

What is most notable about Eddie



Up and coming actor Eddie Redmayne flawlessly brings Stephen Hawking to life in James Marsh's The Theory of Everything. His authentic portrayal of Hawking has brought him nationwide praise, including a Golden Globe nomination for best actor.

Redmayne's performance is his sheepish smile. In the beginning, when Stephen first sees Jane, before his illness strikes, his smile is radiant. This smile manages to be just as charming, maybe even more so, in the later stages of his disease, when his neck fails to continue to support his head and his mouth is a tad lopsided. This smile demonstrates the character's perseverance and his will to enjoy life, despite many setbacks.

Hawking is told at the beginning of

the movie that he has two years to live. The fact that he survives decades past this prognosis is never addressed in the film, leaving audience members feeling incomplete. Also, Hawking's theories are never explained in a satisfying way and are perhaps oversimplified for the audience. The movie touches upon the tension between science and religion, but never delves too deeply into these issues.

Even though the story focuses on a physicist who believes in equations and definite solutions, it beautifully balances the relationship between boundaries and boundlessness.

The film will surely get some recognition when award season comes around. In fact, The Theory of Everything has received four Golden Globe nominations, including best dramatic motion picture, best score, and best actor nods to Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones.

## Mockingjay: Part One soars, setting up an epic finale for the series

BY Emilia Charno, Ilana Hill, and Samantha D'Alonzo Staff Writers

After watching the second movie in The Hunger Games trilogy, Catching Fire, viewers were left hungry for the next film to hit the theaters. However, many Hunger Games fans agree that Mockingjay, the conclusion to the young adult book trilogy, has the weakest plot and did not do the series justice. How did this translate to the the big screen film?

Although director Francis Lawrence tried to make the best of a limited storyline by balancing the plot with impressive actors like Jennifer Lawrence and Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Mockingjay: Part One still fell short of viewers' expectations. Movie adaptations of beloved books tend to face harsh criticism from loyal readers. Mockingjay is no exception. Perhaps the reason for this criticism lies in the fact that Mockingjay was divided into two parts. With barely enough material to fill the actual book, the movie made many question two entirely separate films. For this reason Mockingjay: Part One became a drawn-out transition to set the scene for the supposedly action-packed follow up. Despite attempts to thoroughly explain the rebellion and aspects of District 13, Panem's rogue and secretive refuge, viewers still found Mockingjay: Part One, hard to follow at times. It felt as if viewers needed to have read the book as well as seen the other movies to fully understand this one. This film was clearly intended

for the series' fans.

The movie heightened the importance of secondary characters like Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks), President Coin (Julianne Moore), and Plutarch Heavensbee (the late Philip Seymour Hoffman). This is by no means a criticism of the amazing performance the aforementioned actors gave, but rather a criticism of a feeble attempt to force drama into a weak script.

However, there were also characters that were minimized, such as Finnick Odair (Sam Claflin) and Haymitch Abernathy (Woody Harrelson). These dynamic characters made great contributions to the book's plot, but they were not equally present in Mockingjay



Part One. These actors' limited screen time has upset many eager viewers.

The saving graces of this film were the acting, soundtrack, and the special effects. Even in a world filled with horrendous grey jumpsuits, Jennifer Lawrence still shined in her role as Katniss Everdeen. Her genuine intensity added depth and character to the film that the script alone could not provide.

In addition to her fabulous acting, Lawrence provided a surprise for her viewers and dedicated fans. With the assistance of singer-songwriter Lorde, Lawrence sang a hauntingly beautiful song, "The Hanging Tree." This song, written by popular band The Lumineers, was one of many great tracks on the movie's soundtrack. It debuted in the iTunes Top 10 in more than 70 countries,



Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) sits for an interview with television personality Caesar Flickerman (Stanley Tucci) about the recent uprisings throughout Panem. During his captivity in the Capitol, Peeta is "persuaded" to take a stance against the love of his life.

including the United States.

What's more, the futuristic, dystopian world of Panem was portrayed in impeccable detail. The sharp contrast between the impoverished districts, the affluent capital, and the mysterious terrain that lay amid was made apparent throughout Mockingjay: Part One. These details helped the viewers empathize with the rebels and more fully understand the country's situation.

Overall, the multimillion dollar blockbuster film was by no means a complete failure. Directors, actors, and special effects personnel did an impressive job of bringing the lackluster book plot to life. While this latest Hunger Games installment may not have been all that viewers expected, the movie undoubtedly sets up Mockingjay: Part Two as an epic conclusion to the series.

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# Anna Catrone



Senior captain Anna Catrone shoots a layup against Lynbrook on Dec. 10. Catrone has helped lead the girls varsity basketball team to an undefeated conference record and a 3-2 overall record this season.

## Athletes Sf the Month X Sam Goldman



Senior captain Sam Goldman pins his opponent in a match against Westbury on Dec. 3. Entering the season, Goldman was ranked as the thirdbest wrestler in his division by the Long Island Wrestling Association.

## Ruthie G. and Annie K. have the Captain's Corner coming your way

BY	Eric	Fishbin
	Sports	Editor

Eric Fishbin: I am here with the ever so famous Ruthie G. and Annie K. of the Schreiber morning announcements. Thanks for joining me today!

Ruthie Gottesman: No problem!

Annie Kline: Thanks for having us!

EF: As freshmen, did hearing 'HAHA

#### like a lot!

AK: And most of them were seniors.

EF: Personally, I don't like public speaking. So do you think it's easier to do the announcements because it's just your voice behind a microphone?

RG: Yes, definitely. It's probably because you don't actually see the faces of the people you are talking to.

**EF:** If you could say one thing to

out, and sometimes people beg us to say the people were serious too! certain words and then we say them.

RG: My favorite one this year is probably belly dancer.

AK: Aardvarkian was probably a good one too.

RG: Elephantine was a fun one also. I am not sure if it's elephantian though.

EF: Clearly you both spend a lot of time together through the announcements and in classes. Do you ever get sick of each other?

**EF:** So where did the idea stem from?

RG: It was Annie's mom who gave the idea.

AK: Yeah it was actually my mom. She was just like, 'maybe you should do a shout-out!'

RG: And we were like, 'Genius!'

AK: We didn't know how to execute it first but we figured it out in time.

in the Morning with Holly and Ashley' inspire you to try out for the morning announcements?

AK: Haha, no not really. One day they made an announcement about trying out for the morning announcements because Holly and Ashley would be graduating and I said to Ruthie, 'Ha, wouldn't it be funny if we tried out? The next day she said, 'Yeah let's do it! Let's actually try out!' So we did it and got it.

EF: What was the competition like during that process?

RG: There wasn't that much competition, just like ten other groups.

EF: Wow, ten groups? That sounds

someone who doesn't listen to the announcements, what would it be?

RG: You're missing out on a lot of club opportunities and probably not active enough in your school.

AK: Also, we didn't listen to Holly and Ashley when we were freshmen so we also don't blame you!

EF: How did you come up with the idea for the different words in the morning? Also, what was your favorite one so far this year?

RG: I come up with all of them pretty much two seconds before I say them.

AK: Sometimes Mr. Weiss helps us

RG: No, never!

AK: We've been friends for a long time and we never get sick of each other.

EF: As you probably already know, people get really into the shout-out of the day. So, how did you come up with the idea at first, and has anyone ever begged to be it?

RG: No, nobody ever begs. Just kidding!

**AK:** Yeah, we have gotten some really interesting offers. Like one time we were bribed \$60 and then \$200. And I think

EF: What advice would you give to someone who wants to do the morning announcements once you guys graduate?

**AK:** Hmm, that is a tough one.

RG: Don't let the haters bring you down!

**AK:** Word. And make sure to come up with something clever!

**RG:** Because you will be saying it a lot!

AK: And we will be judging you!

RG: No, just kidding!

#### THE SCHREIBER TIMES SPORTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

## Underclassmen to watch for the winter season

<sup>BY</sup> Alex Devas, Joey Levine, and Justin Suzzan Contributing Writers and Staff Writer

During the winter season thus far, there have been several underclassmen who have taken leading roles on their respective teams.

Despite having been on the team for less time than many of their upperclassmen teammates, these younger players have found ways to make signifigant contributions. They also hope to have promising futures in their time as Vikings.

#### Freshman Lucy Hurt, **Girls Winter Track:**

Vikings Cross country runner and freshman Lucy Hurt, has made an instant impact on the team. She has proved to be not only one of the best runners on the team, but also one of the best in Nassau County.

During the fall season, Hurt ran a 19:20 5K at the Brown Invitational. Additionally, she finished as the third best runner in the county and as the second best at state qualifiers.

"Being only a freshman, Lucy has accomplished so much," said freshman and girls cross country team member Jenna Rubens. "She is a dedicated teammate and always tries her best and encourages others while doing so."

Overall, the girls cross country team finished third in the county. Next season, Hurt and the team plan to build on this result.

"We are aiming to do just as well next year and hopefully qualify for the whole team to make it to states," said Hurt. "My basketball team to another teammates and I are all really good friends and I know we can improve?

Hurt will continue to be one of the top runners for Port Washington this winter during the indoor track season.

#### Sophomore Adam Mizrahi, Boys Varsity Basketball:

This year, sophomore Adam Mizrahi is on the boys varsity basketball team for his second consecutive season.

Last season, Mizrahi was the only freshman to make the team, but he is now being joined by a few fellow underclassmen.

Standing at 6-feet-2-inches, Mizrahi plays small and power forward alongside his teammates on the court.

"I think he is a great player and has a lot of potential", said senior captain Noah Linder, who currently leads the team in scoring.

Last season, Mizrahi helped lead the Vikings to a 9-4 conference record and a 12-6 overall record, culminating in a playoff berth.

Many of last year's seniors have departed the winning team, including his older brother, Oren, and Mizrahi is one of the few holdovers from last season on this year's squad.

"I am very glad that I am getting playing time and I am just trying to follow the footsteps of the upperclassmen, such as Noah Linder and many others," said Mizrahi.

With an increased role in his second varsity season in as many years, Mizrahi will do whatever it takes to help lead the winning season.

#### Freshman Derek Knight, **Boys Swimming:**

Standout freshman Derek Knight has played an integral role in the success of the boys varsity swimming team this season.

Knight has made himself known by helping the Vikings win in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:48:82.

"Derek is very good at every stroke," said senior captain Neil Devas.

His leadership has helped the Vikings against teams such as Garden City and Long Beach, the top two teams in Nassau County this season.

In his short Schreiber career, he has already broken the Vikings records for the 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter freestyle and 500-meter freestyle races.

Derek has a lot of hopes for both himself and the rest of the team for the near future.

"I believe we have a chance at winning our conference and think that this swim team is probably the best we have had in a long time," said Knight.



Sophomore Adam Mizrahi surveys the floor during a home game against the Great Neck South Rebels on Dec. 9. Mizrahi is one of several underclassmen contributing to their respective teams.

THE WRITING CENTER

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



22

## Sports Briefs: as 2014 comes to a close, intensity rising in sports

BY Eric Fishbin Sports Editor

#### **MLB Winter Meetings:**

Although it might be the offseason, now is one of baseball's best times of year next to October. With new transactions everyday, it is hard to keep on top of teams. The New York Mets and Yankees have been quiet thus far in the offseason. However, the Bronx Bombers may have found a replacement for The Captain, Derek Jeter.

Dutchman Didi Gregorius, a 24-yearold shortstop, has been moved from Arizona to the Yankees in a three team deal involving the Tigers. Last season, Gregorius only missed 2 games and hit 6 HRs and had 27 RBIs. With the generous dimensions of Yankee Stadium, those numbers should rise.

The only significant acquisition for the Mets has been veteran outfielder Michael Cuddyer. They are still trying to find a shortstop like Stephen Drew or Jed Lowrie. Dillon Gee has also been on the market for a while now.

The big boys of the offseason have been the Boston Red Sox. Adding heavy hitters Pablo Sandoval and Hanley Ramirez as well as strong arms Wade Milley and Rick Porcello.

#### NBA:

The ailing Knicks have finally snapped its 10-game skid against the Boston Celtics on Dec. 12 despite verbal altercations between 7-time All-Star Carmelo Anthony and sophomore Tim Hardaway Jr. a few days before.

Kobe Bryant passed Michael Jordan on the all-time scoring list to capture third place on Dec. 12 against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Splash Brothers in Golden State are coasting through the NBAs top conference and are on a 16 game winning



Forward Casey Cizikas skates down the Islander bench following a game-tying goal by Cal Clutterbuck. The Islanders won the game 3-2, snapping an 8 game win streak by the Chicago Blackhawks on Dec. 13 at Nassau Coliseum.

streak as of Dec. 15.

#### NCAAF:

Well, all the anticipation and analysis of "Who's In" is over. The stage is set for the inaugural college football playoff. Capturing the one seed are the Alabama Crimson Tide who will play the four seed Ohio State Buckeyes. The Tide won the SEC Conference in dominant form, beat-ing Missouri 42-13. The Buckeyes badgered the Badgers and cruised to a 59-0 shutout win over Wisconsin. This will be the Allstate Sugar Bowl. On the other side of the bracket, the second seeded mighty Oregon Ducks and 2014 Heisman winner, Marcus Mariota, will go against Florida State with 2013 Heisman winner, Jameis Winston, in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The CFP National Championship game will be on Jan. 12 in Arlington Texas.

Some controversy surrounded the decision of who was in the top four. Both the TCU Horned Frogs and Baylor Bears felt snubbed out of a deserved spot. The Big 12 co-champions each had impressive résumés, but the Buckeyes got the nod.

#### NFL:

As we near the end of the season, playoffs are right around the corner. In the NFC, there is close competition in each division; 10 teams are vying for 6 spots.

Both the Jets and the Giants won meaningless games on Dec. 14 against the Titans and Redskins, respectively.

Adrian Peterson's appeal of his suspension has been denied by an independent arbiter, and the running back plans to sue the NFL. Peterson has also considered retirement afterwards. If he chooses to retire, Peterson would get back into the real estate

#### business in Texas.

#### NHL:

Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Believe it, Long Island, your New York Islanders are sitting pretty atop the Metropolitan Conference with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Brock Nelson is leading the NHL in power play goals, John Tavares and Kyle Okposo lead the team with 26 points, and Jaroslav Halak was named First Star of the Week two weeks ago. A brief three game skid was snapped on Dec. 13 against the Chicago Blackhawks led by goals by Cal Clutterbuck, Okposo, and Lubomir Visnovsky.

The New York Rangers are in fourth in the Metropolitan Division, and are led by scoring sensation Rick Nash who is in second for scoring in the league. Veteran defenseman Kevin Klein suffered a scary injury which took a portion of his ear off, but despite that, he scored the game winning goal that night.

#### NCAAB:

Through a quick six weeks of college basketball, the Kentucky Wildcats have remained atop the Associated Press rankings. Highlighted by lottery-pick hopefuls in Karl-Anthony Towns and Willie Caulie-Stein, the Cats passed its first test by defeating the North Carolina handily.

Right behind the Wildcats are Coach K's Duke Blue Devils. As one of the youngest teams in college basketball, Duke makes up for its inexperience with versatile talent and, not to mention, more than seven McDonald's All-Americans. In one of the most highly anticipated games of the early season, Duke tipped off against the Badgers of Wisconsin at the Kohl Center. Jahlil Okafor handled Frank Kaminsky down low, as Tyrus Jones led the scoring with 22 points and a 64% shooting percentage.

## Track runners and parents angered over long-lasting meets

BY Seth Barshay

This season, the boys winter track team has faced a bit of a dilemma. Around once a week during the season, the team has been forced to attend meets that go late into the night because one of the facilities in which they compete, Saint Anthony's School, does not allow students to use the building until 6:00 p.m. This results in players not getting home until around midnight these nights, which has an adverse effect on their academics. Getting home later means less time for homework, studying, and sleep for the boys track team. "Every year during the winter track season I see a noticeable decline from the first quarter in my grades. This has happened to me the past two years. While this could be the result of tests getting harder, I think that my preparation for tests is worse in the winter during winter track," said junior captain Peter Kirgis. Less sleep also results in less time to recover from the rigorous exercise that the track team takes part in nearly every day of the week. This could negatively affect the team's overall performance, along

with decreasing focus during class.

"I definitely think it affects our overall health. Less sleep limits the body's ability to recover from the day, making us run down and more vulnerable to illnesses and injuries," said junior Matt Kramer. "Just from the minimal sleep alone, it could affect the growth of our players. The huge amount of exercise only adds more problems to it."

These late meets have already affected these students' academic lives. Several players have been calling the school saying they do not feel well and missing early classes the mornings after these meets at Saint Anthony's. It is a sacrifice that students and parents feel they need to make so that they can stay healthy," said Kirgis.

These late meets create a vicious cycle for players. As they stay up late, they end up missing classes, which results in them having to make up work that is now added to the schoolwork they already need to do late at night after meets, and so on.

"It's aggravating to have to make up the work plus being tired on top of that," said sophomore Aaron Siff-Scherr. Voicing the opinion of the students, JIGER PELLANS WITTERSITY

"Because of the late times of these practices and meets, I had to skip a day of school last week and say that I was 'sick." It's really tough with such a lack of sleep to function in class the next day and to stay focused," said an anonymous student.

Students have to figure out if their priorities lie in attending every class after the meet or getting extra sleep and being able to focus better for the rest of the school day.

"In a sense, it really is true that they don't feel well. This raises an interesting point. What is more important: one class in the morning or that extra hour of sleep? parent Ms. Melissa Kirgis emailed Athletic Director Ms. Stephanie Joannon last week expressing the concerns of the players and their families and bringing this issue to the school's attention. On Dec. 15, Ms. Kirgis and Ms. Joannon met to discuss the issue. At this time, no solution for the players has been agreed upon.

According to the players, one such solution would be to reach an agreement with Saint Anthony's to hold more meet days. If this were to occur, Nassau County could divide the meets into ones with less teams, the meets would take less time, and students would get home earlier.

In any case, the team is determined to solve its problem and get some more sleep to help performance both on the track and



Josh White

Sophomore Jacob Kaypour warms up during a track practice on Dec. 15. Many Vikings and parents have been enraged over long hours of meets every week.

# VIKING SPORTS

## Boys basketball hopes to improve despite losing key seniors *Team strives to make playoffs once again behind leading scorer Noah Linder*

**BY Matt Kramer and Dillon Nissan** 

Contributing Writer and Staff Writer

The boys varsity basketball team, one of Schreiber's more successful teams in recent years, looks to keep up their play from last year's regular season that culminated in a playoff berth. However, last season ended in a heartbreaking loss decided by only three points in the first round against Massapequa.

"Everyone is going to have to step up," said senior captain Noah Linder. "We can be a good team but we have to play to our potential."

Even after the graduation of last year's seniors, the team is looking to bounce back from this loss and still believes they have the talent to compete.

Despite all of the talent lost from departing seniors, junior Zach Jimenez, now playing for the team for his second season, cited senior captain Noah Linder as the player expected to be the centerpiece of this year's squad.

"Noah Linder is definitely going be the go-to guy this year. I know he's going to perform consistently and give the team the best shot at being a legitimate postseason contender," said Jimenez.

Head Coach Mr. Sean Dooley agrees that Linder will likely contribute the most to the team.

"Noah is the main returning experienced player from last year. He was all conference last year and will be our best player this year," said Coach Dooley.

Although the graduation of key seniors from last year, including Ryan Kriftcher, Matt Siegel, and David Kobus has left a void in leadership and experience, it has also opened up opportunities for this year's players.

"There's a lot of talent, just not a lot of experience," said Coach Dooley.

The team hopes to gain this experience back in some of the games early on this year.

Under the leadership and experience of Linder, some of the players expected to contribute include juniors Daniel Ernst and Jimenez, and sophomores Jake Block and Adam Mizrahi, who along with Linder himself, were listed in Newsday as important players to the team.

"Everyone is going to have to step up. We can be a good team but we have to play to our potential," said Linder. "Obviously the lack of experience is going to hurt us throughout the year, but we need some of the younger guys to step up. As the season goes on I feel confident that the sophomores and juniors who weren't on the team last year are going to develop into their roles."

This year's Vikings team is different than other recent rosters, considering it has pulled up many underclassmen to play, including one eighth grader.

Brian Kenyon is the first eighth grader to play on the varsity team since 2012 when Jordan Walker, who would be a sophomore, who no longer attends Schreiber, played point guard.

The team also boasts a core of juniors consisting of Ernst, Jimenez, Hayden Braider, and Kevin Hazan, an up and coming group who hope to gain experience this season for when they are expected to lead next year.

"Despite the tremendous amount of talent lost, I think the new sophomores and other returning players can take the team far. Also, don't forget the eighth grader, Brian Kenyon, who I think will be another young player to perform well this year. This type of young talent will be key to the future success of the team," said Jimenez.

The team started off their season with a treat; the season opener against Syosset was broadcast on television by FiOS1





Josh White

Senior captain Noah Linder takes the ball to the hole against the Great Neck South Rebels on Dec. 9. Despite the loss, Linder tallied a team-high 22 points. On the season, Linder is averaging 21.7 points per game and led the Vikings to its first win of the season over the Hicksville Comets on Dec. 12.

News.

The Vikings ended up losing the game 68-52, but the game was non-conference, so it does not count against the team's playoff hopes.

However, getting to be on television in what was the first game on varsity for many players added some extra excitement to the atmosphere. will be its main obstacle toward achieving this goal.

"Baldwin has a great coach and usually tends to end up on top of the conference, if not the county. Their players are always athletic and very talented," said Jimenez.

The team believes that it has what it takes, and the fact that many players are gaining experience this early in their high school careers could pay dividends in the future.

Junior power forward Zach Jimenez drives to the right leaving three defenders behind him in a game against Great Neck South on Dec. 9. The Vikings lost the game 71-61 and Jimenez contributed 8 points in the loss.

"Honestly it was a little bit nerve wracking being on TV in my first game as a varsity

player. But it was still a cool e x p e r i e n c e and something I will remember," said Hazan.

Still, there is one ultimate goal for the team this year: to make the playoffs and make a run.

Josh White

Most players believe that Baldwin's team

Have any suggestions? If you have any nominations for next month's Male or Female Athlete of the Month, please email SchreiberAOM@gmail.com within a week after this issue's publication with the student's name, grade, and reason for recommendation.