

Harrison High School Harrison NY 10528

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# VerizonApp-ortunityCalls; IBDesignTeamAnswersandWins

Lauren Madonna and Jack Roshco Staff Writers

Harrison High School's IB Design Technology Year II students, along with technology teacher Mrs. Frawley, have won the New York State Verizon Innovative App Challenge for the second year in a row.

The national Verizon Innovative App Challenge is a collaborative competition between schools across the country to create a unique and creative app that can make a real difference in an educational or health-related way. Each app must incorporate "STEM Principles" while focusing on a present-day issue. The national victors receive a \$20,000 grant to go towards their school's STEM program.

Not only does each team create an application for everyday use, but it also creates a brief, informative video describing every detail and aspect of the application. On top of these, essay responses are required to further provide details and prove its impact and fulfillment of the necessary guidelines. Two Harrison teams entered the competition. Team 1, with members Camila Sarmiento, Gabriella Morris, Dylan Manley and Steven Forrest, created the app "Green Step", and Team 2, with members Chris Garritano, Daniel Quinn, Frank Arturi, Tristan Votta and Scott



Best in State: Gabriella Morris, Camila Sarmiento, Ms. Diane Frawley, Steven Forrest, and Dylan Manley, pose with pride after having their Green Step app designated Best in State at the Verizon App Challenge. Photos and Screenshots Courtesy of Ms. Frawley



tion MD". Ultimately, Team 1 took the New York State title.

Where did the idea of Green Step originate? Camila Sarmiento, a senior and Team 1 member, states, "We all liked the idea of being environmentally sustainable, so we decided to use that idea." The students incorporated what they were passionate about in their final idea. According to Camila, they recognized a reoccurring



created this application to help people reduce carbon emissions. They hope that one day this app will be used to better the earth. This application is guaranteed to impact the earth and advance the protection of the vulnerable earth before it is too late.

Mrs. Frawley is extremely proud of her students. She says, "It's great for Harrison High School because it shows people outside of our community how bright and talented our students are... Regardless of the final outcome, it was an exciting opportunity for all of the students in IB Design Technology to develop their ideas and compete in this contest. I am proud of the way that both teams worked in order to represent our school."

Unfortunately, "Green

Step" did not make it past the regional level, but the students are still proud that they were victorious at the state level. So far, things are going well for the technology program in Harrison, and many DDP students are looking forward to more opportunities such as this one. Lindsay Amann, a freshman student of Mrs. Frawley, claims, "In a

**Environmental App:** Green Step tracks users' daily carbon footprint and impact on the environment.

Nielsen, created the app "Connec-

issue, and tried to put an end to it.

The application "Green Step" tracks users' daily carbon footprint and impact on the environment. But what exactly is a carbon footprint? It is the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person or group. Widely aware of the world's current envi-

**Model of the app at work:** This screen shot shows Camilla's carbon footprint and impact on the environment.

ronmental state, the IB students

couple of years, I can invent an app of my own. It must be hard though, they have an app for everything already."

Both of Harrison's competing teams worked extremely diligently to represent Harrison and brought excellent publicity to the High School's STEM program.

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Relay For Life redefines the idea of an all-nighter.

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Track and Field --Class B Champions!



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### **Relay For Life: Not Your Typical All-Nighter**

#### Lauren Mehlman

Staff Writer

Many students at Harrison High School have been affected in some way by cancer. In the hopes of coming together as a community to support those affected while raising money for this remarkable cause, a group of IB Diploma candidates at Harrison High School decided to organize the first annual Relay for Life event for the town. After participating in a Relay for Life event in eighth grade, these students were inspired and determined to

bring this life-changing event to Harrison.

Relay for Life, which took place on April 25, 2015, was immenselv successful. About 500-600 people were in attendance at the event's peak, and it raised over \$80,000 (and counting) for the American Cancer Society.

"If you told me back in September that we would get the entire Harrison community to raise this much money, I would have laughed at how unlikely it

seemed," said Kelly Brabant, one of the student organizers.

FEATURES

Other student organizers include this reporter, Matthew Mendelsohn, Katie Steins, Catie DiRe, Dillon Bogart, Gina DiRusso, and Jeffrey Solomon. Along with the inestimable help and leadership of Ms. Blunt, Lucy Miller, and Debbie Mazza, the inspiring event came off without a hitch and surpassed all expectations.

Relay for Life is an event in which teams of 15 people

camp out overnight and take turns walking or running around a track. This 12-hour event is symbolic of the seemingly never-ending journey a cancer patient must endure. Although it is not mandatory for participants to stay overnight, it is strongly encouraged that they do so. The overnight aspect is representative of the different stages of a cancer patient's journey. The setting sun symbolizes the diagnosis, the nighttime represents the darkest parts of the journey: the treatments, the side-effects, and the uncertainty, while finally, the rising sun serves as a symbol for hope and victory over cancer.

Relay for Life is the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world. These events take place in more than 5,000 communities and 22 countries across the globe. Each year, more than four million people take part in this worldwide phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer. Before the event, participants join teams and raise money individually to go towards their personal team and event goals. This can be achieved by sending out emails, asking friends and family, holding bake sales, babysitting, and more. Much of the money raised at each event comes from the teams' onsite fundraisers. At the event, teams set up their own fundraisers to raise money. These include food sales, games, face painting, and jewelry sales.

The impact of Relay for Life mainly comes from the several ceremonies that take place throughout the night. While Relay events vary from community to community, they have three main components in common: the Survivors' Lap, the Caregivers' Lap, and the Luminaria Ceremony. It is nearly impossible to take part in these ceremonies without feeling the emotional impact of cancer and the event as a whole. All cancer survivors, whether they are still fighting the disease or have been cancer free for 20 years, are encouraged to attend a special dinner and the Survivors' Lap. All cancer survivors take the first lap around the track, celebrating their victory over cancer while they are cheered on by the other participants. After this lap, the caregivers who lend their time, love, and support for loved ones fighting cancer are recognized with their own lap. The Luminaria Ceremony takes place after dark. This ceremony remembers

those lost to cancer, honors people who have fought cancer in the past, and supports those whose fight continues. Paper bags glowing with candles line the track in memory or honor of a loved one.

On April 25, the Harrison community joined together for this inspiring and remarkable event, celebrating the lives of people who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue their fight, and events like this also allow community members to remember loved ones lost to the disease. At Relay, those who have walked alongside people battling cancer grieved and found healing. The Harrison community chose Relay for Life because it has been touched by cancer and desperately wants to put an end to the disease. So many came and made a commitment to save lives and take up the fight by joining a team and fundraising prior to the actual event.

For more information, or to contribute additional funds to this worthy cause, go to www.relayforlife.org/harrisonny or email RFLharrison@gmail.

Ready to Relay: The team of student organizers gets set before the event. Front Row (left to right) Ľauren Mehlman. Kellv Brabant. Katie Steins. Giná DiRusso, and Catie DiRe, back row (left to right); Dillon Bogart, Jeffrey Solomon, and Matthew Mendelsohn Courtesy of Ms. Blunt

#### Day of Silence Speaks Volumes Julia Dinota

Staff Writer

The Day of Silence is a national day of action in which students across the country vow to take a form of silence in order to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment in schools.

The Day of Silence was originally founded in 1996. Since then, the Dav of Silence has become the largest single student-led action toward creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual differences or gender identity. According to DavOfSilence.org, the first ever Day of Silence was held at the University of Virginia in 1996. Since then, over 8,000 middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities across the nation now take this day to reflect on fairness and diversity.

The Day of Silence is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network

(GLEN). This year on Friday, April 17, 2015, thousands of public high schools and an increasing numbers of middle schools allowed students to remain silent throughout the entire day - even during instructional time - to promote GLEN's socio-political goals and anti-bullying theme.

At Harrison, the annual event is supported by the school's Gav-Straight Alliance Club.

HHS students were asked to complete cards that started with the phrase "Silence is..." Some of the responses were: silence is acceptance without having to understand; silence is speaking without a voice; silence is expressing who you are without having to explain who you are; silence is louder than words; and silence is not weakness! The results were posted on a Wall of Silence in the hallway outside the library.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students across the world take a vow of silence on a Friday in April. This quiet but powerful student-led action raises awareness about the silencing of anti LGBT bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

What is amazing about the Day of Silence organization is that anyone can organize an event or activity at their school. It is a powerful way to band together and take a stand against discrimination.

The Day of Silence is a day in which people can show support of all gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning. The silence recognizes and protests the silence that LGBTQ people face each and every day. According to organizers for GLEN's Day of Silence, "the event is designed to raise awareness and protest the

silence faced by LGBTQ people, and offer tools with which to end the silence."

Junior Brandon Dinota was one of the many students who contributed in this year's Day of Silence.

"I think it is important for students to take a stand and participate," he said. "This Day of Silence supports people's choices."



Silence is empowering: HHS students show what the Day of Silence means to them. Courtesy of Mr. Gunnell

**News & Features** 

May2015 Husky Herald

# **DECA Sees Success At States**

Christopher Hicks Staff Writer

In early March, a contingency of DECA club students from HHS attended the New York State DECA Competition in Rochester, NY. Three students – senior Jake Carnavalla, and juniors Jack Witte and Jared Silber - placed within the top five of New York State within their respective events and now qualify to compete in the national DECA Competition in Orlando, Florida in late April.

Jake excelled in Principles of Finance, while Jack and Jared won acclaim for a team event in Sports and Entertainment Mar-

keting. Also eligible to compete at the National DECA Competition are Jordan Cannell and Nick Bilotta, for their efforts in a Stock Market game.

While these five are awarded the honor of attending Nationals, several other HHS students did well. Will Marriott placed third in New York State in the Public Speaking Prepared category, while Luke Steinthal placed fourth in New York State in the Broadcast Advertising (radio ad) event. forts: Isabella Caltabiano (Apparel & Accessories Marketing), Scott Nielsen (Automotive Services Marketing), Joe Lagani (Food Marketing), Scott Bartman (Quick Serve Restaurant Service Management), Dan Quinn (Restaurant & Food Service Management), Alexis Shannon (Decision Making Human Resources), Matthew Schwartz (Principles of Marketing), and Michael Gaudreau (Business Finance Services).

The scoring for a DECA competition consists of two parts, a multiple choice test and a role Management), Emma Smolev (Travel and Tourism team event), Jessica Scazzero (Travel and Tourism team event), and Ryan Baker (Principles of Marketing).

Two additional students placed within the top 10 statewide on the role play portion of their events. The two medal winners were Amina Naddschar (Business Services Marketing), and Zach Evans (Principles of Business Management and Administration).

Prior to this, the HHS Deca Club did well in Regional Competitions. On Friday January 9, and world leaders for the positions they hope to occupy in the future through the "Distributive Education Clubs of America."

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The Harrison sector, with advisor and HHS Business teacher Joe Santo, put its readiness and more to the test on Friday. For the regional competition, entrants took a 100 question multiple choice test a few days prior to the actual event, consisting of questions specific to their event of choice, the score of which would be factored into their final score.

At the actual competition,



DECA togetherness: Members of Harrison's popular DECA club prepare to hit the road after successful showing at the New York State f competition.

play. Four HHS students received medals for placing within the top 10 of New York State on the multiple choice portion of their events: Kyle Lometti (Hotel & Lodging DECA club members attended the Regional Championships at Rockland Community College. The goal of the DECA club

was to prepare future business

students were given a situation to act out and with only ten minutes of preparation, had to go present their decision or thoughts to one or two judges, with more on-thespot questions to follow. The lack of preparation in the interview sections leads to many DECA competition categories being not as much about what you know but about how you interact with your judge and your ability to convince them that you could enact the same situation in a real life work environment. Serious skill with spontaneity and feigning confidence is required to be successful in the second half of the score.

In the end, scores were tallied from the several schools and the top four from each category were

to continue on to the state level competition. With one of the biggest memberships for the high school's team since its inception, Harrison ended up as one of the strongest teams as a whole, with many placing in the top four in their event and a total of 32 going on to states.

Staying true to their mission of preparing the world's next business leaders, a multitude of workshops, informational sessions, and speeches from current professionals were available for the contestants to attend throughout their time in Roch-

ester, allowing them to develop a wealth of practical and applicable knowledge for their future careers.

### **Debate Team Victories Continue**

#### Madeline Rawson

#### Guest Writer

Eight students placed within

the top ten of New York State in

their respective categories and re-

ceived medals for their notable ef-

The Harrison High School Debate Team started 2015 off strong with junior Kathryn Kenny reaching elimination rounds in the extremely competitive field at the Harvard-Westlake Tournament. Just days later, senior Amy

Geller and junior Sarah Ryan participated in the Newark Round Robin where Geller placed second in her pod. That weekend, Kenny won the Newark Cole reached octofinals and the varsity debaters saw great success in a field that included the country's top debaters. The team continued its winning streak at the Stuyvesant MHL, where Cole and Spana placed first and second, and top speaker at the Derby City Round Robin and Invitational. At the Bobcat Classic, Harrison debaters took the top eight spots and ended the tournament early. The top five spots were claimed by junior Evan Burger and sophomores tournament, and Siegel, Geller, Kenny, and Sarah Ryan reached octofinals in their respective divisions. Later, at Harvard University, Harrison captured the final four bids, making a record-breaking total of 13 collective bids. KenEljamal, who was ranked as the number speaker, Kate Ryan, Siegel, and Cole all reached semifinals in their respective divisions. At the next tournament, Geller placed first, Alfieri placed second and was ranked first speaker, and

Ryan placed sixth, all three winning entries to Nationals.

At the most recent tournament, Cole ranked as first speaker and claimed Harrison's fifth consecutive Novice State Championship, signifying Harrison's thirteenth tournament win this season. Eljamal also reached semifinals in Varsity, while Ryan, Piliero, and Spana all reached octofinals in their divisions. "I credit my wins to the team because I couldn't have done it without them. Debate is surrounded by such a strong community of great people, and I hope the team continues to see success



Invitational, sophomore Adam Eljamal and Geller reached quarterfinals. junior Elyssa Alfieri and sophomores Sammi O'Reilly and Matt Zinman reached octofinals. and sophomore Raffi Piliero and Sarah Ryan reached partial double-octofinals. In novice, freshman Brian Siegel placed second, freshman Carl Spana placed third, and freshman Lauren Cole reached partial double-octofinals.

A week later, Spana won the novice division of the Lexington Invitational, becoming the fifth consecutive Harrison novice to reach the final round of Lexington. Siegel reached quarterfinals,

No debating the continued success: Another successful outing at Harvard. Pictured are (back corner cluster, left to right:) Ella Eisinger, Raffi Piliero, Carl Spana, Adam Eljamal, Matt Zinman, Jack Wilson (front row, left to right): Madeline Rawson, Sammi O'Reilly, Amy Geller, Kathryn Kenny, Lauren Cole, (back corner, left to right): Evan Burger, Brian Siegel, Elyssa Alfieri, Sarah Ryan, and Mr. Hertzig. Courtesy of Mr. Hertzig

#### respectively.

Three championships were won that same weekend. Sophomores Eljamal, Piliero, and Zinman all reached octofinals at the Columbia championship, and junior Kenny ranked as champion Eljamal, Piliero, O'Reilly, and Madeline Rawson, all of whom were undefeated. Muller, Spana, and Geller took the remaining three spots.

In February, Cole won the novice division of Scarsdale's

ny reached quarterfinals, Ryan reached octofinals, Geller and O'Reilly reached double octofinals (the latter earning her first bid, an amazing accomplishment for a sophomore), and Piliero reached triple octofinals. At Lakeland, next year," said Freshman Lauren Cole.

The Debate Team anticipates success in the remainder of the season and has high hopes for the following year.

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### Harrison Builds Habitat For Humanity

Isabella Prado

Staff Writer

Habitat for Humanity (H4H) is a non-profit organization that sells houses for those in need with no profit for the organization. The money paid for the houses is then returned to a general fund that is used to fund the creation of more houses, and so on. Habitat was founded in 1976, but it really grew after former President Jimmy Car-

ter got involved with the project in 1984. Nowa-

days, H4H works to help people in countries all over the world, and it has headquarters at **Re-stores** throughout the country. These Restores sell objects donated to the organization or rescued from fires or other natural disasters. The objects are then either used to decorate the houses Habitat for Humanity is our very own high school. While it's not yet an official club at HHS, it is currently operating as part of the Youth Volunteers of Harrison club. The club is a CAS project headed by Isabella Prado and Evan Burger, who report to monthly meetings at the Re-store in New Rochelle, run by the Habitat Westchester CEO,

annual beneficent events.

Each month, there are two to three different volunteer opportunities, not counting YVH meetings, and at least one on-site build is scheduled per month. In December, there was a Holiday Dinner at New Rochelle High School to promote both family and community bonding. Various local businesses

> donated food for the Dinner, which was then given out by the volunteers for free to the families that attended the event. Additionally, some volunteers sat with the families in attendance and ate with them, getting to know more about each other.

> Junior Christine Cardascia said, "The event is a great way to strengthen community ties, especially during the holiday season."

> Later in December, there was an onsite build in Yonkers where volunteers had the opportunity to work on an environmentally correct house which will be given to low-income war veterans.

Despite harsh weather conditions, junior Andrea Bolivar said, "It was a great experience and a good opportunity to give back to the

community in a hands-on way." Furthermore, in early February, Habitat hosted its annual Love a Veteran event where volunteers thanked soldiers for their service. Many of these cards were sent to soldiers serving in locations that weren't exactly considered war zones,

such as Kuwait.

"It was a fun way to let soldiers know that we really appreci-

There are many more vol-

ate everything they do for us," said

junior Isabella Caltabiano.

unteer opportunities available in the months to come, so please contact Isabella Prado or Evan Burger if you are interested in getting involved with the organization.



Helping H4H feels great: Student volunteers worked on a house to be delivered to war veterans. Pictured here are: Evan Burger, Sarah Navar-ah, Caroline Lauro, Isabella Caltabiano, Isabella Prado, Caroline Cardas-Mihoko Sakanaka, Ryan Giglio, Loukas Glover, Thomas Alvarado, Photos courtesy of Isabella Prado and Paris Evans.



Hands on help: HHS students donned hard hats and assisted directly with the construction that day.

made by Habitat or houses given to those who have lost their homes due to accidents or natural disasters. Any money generated by the Re-stores are then used to help fund more Habitat projects.

Many schools in the tri-state area have Habitat clubs, which work with the Re-store and Habitat leaders closest to them. One of the latest schools to get involved with



Shoveling at an on-site build: HHS student volunteers put some muscle into assisting at a Habitat For Humanity build in Yonkers.

#### Jim Killoran.

The club mostly consists of out-of-school activities, except for the bi-weekly YVH meetings where we explain our plans for the month; the out-of-school activities include on-site builds, volunteering sessions at the local Re-store in New Rochelle to help organize and clean the location, and a variety of other seasonal or

### **ROTOY Club Still Reaching Out To Our Youth**

Adam Alper

#### Staff Writer

Would an individual give back to the community if they had the chance? Throughout Harrison, students respond to this challenge emphatically by improving the greater community through certain extracurricular activities.

One of these popular activities is ROTOY, an organization whose aim is to provide high school mentors to younger students across the district. The premise of this club is simple: high school students visit Parsons Elementary, Preston Elementary, or Louis M. Klein Middle School where they support elementary or middle-school children with homework and test preparation.

The ROTOY program boasts a strong following among high school students. According to Mr. Iorio, the club's advisor, 34 high school students are currently



Tutoring works: ROTOY volunteer Ben Rubin works with a student in the computer lab. There are 3,500 students involved in this district program.

Courtesy of Adam Alper

involved on a weekly basis. "ROTOY enables me to support younger gener-

> ations of Harrison students and give back to the community in a meaningful and a virtuous manner," said senior Camila Sarmiento.

Despite the motivated group of students currently participating in ROTOY, Harrison Central School District boasts approximately 3500 students. In a community and school district that prides itself on inclusion and camaraderie

across all ages, one should reasonably expect more students to partake in this meaningful service, to help strengthen the bonds between grade levels.

While some younger students tend to find peer work more engaging, older student mentors help their younger counterparts maintain focus and motivate them to work efficiently. As a result, younger students often report improved test grades and understanding of the material. The effects reach beyond the classroom, boosting the students' confidence and improving belief in their own capabilities.

When asked about his motivation for participating in ROTOY, Thomas Gresham, a sophomore and member of ROTOY for two years, responded enthusiastically,

"I joined ROTOY last year because I felt that it would be a great contribution to my own community," said sophomore Thomas Gresham, a two-year member of the club. "It also looks great on my future college resume due to the fact that it shows leadership and responsibility. After the ten weeks, I felt successful because I helped improve someone's grades, which end up going a long way."

Students who join or participate in ROTOY continuously echo these sentiments. As aforementioned, this program provides them with an opportunity to give back to the community in a manner that is both relatable and meaningful, placing truth in the club's name and credo, "Reaching Out to Our Youth."

# opinions editorials

### Je Suis Husky Herald Staff Editorial



In light of recent tragic events in Paris and Hollywood, it is important to reflect on the state of freedom of speech and freedom of the press in the world. We, the writers of the *Husky Herald*, are fully invested in supporting a free press for journalists everywhere. Freedom of speech is an innate right that American citizens receive at birth. We, as citizens, are lucky enough to live in a country where we are able to share our thoughts and opinions through various media outlets. We often take this right for granted and ignore the widespread restriction of press and speech that exists in the world around us.

The prospect of restriction on freedom of the press breached American borders with an ultimatum on the release of the comedy film, "The Interview," produced by Sony Pictures. This controversial film, largely based on an attempt to assassinate North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Un, provoked a response from North Korean hackers and government representatives, who threatened retaliation if Sony went forward with their plans to release rorism. As a journalistic body, we feel inclined to address the implications that these events hold in opposition to freedom of speech and freedom of the press. We, as Americans, have come a long way from a society where those who spoke against people in power and popular ideals were jailed and oppressed for such opinions. In a modern society dominated by the presence of social media, a society where we have the ability to voice our concerns and opinions instantaneously, it seems impractical that an organization or government feels as though they have the right to limit what we say.

This is essentially a form of global terrorism in a technologically dominated society. The whole notion behind acts of terrorism is to instill fear and cause individuals to change their way of living. When faced with such a challenge, we have the ability to choose between two divergent paths. Should we succumb to the pressure and change our ways of life or should we act defiantly and unite against a common enemy? As journalists, we must understand and appreciate how fortunate we are to be able to publish our words freely. As American citizens, we must apply our inherent freedom of speech to speak our minds and make changes in the world. And as human beings, we must extend the protection of these freedoms beyond our borders and support those attempting to exercise these liberties. We are one world population, united behind a common cause. We stand with the citizens of Paris and with the citizens of the world in supporting freedom of speech. Je Suis Charlie and Je Suis Husky Herald.

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the movie in its entirety.

On January 7, a group of Al Qaeda affiliated radicals attacked workers of *Charlie Hebdo*, a Parisian satirical newspaper, in response to controversial cartoons of the Islamic prophet, Muhammad. This terrorist attack was followed by another hostage situation in a kosher market in Paris. While the cartoon may have offended some within Muslim communities, these violent reactions highlight the extent to which certain extremist individuals will go to limit freedoms of expression.

Our condolences go out to all those personally affected by these two acts of ter-



#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the voice of all of Harrison High School by professionally representing and informing our school with an accurate and entertaining newspaper. Our newspaper strives to uphold the tenets of journalistic integrity.

#### Editorial Policy

The Husky Herald is published by the journalism classes at Harrison High School, along with the volunteers who attend the weekly meetings Editorial content of *The Husky Herald* is determined by the editorial staff and reflects the opinions of the editors and staff, not necessarily that of the Harrison High School faculty and administration. The staff of *The Husky Herald* encourages students to get involved and have their opinions heard. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to respond to an article, please write to us. Letters containing the writer's name (and that are in good taste) will be printed. We reserve the right to edit such responses for grammar usage, clarity, punctuation, and length.

News & Features

# To IB or Not to IB?

Ally Platte

Staff Writer

As a second semester sophomore, I went through the personal turmoil of the following:

#### A Critical Decision

I am meeting with my guidance counselor this week to select classes for junior year and I know the first question I will need to answer: Do I want to pursue the IB Diploma? After all, my answer to this could determine almost my entire course schedule for the next two years. I debated this question in my mind all year as I watched juniors and seniors go through the IB program. I've heard great things about gaining critical thinking skills and taking part in amazing community service projects, but I've also seen friends burn out from the time commitment involved in completing the program.

#### Requirements for the IB Diploma

The IB curriculum is made up of three core elements and six additional subject groups. Harrison High School's IB diploma candidates are required to take classes in the six subjects (usually one from each subject group, three at the higher level and the remainder at standard level) and must complete the core elements: a 4,000 word Extended Essay (EE), a course in Theory of Knowledge (TOK), and a number of Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) projects. According to the IB website, the core elements aim to "broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills."

The Distinguished IB Certificate

Students taking individual IB classes (whether or not as an IB Diploma candidate) receive an IB Certificate of Advanced Study, according to the Harrison Central School District website. This allows one to pick and choose the IB classes that he/she is interested in without fulfilling all of the requirements for the IB Diploma. So, even if I opt out of the diploma program, I am able to take as many IB classes as I'd like while still leaving room for other subjects that interest me.

#### Positives about IB

There are numerous benefits to IB courses. Harrison Central School District's website promotes two of those advantages: many universities offer college credit for successful completion of these courses in high school and completion assists students in the competitive college admissions process. I've heard several additional positives, including that it is great preparation for the rigors of college, and that some colleges weigh the grades received in IB classes. It also seems that each



course's subject matter is more interesting than its equivalent AP curriculum.

Rebuttal of the Positives

The fact is many colleges only grant credit for the IB Higher Level courses and not for Standard Level classes. Some schools won't give credits at all. As a sophomore, that should not be a factor in my decision, because I have no idea what college I will end up going to, and whether it will accept credits for any of my IB classes. I like the idea of getting an "edge" in college admissions, but since students don't find out whether they have earned the IB Diploma until July after graduation, it would seem that taking IB classes (and not necessarily receiving the diploma) is what college admissions offices are prioritizing.

#### **Negatives about IB**

I've read enough on-line blogs to know that, unfortunately, there is a multitude of negatives about the IB Diploma program. First, in order to complete the three required HL classes, I would have to take some class subjects for two full years. That means two years of college-level biology or physics (a brutal requirement for a Social Science/English-oriented student like me) and no opportunity to "dabble" in other sciences like Environmental Studies or Astronomy. I've also witnessed the amount of stress the IB Diploma students undergo, particularly during senior year, when college applications are due and the Extended Essay and community service requirements hit. It seems like IB Diploma students have to give up something – sleep, food, or socializing.

#### Why I'm choosing NOT to pursue the IB Diploma

I've decided not to pursue the IB Diploma. I want to enjoy high school, which for me means taking as many different subjects as possible to see whether any strike me as something I might want to pursue as a major in college. I also enjoy participating in clubs and sports. I'm sure I will take many IB courses as well as a few AP classes over the next two years. I think these will sufficiently challenge me academically, whether or not I complete the diploma. I fear that the rigors of the IB Diploma program will leave me without the time to enjoy extracurricular activities or socialize. I will meet the demands of college when I get to college. For now, I want to enjoy high school.

## **Uncomfortably Numb**

#### Ariel Coonin

#### Editor-in-chief

In times when tragedy strikes, it is natural for people to look for a sense of community in order to aid their grieving. Our town has endured more than enough of its own tragedies this year and we, as a community, have done our best to move forward. Harrison is getting stronger without forgetting our past. However, so much horror is being thrown our way that we have reached a point where we have lost the ability to react; we have become numb to the

simply donning a somber face and allowing tragedy to wash over us. We are not doing ourselves any favors sitting idly by in denial, but it is understandable -- we are unprepared for situations like these. There is no amount of training that could have prepared the Harrison community for what hit us this year. The fact of the matter is that we were never taught how to cope with such tragedies that hit far too close to home. This is not the fault of our parents or teachers -- there is no way to prepare for such situations. And here's the real kicker - with each new tragedy

we face, it does not become any easier to cope.

While it feels difficult to remain strong after living through a single tragedy that affects our whole community, it is even harder to continue to put on a brave face when multiple tragedies are thrown our way. This school year has been one of the toughest. Every time we feel just about ready to move forward, or to regain our sense of normalcy, we get knocked back even harder. Life, it seems, has become a constant battle of taking one step forward and two steps back. Teenagers should not have to feel as if they are being forced to retreat emotionally. These are the times we are supposed to enjoy our youth, relishing the good times together as we progress into stronger, more capable adults.

We all grieve differently and we all pay our respects in different ways. It is difficult in times like these to find the words to precisely describe how we feel. There is no right way to get through these situations, no right way to act. But it should not be about how you grieve or how you react – we know it is not a competition over who grieves the best or who grieves the most. Instead, such times should engender mutual respect, desperately needed as part of the healing process that takes time. We have all been affected, some more than others, and we need to be considerate of that. The best coping mechanism that we have is relying on each other, our community, our friends, our parents, and our teachers, to unite and get through this together. With that in mind, we need to look out for our fellow Huskies because we are Harrison strong; we are a family.

circumstances.

Instead of facing our issues head on, we have regressed to

#### **HEY HUSKIES!** Do you believe in opting out of state tests?



"Yes. If it's not a graded test, we should have a choice." Tommy McAdam, Freshman



"Yes. I don't think state tests are really important for anything." Amina Naddschar



"Yes. You should not be forced to take them if you do not want to." Ben Struhl, Junior



"No. I always found them easy anyway." Sabrina Sakai, Senior

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# **OPINIONS: Sequel Reviews Does Anyone Really Need Sharknado 3?**

#### Justin Santiago

Design Editor

Did we really need a third Sharknado movie? I mean seriously, was a movie about a giant twister infested with blood thirsty sharks good enough to merit THREE movies? It's as if we feast upon stupidity, of which Sharknado is the epitome. Sadly, my curiosity got the best of me. I have seen both movies, and they were terrible, in a so-bad-it's-good fashion. Except that it wasn't good, far from it. I didn't even enjoy how bad it was trying to be. It's obvious that it was a parody of general horror films, most likely mocking Jaws and films involving natural disasters, but it still failed, even as a parody. The franchise is basically a pathetic excuse for a parody. It's clear little to no effort was put anywhere. The film only served the purpose of being most likely one of the worst modern films ever made.

The first Sharknado was a genius idea, mostly because of how much potential it had to be a good parody/guilty pleasure. Who wouldn't want to see a mix of carnivorous fish and natural disasters mixed in with cheesy CGI effects? Many saw the film for these reasons, just to be disappointed an hour and a half later. I definitely was, despite knowing it would be bad. There was plenty over-the-top acting, stressed out moments, many of the things you would expect in a parody, but the film's attempt at tackling these aspects are clichéd. It's pretty much like any other parody out there (Scary Movie, Dance Flick, Disaster Movie, etc.). It doesn't get any cheesier than a man cutting

...it

his way out of a shark... with a chainsaw (Yes that actually happened).

T h e sequel to Sharknado, which came out just last year, was basically just for more money. To

sugar coat it, it was terrible. This isn't only because New York City is once again under attack by horror clichés (I love you, New York), but this sequel has many random and unnecessary moments throughout. One I recall vividly, during the middle of the movie most of the city was in chaos. Four women were in the streets, trying to escape the 3-D sharks like the other unfortunate citizens. As usual, there are a few who get eaten, but then out of all people, Daymond John, one of the "sharks" from the TV show Shark Tank makes a cameo. He goes through the streets of Lower Manhattan, all while the Statue of Liberty

doesn't get gets decapitated by a shark (obany cheesier than vious nod to the 2007 a man cutting his film, Cloverfield). way out of a shark The women encounter The women John, and with a chainsaw... try to save him from the madness while

> he is in a rush. While the women are trying to protect him, John drops his briefcase on the ground. And finally, as he runs to pick it up, an object flies from the sky to crush him. It's a bird! It's a plane!

Is it a shark? No, it's the deteriorated, rolling head of the Statue of Liberty! I'm not even exaggerating --, this really happened in the movie. It's very clear that Sharknado 2 was an unnecessary cash in on an already bad film. It makes perfect sense that a third film had to be made.

Set for release in July, the third movie is set to destroy Florida and Washington D.C. It makes sense, as the "Sharknado" already took over the go-to cities for mass destruction. It's obvious what can be expected from the new film. The same cheesy effects, bad acting, and endless randomness will return as usual. Many celebrities will be eaten, as well as random extras, and of course utter nonsense and chaos will ensue. If you are a fan of over the top action and cheesy acting and effects, I won't judge. See Sharknado and its one too many sequels (including the upcoming one) -- they're full of it.



When is enough not quite enough?: The original film was campy parody, and worked at that level. The second film took the craziness back to New York City, with mixed results at best. Do we really need a third version of this?

Courtesy of The Asylum/SyFy Films

For Movies, Sometimes One is Enough!

#### Rose Stokoe

#### Staff Writer

Every movie that does well just needs a sequel, right? WRONG. WRONG. SO WRONG! Ninety percent of the time, sequels stink and just ruin the greatness of the first movie.

Probably one of the best examples of this is Disney's royal mess-up Pocahontas 2, aka Pocahontas: The First Movie Meant Nothing. I understand that Pocahontas, the actual woman, did end up with John Rolfe as she does in the second movie, but the actual woman never had a thing with

John Smith. It was childhood-ruining. After "Colors of the Wind" and saving John and all that other stuff, the other movie is just basically telling you to forget all that. The worst part is the sequel just kind of brushes over the whole "he died, but she got over it super quick despite the fact he was the love of her life" thing.

Pretty much all Disney Princess sequels were painful to watch. Mulan, arguably the greatest role model movie to young girls the world over, had a quite lackluster sequel that totally downed her lady-power. Mulan II was in no way as tragic as Pocahontas 2, but it wasn't the same "I'm a woman and I saved China - come at me" that the first movie was. Did she save China? Yes, but not in the same "I can do what a man does" way she did before. Disney sequels are not the only horrible ones. Maybe this is a bit before our time, but if anyone has ever seen a Jaws sequel, then you have seen how a great movie can have a not-so-great follow-up. Maybe the excitement of not seeing the shark until the end couldn't be recreated, as audiences had already seen said shark. Who really knows why they couldn't recreate the magic? It's mostly agreed that it would've been a far better idea to leave the fish on the ocean floor and not have its family terrorize

#### the Bahamas.

A more recent catastrophe would be Despicable Me 2. While it spanked the original in the box office, it seriously lacked any



actual plot. The minions stole the movie, but not for the better. A little bit of minions, hilarious. A movie centered almost entirely around them? Horrible.

> Sadly, in 2015 there will be a Universal Pictures movie solely about minions, sigh. It makes sense to make the sequels. Somehow they make boatloads of money, despite the fact they are

mostly due to the fact that writers can pick the most compelling stories from the thousands of comic book editions each super





The exceptional exception: Shrek 2 actually rivaled the original film in regards to plot and far outgained the original in box office receipts. Yet most sequels fall sadly short with tired plotlines and rehashed versions of what we have seen before, and done far better the first time around.

Courtesy of DreamWorks Films

Epic fail, more like: Though not nearly as tragic as the Pocahontas sequel, the feminist individualism was toned down for this Disney sequel. This is a perfect example of a great movie with a not-sogreat follow-up.

Courtesy of Disney Films

not even close to approaching the excellence of the original.

Not all sequels are completely horrible; some even surpass the original. Shrek 2 not only wiped the floor of the first one in the box offices, making a staggering \$919,838,758, but also had a plot that rivaled the original. Shrek 2 is the exception however, and not the rule.

The only movies that are almost guaranteed to be safe from the sequel effect are super hero movies. Each super hero movie is a wild success, and that, in my opinion, is

The new world tends to destroy the old one here: The tragic sequel to Pocahontas basically tells you to forget everything you learned from the first film. It was traumatically childhood-ruining, a sequel gone horribly wrong.

Courtesy of Disney Films

#### hero has.

Sequels are a necessary evil. There's always hope for that diamond in the rough - some sequels can in fact remind us that not all sequels are the worst things ever to happen to movies.

Pictorial Spread by Justin Santiago

# **SPRING SPIRIT WEEK**







Pictorial Spread by Justin Santiago











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**Arts & Entertainment** 

# Damn Yankees Out of the Park

Ally Platte

Staff Writer

May 2015 **Husky Herald** 

On March 6-8, 2015, The Harrison High School Footlight Players performed *Damn Yankees* to rave reviews in the Harrison Performing Arts Center. Despite the cancellation of opening night due to a snow storm on Thursday March 5, the Footlight Players managed to perform five times as planned by adding a show on Sunday night.

Under the direction of Deborah Toteda and musical direction of Megan Zwart, the cast brought their incredible talent and humor to this story of an obsessive baseball fan that makes a deal with the devil. Ms. Toteda, both the director and choreographer of the show, focused on choreographing the student-actors to take on the roles of both performers and athletes.

"Damn Yankees would never get off the ground if [the students] weren't prepared to combine athletics with theatre and allow themselves to recognize how they were a member of both designated groups," said Ms. Toteda. "Teamwork is essential for any performance, athletic or not."

The actors were able to execute both roles successfully and the audience was rewarded with an outstanding musical production combining great acting, enjoyable music, and all of the fun of a baseball game.

The opening scene finds Joe Boyd (Jonathan Crozier) sitting in his arm chair in front of his television watching his favorite baseball team, the Washington Senators, lose to the New York Yankees. His wife, Meg (Cassidy Donohue), dazzled the audience as she sang "Six Months Out of Every Year" and complained of her husband's preoccupation with baseball. From there the plot takes off as Joe thinks out loud, "I'd sell my soul for one long-ball hitter." At in exchange for Joe's soul. Fortunately, Joe negotiated an escape clause for himself or he surely would have been seduced into eternal damnation after Lola (Roma Scarano) appeared on the scene and nailed the role as the Devil's professional home wrecker. Roma's singing, dancing, and acting made her a triple threat 1950's costumes and set.

"Performing in my last Harrison High School musical was bittersweet," said senior Troy Tripicchio. "I'd never thought I'd be this old. It still hasn't totally hit me yet. But I can say I speak for all of the seniors when I say the memories we made are invaluable and we'll

entertainment

And it really doesn't help with senior slump!"

The Sunday night performance was sentimental for the seniors after completing their final performance with the Footlight Players. However, this is not the end of the road for many of the talented underclassman actors, who will cherish the opportunity to continue a tradition of theatrical excellence in years to come.

"I will miss the seniors that I bonded with during the musical this year," said sophomore Matt Novak. "It was not only an amazing experience, but I learned a lot and met new people."

Harrison High School's rendition of the show has received notoriety and may be nominated for this year's Helen Hayes High School Theater Metro Awards. Nominations will be announced in May, and final winners will receive their awards at the Metro Awards ceremony in June. Harrison High School Footlight Players are no strangers to the Metro Awards judges having won Best Choreography, Best Musical Direction, Best Musical for its production of Crazy for You in 2013, and Best Duet for A Chorus Line in 2014.

Congratulations to all students and advisors who were able to make *Damn Yankees* a home run performance!

It's All About The Game: David Gonzalez leads the Washington Senators in a rousing spirit-lifting song. Pictured from left to right are Zogie Ighobor, Elijah Gropper, Nick Erb, David Gonzalez, Christopher Mora, Jerome Francisco, Kyle Slater, Matthew Novak, and Demetri McMullen.

that moment, Mr. Applegate, the Devil (Troy Tripicchio), appears and offers to turn Joe into a young talented ballplayer named Joe Hardy (Conor McGillicuddy) to save the Senators' season to Joe's escape from Applegate's hell.

Musical highlights of the show included well-known songs, "Heart," "Whatever Lola Wants" and "Goodbye, Old Girl" The incredible vocal

talents of the actors were enhanced by a full orchestra never forget our performances or the people alongside us on that stage. I measure my high school experience in these shows, so the fact that it's over is something I haven't been easily able to face.







Whatever Lola Wants: Conor McGillicuddy as young Joe Hardy gets a lesson on trying to resist temptation from the devilish Lola, as played by Roma Scarano.

pit, including 14 Harrison High School students and four Harrison Central School District faculty m e m b e r s, conducted by David Blumenthal.

The production crew for Damn Yankees worked hard to set the mood and focus the attention of the audience through lighting, sound, and set design. Particularly noteworthy was the opening vintage baseball film video interspersed with cast photos as the orchestra played the overture and the

**Your Soul for a Pennant:** It's a devilish proposition from suave Mr. Applegate (Troy Tripicchio) to frustrated, long-suffering Washington Senators fan Joe Boyd (Jonathan Crozier), but it's one that seems too good to pass up.

Photos courtesy of HHS Footlight Players

Arts & Entertainment

~~~~ May 2015 Husky Herald

# Almost Maine, Almost Perfect

Ally Platte

Staff Writer

On Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Harrison High School Playhouse performed Almost, Maine by John Cariani to a packed house in the Sirius Black Box Theatre at Harrison High School. Almost, Maine is actually comprised of nine separate but connected love stories that all take place on the same night in a Maine town called Almost. Some of the characters find new love, some lose an old love, and others literally collapse completely as they realize their feelings for each other. All in all, we learn that love can hurt as knees are physically bruised and hearts are figuratively broken. In addition, students performed original and personal love monologues based on the prompt "Love is..." in between the scenes of the play, which brought a little warmth, love, companionship, and connection from Maine to Harrison after this cold, dark winter.

Senior Alex Ostroumoff directed the production. Alex, in her directorial debut, selected the play as the spring drama for its positive focus on love and companionship.

"I chose this play because it is so heart-warming that it will make the audience feel the strongest emotion, love," she

"1 said. this chose show to try and counter all the heartbreak this town has felt. I thought it was time to feel something positive after all of the tragic events this town has faced recently, and Almost, Maine is the

perfect show for this."

The cast included Cassidy Donohue (Rhonda), Douglas Dorado (Randy), Julia DiLorenzo (Marvalyn), Nicholas Erb (Pete), Jerome Francisco (Lendall), David Gonzalez (Man), Elijah Gropper (Chad), Claudia Marino (Glory), Amanda Mora (Hope), Conor McGillicuddy(Phil), Kevan Oryani (East), Alycia Pascual-Peña (Waitress), Andi Rella (Marci), Cyle Rockoff (Jimmy),



Roma Scarano (Gayle), Paula (Sandrine), Segovia Kyle Slater (Steve), Shyla Solangi (Ginette) and Troy Trippichio (Dave). Love Monologues were performed by Leslie An, Melanie Jimenez, Cynthia Lambertson, Angel Maldonado, Demetrious McMullen, Christina Padro, Emily Murray and Nadia Saghei.

Sophomore Alycia Pascual-Peña, who played the role of Villian, said, "It was a great

experience beina part of this play. I enjoyed having the opportunity to take part in a unique production which had such depth. I also greatly admire director, Alex, our her vision for for this production. Alex really nurtured us and not only helped improve the show but also made the actors feel like one extended theatre family!"

"I was so excited to take part in Alex's

directorial debut," said senior Troy Tripicchio, who played the role of Dave. "I am so sad that this is my last performance with the Harrison High School Playhouse. I want to thank everyone involved in the performing arts for giving me my fondest high school memories."

Almost, Maine was written by playwright John Cariani. The play has been produced by over 70 professional theater companies and by over 2,500 non-professional theater organizations throughout the world.

"Dramatics" Magazine reported in 2014 that Almost, Maine was the most-produced play in North American High Schools for the third time in the past five years. Yet a production of the play last year was canceled by Maiden High School in Maiden, North Carolina, due to content deemed to be inappropriate by the principal and school board there.

We are very fortunate to live in a community as accepting and supportive as Harrison. It's good to know that everyone's love story is acceptable in the Harrison Central School District and that, as a community, we can overcome the hardships we have faced this school year together.

### HHS Dance-A-Thon For The Cure

#### Andrea Bolivar

Staff Writer

Did you know dancing could cure cancer, RSV, croup, scarlet fever, impetigo and whooping cough? Well, maybe not cure, but it certainly can make a difference.

On December 20, 2014, Dance Connections hosted the first annual Harrison High School Dance-A-Thon. The event was held in the Harrison High School arts wing to raise money for the Maria Fereira Children's Hospital. The event was intended to reach out to elementary and middle school students.

Junior and Dance Connection

to support the children at Maria Fereira's Children's Hospital."

"While the preparation was tedious, we had 21 volunteers, who were all super dedicated to the Dance-A-Thon," said junior Silvia Buonocore.

Like any project, first you have to plan, and the Dance-A-Thon was quite a challenge. The greatest challenge was choosing activities that would appeal to kids of all ages with a wide verity of dance experience. The Dance Connection members were unsure of what level of choreography difficulty to create because participants would be of varying ages and levels of dance expertise.



the group. This they had way the opportunity to play Just Dance with their own friends. In compensation, the dance room was the busiest of all. Ultimately, all students had the opportunity to have a swinging time at the Dance-A-Thon. The event

member Sammie Miles said, "It was awesome to see community coming together for such a great cause. There were kids from all of the elementary schools and LMK

Rebecca Bell said. "We

Hands to the sky and dance !: DanceConnection members Gabi Casella, Taylor Graustein, Emily Gunther, and Rebecca Bell lead a team of younger dancers of varying skills. Éveryone had a great time and money was raised for wonderful cause. Photos courtesy of Adam Bell

wanted to choreograph a dance routine to teach the kids that came to the event, but we struggled with deciding how difficult to make the dance."

The Harrison Community' consists of all levels of dance. Consequently, the club created two combinations for the event, being that one was more challenging than the other. The main difference between the two was the tempo, since expertise. All of the participants enjoyed the combinations and had a blast learning the combos; they were so eager to dance that the volunteers even had to make up dances on the spot.

"There were a variety of activities, so there was really something for everyone," stated junior Constantinos Staten.

The set-up encompassed a Wii room, a dance room, and even a snack room. Each activity was designed to make sure everyone had a great time. The snack room was where the movies were being displayed, in case the kids wanted to take a break from dancing and eat a snack as they relaxed. The Wii room was for those shy participants who did not wish to participate dancing with

was а huge success. In addition to the kids having an awesome time. the event raised

close to \$1,000. The hospital was very thankful for the generous donation. Later, they sent a thank you card, in return for the group's help. The hospital thought the Dance-A-Thon was an effective way to get everyone up and moving for a great cause, and all the volunteers had shared the same opinion.

Junior Isabella Prado said, "The event was a great way to get kids moving while raising money for a good cause."

The new Dance Connections members were excited about this successful event, and they plan on continuing this event in future vears.

Dancing for a Cause: Pictured here are several of the student dance volunteers for the event. Front Row (left to right): Maddie Tucchi, Kate Bell, Rebecca Bell, Silvia Buonocore, Andrea Bolivar, Stephanie Pon. Second Row (left to right): Briana Per-tak, Gabriela Barile, Emily Gunther, Cassie Marriott, Julia Goldstein, Julia DiLorenzo, Christine Cardascia. Back Row (left to right): Isabella Prado, Bea Almeida, Taylor Graustein, Jonathan Crozier, Jack Witte, Constantinos Staten, Gabriela Casella, Sa-mantha Miles, Scott Moretsky, and Victoria Bilotta.

As a result, the 'We

one was quicker than the other. Both combinations were utilized because the students who attended the event were of all levels of

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Arts & Entertainment

# **Spring Concert and the trip to DC: Bidding Farewell to Senior Performers**

#### Emily Murray

Staff Writer

There are so many means of self-expression at Harrison High School. Whether through creative writing, visual arts, or the fine and performing arts, there is something for everyone at HHS. This past Tuesday, April 21, was the 2015 Spring Concert, a prime example of how much talent has come from the hard work at this school.

An exceptional performance was showcased by the Orchestra, Concert Band, Chorus, and Dance students; close to 300 students came together to make one night far from ordinary.

The show was a first for the freshmen and a last for the senior students. There were laughs and tears shared. But most importantly, there was a shared and mutual sense of pride lingering throughout the night, especially throughout the touching slideshow of the performances and memories shared during the recent performing arts trip to the nation's capital, Washington D.C.

With only months left in their high school careers, the seniors are starting to feel the bittersweet sting of saying goodbye to their hard work and passion that has been such a huge part of their lives for the past four years.

"I feel like, with the audience present, the Dance Ensemble as

a whole was more unified as compared to just simple practices in class," said senior Amanda Almeida, member of the HHS Dance Ensemble. "You look back at the I a s t

four

While at the capital early this April, 180 Harrison students participated in the 2015 Heritage Festival, a national music festival. The Orchestra, Band, the Concert Band, Orchestra, Color Guard, and Majorettes, and bronze to the Chorus.

There were additional awards from adjudicators for outstanding perfor-



Seniors say goodbye: Some of the seniors in the performing arts say goodbye to their HHS careers. Pictured are (first row, left to right) Alexis Shannon, Brianna Pavesi, Roma Scarano, Carol Ann Albanese, (back row, left to right) Amy Geller, Cassidy Donohue, Troy Tripicchio, Alex Ostromouff, Catherine Rocchi, Rebecca Oestreicher, and Rachel Stagg. Courtesy of Roma Scarano

years and you look at not only yourself but how far you've come as a team. It's sad to have to say goodbye, but I'm glad I was able to have the experience. It is something I will always keep with me." Percussion, Chorus, Dance, and auxiliary teams (Color Guard, Majorettes) and achieved the following awards: gold to the Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Dance Ensemble, silver to mance by soloists or ensembles, including the Maestro Award for Outstanding Soloist, which went to dance soloist Sydney Rheingold, the Adjudicator Award to the Dance Ensemble, the Sweepstakes Award for Outstanding Instrumental Program, and the Adjudicator Award to the Percussion Ensemble.

Lastly, the final award of the festival, the Sweepstakes Award for outstanding overall performance went to Harrison as the school with the highest overall points from the festival.

In addition to bringing home many notable awards, the Huskies also brought home the experiences of the trip and its performances, something to hold on to and cherish forever. From adjudicators, they learned new techniques that they can use to help them develop and learn and grow in the years to come, both at the High School and in the rest of their lives, like for the soon-departing seniors.

There could not have been a more fitting farewell with the wonderful and successful final Spring Concert and Washington D.C. trip. The graduating seniors and all their hard work will be missed in the Performing Arts department, and by the HHS community as well. Their hard work and legacy will be leave paw prints on the heart of current Huskies, and likewise other Huskies to come.

### Music Review: The Go! Team's The Scene Between

#### Justin Santiago

#### Design Editor

After a four year hiatus, British band The Go! Team (minus the band) has returned with their fourth album, The Scene Between. The Go! Team is a project started in Brighton as a solo project by musician Ian Parton, which blends various genres of music such as retro hip-hop and '60s-style rock, tweaked to have a modern and vintage sound. This sound has been used since the band's first album, 2003's Thunder, Lightning Strike, and has continued to be used for the next two albums Proof of Youth (2007) and Rolling Blackouts (2011) with accompaniment of a six piece band including Parton himself, and main vocalist and female rapper, Ninja. Though Parton's most recent album omits the band's hip-hop sound (and the band), the vintage classic rock sound remains, and is prominent throughout the album. The album has a youthful, enthusiastic element to it, established by opening track, "What D'You Say?" The song begins with the sound of a soda can opening, which sets an upbeat, summer-like tone for the album. The track features underground Brazilian vocalist Samira Winter (this trend of underground vocalists continues with other tracks), whose voice adds to the overall vibrant mood

of the song. These West Coast vibes linger throughout the rest of the album in tracks like "Waking The Jetstream," which features Casey Sowa of Minneapolis band Strange Relations, and the more pop-esque track "Catch Me On The Rebound," which features

French vocalist, Glockabelle, "Rolodex The Seasons," "Did You Know," featuring Beijing drummer Shi Lu "Atom" and "Blowtorch" featuring Doreen Kirchner, all of which have the album's "sun damaged" pop sound. While this is presented throughout the album, much darker tones lurk deep within most tracks, creating a sense of irony, the album's peppy sound overshadows its serious themes. These themes are spread throughout the album, beginning with title track, "The Scene Between." Upon first listen, the song is reminiscent of gospel music, but is rather related to the topics of space and nature. These topics are also shared with second to last track, "The Art of Getting By (Song for Heaven's Gate)" which is also sung by the London African Gospel Choir. Both songs seem to be sung from the perspective of a religious cult. This is more evident in "The Art of Getting By," dedicated to the religious cult known as Heaven's Gate, who committed mass suicide in March of 1997 in hopes they would board a UFO following Comet Hale–Bopp upon death. According to Parton,



adds a strange dimension to the song..." "...Getting By" appears to give deeper meaning to "The Scene Between" in terms of its cult theme, with lyrics like "...taking the only way we know, taking the only thing that matters." ("...Getting By"), complementing lyr-

ics like "...what we are, what we turn to, what it stroy" which is a duet between Reo and Kirchner. The song tells the story of a girl who brings trouble with her wherever she goes.

It is unknown exactly what type of trouble Parton is referring to, but according to the lyrics, it appears to be rather apocalyptic, with lyrics like "...there's nothing ... no-one there ... " and "... but there's an echo left in the air ... "He seems to confirm this, referring to how Stephen King's Carrie was an influence for the video, and Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds was a main influence for the overall song. The Scene Between definitely has the same youthful and vigorous energy that The Go! Team has maintained throughout their work. Compared to past projects (also worth listening to), this album appears to be the deepest of them all, as evident from the grave and melancholy topics tracks like "The Art Of Getting By" and "Her Last Wave." Still, the majority of songs, like "What D'You Say," "Blowtorch," and "Catch Me On The Rebound" make up for that. Despite the dark themes lurking within most of the tracks, The Scene Between is still worth getting for its rich sound and themes that are significant steps ahead of The Go! Team's past works.

Courtesy of Memphis Industries

the song could be an anthem for their journey, as he explains in this interview with *Stereogum*: "... This song could almost be their anthem as they are ascending to space. It's jubilant and triumphant but as soon as you start to think of it in this way [mass suicide] it really means.

This strange dimension varies in other songs of the album as well, such as "Her Last Wave" and "Reason Left to Destroy" which seems to center around death and chaos. "Her Last Wave", in Parton's words, is about the final moments of a surfer drowning at sea. Sung by Emily Reo, this track has the '60s rock feel that was prominent in 2011's Rolling Blackouts ("Buy Nothing Day"), but like previous songs, centers around a dark topic. The theme of a drowning surfer is again hinted at in lyrics like "...someone else's tears in my eyes..." "...forces rearrange us..."

and "...you're crashing into my

eyes ... " These themes of death

continue into "Reason Left to De-

Arts & Entertainment

May 2015 Husky Herald

# 90-Second Interviews



"90 Second Interviews" is a feature wherein we sit down with two teachers and see how many random questions they can answer in only 90 seconds. This issue we interrogate a pair that needs no introduction, permanent substitute teacher Ms. Karen Peters and Special Education Math teacher Mr. Phil DiGioia.

Interviews coordinated by Callie Fried



What three things would you take on a desert island? My wife, my dog, and a basketball.

What is one song that you would listen to forever? "The Way You Look Tonight" by Frank Sinatra. Favorite candy? Starburst.

Favorite holiday? Christmas.

If you could dye your hair one color, what would it be? Orange.

If you could star in one movie what would it be? "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."



What three things would you take on a desert island? A good book, my computer, and water.

What is one song that you would listen to forever? "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" by McFadden and Whitehead. Favorite candy? Hershey's Kisses.

Favorite holiday? My birthday.

If you could dye your hair one color, what would it be? Hot Pink.

If you could star in one movie what would it be? Malcolm X (as Denzel Washington's wife).

Who is your celebrity crush? Lauren Conrad. Favorite ice cream? Mint chocolate chip. Biggest pet peeve? People who chew loudly. What superpower do you wish you had? Teleportation. What would your last meal be? Steak and mashed potatoes. Back in time or into the future? Back in time. Favorite subject in high school? Math. Favorite crayola crayon color? Orange. Cat or dog? Dog. Hamburger or hot dog? Cheeseburger. Soup or salad? Soup. Left or right handed? Lefty. What is your secret talent? I bake cakes. What is one state you want to visit? Montana. Favorite sports team? NY Giants. What is your favorite form of potato? Mashed potatoes. Favorite dynamic duo? Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. Favorite decade? 2000s.

Who is your celebrity crush? Denzel Washington. Favorite ice cream? Strawberry. Biggest pet peeve? People who pop their aum. What superpower do you wish you had? To make myself healthy all the time. What would your last meal be? Steamed crab legs with a baked potato and a soda. Back in time or into the future? Back in time. Favorite subject in high school? Spanish. Favorite crayola crayon color? Red. Cat or dog? Cat. Hamburger or hot dog? Hamburger. Soup or salad? Soup. Left or right handed? Righty. What is your secret talent? I play piano and the oboe. What is one state you want to visit? Arizona. Favorite sports team? NY Yankees. What is your favorite form of potato? French fries. Favorite dynamic duo? Batman and Robin. Favorite decade? 1980s.





### **Boys' Varsity Lax Starts Off Season Strong**

Will Kirshner

Staff Writer

Section 1 is no joke when it comes to lacrosse in the state of New York. Yorktown and Bronxville highlight the strength of the section as two nationally recognized programs, while others such as Rye, Arlington, and the Huskies lead the pack of contenders.

As a constituent member of Class B, the Huskies regularly

face opponents like Rye, Byram Hills, and Yorktown. After reaching the section semifinals last season with wins over Eastchester and Sleepy Hollow in playoff play, the Huskies got bounced by the dominant Huskers of Yorktown, who went on to win a State Championship.

In order to succeed in the 2015 season, the Huskies must overcome the challenges that accompany drastic overhaul. After losing 14 seniors and the appointment of a new head coach in Edgar Glascott, some may say that the Huskies are in

rebuilding mode. Some players that highlighted the graduating class of 2014 were Jake Marino, currently playing at UMASS, and Jake Kirshner, currently playing at Union College.

Coach Glascott, however, boasts an extensive history of succeeding at various levels of lacrosse, and seems primed to help



Staying Warm in a Snowstorm: Junior Harry Barn-well dodges to beat his defender and free up an opening against the Bulldog defense. There was a brief snowstorm during this heated contest.

Courtesy of Will Kirshner

the Huskies succeed. Glascott played his high school ball at Long Island powerhouse, Farmingdale, followed by a collegiate career at Marist. Following his time at Marist, a Division I program, Glascott went on to coach his alma mater, as well as the Naval Academy.

Despite the notion that this may be a rebuilding year, the Huskies opened up their season on March 25 with a 12-4 win over the Nyack Indians. Matt McLaughlin put on a clinic, scoring six goals and tallying four assists. Tyler Menniti and Harry Barnwell each tacked on two more goals, in addition to a goal each by Owen Van Tongeren and Kevin Alvora.

The Huskies' second matchup pitted them against a scrappy Irvington team. The final score ended at 7-6 in favor of the Huskies, with goals from Matt Allegreti, Matt McLaughlin, Jack Wilson and Harry Barnwell. Following the win against Irvington, the Huskies put forth another dominant performance against a very aggressive Pearl River squad. Tyler Menniti, Matt McLaughlin, Jack Wilson, and Harry Barnwell all got on the score sheet for the day.

As a continuation of their

good run of form, the Huskies faced off against the formidable Arlington team, ranked sixth in LoHud Lacrosse power rankings. Led by star attack man Brendan Sunday, who is committed to play college ball at Division One powerhouse Towson, Arlington present-

ed the Huskies with a timely challenge. With one second left on the clock, Matt Allegreti let a low roller fly from 35 yards out, which miraculously went in to give the Huskies a 12-11 win.

"It was incredible, such a great moment for the program," said senior mid-fielder Kevin Alvora. "We wanted to beat this team and it was a tough test, but we showed everyone that the underdog can pull out the win."

The maroon and white have since extended their winning streak to 6-0, after dismantling Tappan Zee and Clarkstown South. First year coach Edgar Glascott has the

program moving in a positive direction, and every member of the extended Harrison community hopes that this team can build upon its success, to make a deep run in the Section One playoffs in nearly a month's time.



Sticking it to Irvington: Sophomore midfielder Jack Wilson drives to the cage, looking for a goal. The Huskies beat the Bulldogs 7-6 that day. Courtesy of Will Kirshner

### **Track and Field Become Class B Champions**

Kendall Gaynes Staff Writer

Back in February, the 2015 Girls' Varsity Track and Field team took home a plaque for winning first place in the Class B Championship. It was a competitive meet for the girls who were going up against Pearl River High School, who were running on a 28-year

were both doing well with winning the League Champion title. However, winning the Class B Sectional Champion title for the first time in Harrison High School history helped the Harrison Girls team to show how as a team, they have grown and prospered, finally coming out with a big win.

"They told us about how fast the season went by for them and how much they were going to miss it and wanted to finish the season strong. They all spoke about making history for the girl's team to leave our mark at the high school for after we all left. It



winning streak. Becoming the Class B Champions was a huge accomplishment for the Harrison Track and Field team, especially the Girls and all their coaches.

In the beginning of the season, the Girls' and Boys' teams

"The day before the meet we had a meeting where all the coaches left and all the seniors gave us a speech about how amazing it would be if we won," said sophomore Lea Sarmiento.

was definitely motivational and made all of us realize that we could take home the Sectional Champion title and gave all of us the confidence we needed going into the next day."

"This was a very exciting and thrilling experience for me," said freshman Lauren LaManna, "especially my first year in high school. In future years I hope to grow as we, as a team push ourselves even further."

In addition to winning the overall title, many individuals excelled in their events, setting personal records. Senior Jia Luo, by placing first in her race, achieved a new school record of 45.49 seconds in the 300-meter dash. When placing in the top six in each runner's respective events, the team received points, which helped the girls obtain a

Hurdling Toward Victory: Senior Erica LaManna ahead of juniors Katie Murabito and Lauren Horner during the winter indoor track and field event at the New York City Armory. Photos courtesy of Harrison Central School District

total of 148 points, beating Pearl River. Other girls who placed first in their respective events were Bianca Diniz in the weight throw and the shot put, Erica LaManna in the long jump, Katie Murabito in the triple jump, Marisa Gazzola in the 55m dash, and the girls' 4x200m team.

"I'm so happy for the girls for winning, said sophomore varsity track and field team member Matthew Novak. "They have worked very hard to get where they are today and deserved this win more than anything."

This year's Track and Field team has been extremely successful. The school is very proud of their accomplishments thus far.

"It's amazing that we have a really unified Boys' and Girls' team this year," said senior Jia Luo.



Jumping for Joy: Junior Jack Witte about to clear the bar in the high jjump competition at the New York City Armory. The event requires form and concentration.

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Boys' Swim Team Takes Bittersweet Loss

Sydney Woolf

News Editor

The Boys' Swim Team made promising splashes this year as their season came to a close in early February. After successfully defeating Yorktown, Port Chester, Keio Academy, and Woodlands, the boys held a satisfying 4-4 record. Their performance was a gratifying one as the team dealt with the loss of a few key members and a wave of fresh legs.

Regardless of the loss of two crucial swimmers, Ryan Nangle and Charlie Van Tongeren, the team had been able to maintain a solid standing among their league. With the return of a number of veteran swimmers, along with the addition of some newcomers, the team was able to overcome adversity early on.

"We were concerned with the loss of some of our strongest members," said junior and fouryear swimmer Chris Hicks, "but the division switch helped us continue our successful record."

Led by captains Alex Corda,

Misha Solkolski, and Harrison Steins, the Huskies swam into the Conference 2, League 3 Championships on February 8. The boys finished in a bittersweet second

place, losing to Ossining in solely the diving category, as there are no divers for Harrison. The second place finish still left the boys with a lot of confidence for next season.



**O** Captain! My Captain!: Boys' Swim Team captains try to capture the League cham-pionships, while Coach Dearstyne waves hello from the corner. Pictured here are junior Alex Corda, and seniors Misha Sokolski and Harrison Steins. Courtesv of Alex Corda

Despite this tough feat, a few members of the team were excited to take their talents to the Section Championship on February 10. Despite a tough battle, none of

the swimmers qualified for the State Championship. However, this just added fuel to the fire for the boys, as evident by the tightknit bond of the team.

"We're already looking forward to being even more competitive next year," said freshman Christian Steins. "Each and every swimmer left the pool that day with eyes looking towards next season."

On a personal note, this reporter was the manager for the Boys' Swim Team this year. The job required keeping score at home meets and keeping track of when swimmers were supposed to swim. Seeing the boys succeed turned what could have seemed mundane into something unforgettable.

Regardless of the lack of

peer attendance at meets, the team never failed to give it their all. Swim meets may not be the most exciting of events to attend, but that does not mean the team should be held to any less of a standard than the more prominent sports teams at our school. The boys always seemed to be having a good time together, all outside variables aside. Camaraderie is a crucial component to any organization, and there is no doubt this team had that.

"Among the returning members, the close bond that we formed last year resumed immediately," said junior and captain Alex Corda. "Even the new members, especially the younger swimmers, were able to fit right into the team,"

Next year is going to be a big year for the swim team, and they are looking forward to an even more successful season.

### **Bowling Has Up and Down Season**

#### Ben Rubin and John DosSantos Staff Writers

The Harrison Bowling Team gave it their all in a match-up with the state championship-winning Yonkers squad. The HHS team was led by senior Mike DeRenzis, who maintained a 198 average through the season's first four games. Freshman Joey Tiburzi also stepped up in big moments, hitting a large amount of points. Also, first year senior Cirillo Martins, a fairly novice bowler, put in a very large contribution in an attempt to get Harrison Bowling back on track.

The Bowling Team had a long, vigorous season, and captain Mike DeRenzis completed his final season of a four-year varsity career. Mike has bowled three perfect 300 games in his career, which is nothing but strikes through all 10 frames, the ultimate in bowling infamy.

and-comers as underclassmen. I have tried to teach my teammates everything I know and I can see that it's really helping. People who have never bowled before are really hitting their strides and their fundamentals are improving tremendously."

"Bowling is really fun and I like to do it in my free time, said sophomore Matt Hendler. "I never thought I could do it competitively, but maybe next year I will try."

The Bowling Team would love to see an increase in team member numbers.

The team practiced very hard, and enrolled in a holiday tournament at Bowlerland in the Bronx. Such tournaments are a great way for individual players to gain experience against seasoned bowlers from other teams.

Coach DiGioia experimented

Such a curve allows for maximum pin action and a better chance of getting a strike. This could get someone onto the next level of



Be like Mike: Senior Mike DiRenzis

play, allowing them to become a top bowler like Mike.

The team really hit its stride coming into the final month of the season. The team had a tough schedule, but with daily practice, they were prepared and ready for a possible post season. Mike wanted to win it all in his last season, but unfortunately, it didn't work out that way. As the rest of the team was rooting for Mike at Sectionals in Fishkill, NY, he fell short of the mark and was sent home empty-handed in his senior year.

Mike wants to continue competing in college if he can prove he has the skillset. Mr. DiGioia would love to see the bowling program stretch out to more freshmen and continue growing. The team will lose a couple of seniors going into next year, but if

in numbers.

The Bowling Team finished off the season at a .500 record of 39-39. Senior Mike DeRenzis carried the team with a 211 average at the end of the season. Although Mike was the only returning bowler to the team, Coach DiGioia taught bowlers Ben Rubin, Jared Bartman, Joey Tiburzi and others. It was an amazing season, with the team averaging 770 pins a game.

As the team looks back on the season, there were many ups and downs. They faced many challenges along the way, but Coach DiGioia stated, "Next year the bowling team will be new and have a fresh start."

"This team is on the rise," he said. "We have a bunch of up-

them to put a curve on their balls. fect games.

with some players, trying to teach of the ball. He has bowled three per-Courtesy of Prestige Portraits

the underclassmen recruit other friends, the program will increase

### **Girls' Golf Explores Potential**

Caroline DeCarlo

Staff Writer

For the past few years, our Girls' Golf team has been one of the most overlooked components of Harrison High School's athletic program. Though this team has not been in existence very long, the women on this team take their sport as seriously as any other athlete in the larger Husky community.

The 14 girls that make up this team include two seniors, seven juniors, three sophomores, and two freshmen. Senior captain Cori Pitiger hopes to lead the team to sectionals during her fourth season with the team.

There are two golf teams at HHS, a varsity girls' team, and a varsity boys' team. Both seasons begin on the same date as every other spring sport, but instead of practicing on the turf or sand outside, the golf team is bussed to the Westchester Driving Range four days a week until the first match. The teams are fortunate enough to be given the privilege to play on some of the nicest courses Westchester County has to offer, including the Westchester Country Club's PGA-tourworthy course.

This season, HHS gym

teacher Ms. Wendy Swenson stepped up to coach the team, replacing her long-term predecessor.

"The girls' golf team has started off the season with a great deal of potential," she said. "They have worked hard to develop both their mental and physical skills on the golf course. We are looking forward to continued success and an exciting season"

On average, the team plays three times a week with the course location dependent on the opposing team. For each match, Harrison is matched with another Westchester team. Each team sends six players on the course, making for three foursomes. At the end of the match, nine hole scores are added up to determine a winner. Average scores typically lay above par, but the team is working hard to increase each individual's chance of making it to Sectionals.

Thus far in the season, the HHS Golf team has played Edgemont and Scarsdale. Each match featured stand out scores such as Cori Pitiger's score of 41 on the front nine holes at Scarsdale Golf Club.



Swinging: Senior Cori Pitiger shows how it is done.

Courtesy of Yearbook

The team hopes to continue the hard work and dedication necessary to achieve success this season.

# **Boys' Varsity Basketball Team Finishes Exceptional Season**

Steven Vendola

Sports Editor

The Boys Varsity Basketball team built upon last year's success with a regular season record of 13-5. After a convincing win over Rye in their first sectional game, the boys lost a hard fought battle against a talented Tappan Zee team. With a trip to the County Center on the line for a second consecutive year, the boys came up just short with a second-half surge, losing by a score of 67-59.

According to MSG Varsity, the Huskies had a conference record of 6-3, finishing second to Byram Hills at a league record of 6-1. The Huskies finished with a .700 win percentage, a 5-1 record in neutral venues, and a 6-3 record at home.

"We knew we had a new group of players but we thought we had talented players," said Coach Chiarella prior to the playoffs. "We wanted to try to get off

to a good start and we did. Now that we have been successful, we would like to finish with as many wins as possible so we can get one or two home games in the playoffs."

Looking back at a successful season, the Huskies had a particularly special January. The Huskies played up to their potential in both games against the Rye Garnets, securing both victories. In their first meeting this season, the Huskies and the Garnets matched each other for both intensity and efficiency. The Huskies picked up the 46-45 victory when junior Jack Hochman hit a three with six seconds left in the game. The second meeting took place during



Hoop Dreams Realized: Another successful season. Pictured are (first row, left to right) Joseph Nannariello, Dustin Hart, Justin Stagg, Brian Ganis (Second row, left to right) AJ Magee, Michael Nannariello, Omar Nesheiwat, Frank Fiorino, Zach Evans, (Third Row, left to right) Coach Dan Pesco, Jack Hochman, Tyler Gersten, Jeff Solomon, Coach Gary Chiarella.





Seniors United: Seniors Joey Nannariello, Justin Stagg, Dustin Hart, and Brian Ganis join together after a season on the hardwood of which to be proud.

the first round of the Mamaroneck Tournament. The Huskies would go on to win the game 70-58. Regardless of the outcome of the season, three wins against the rival Garnets in a year can certainly brighten the team's outlook. Building upon their momentum

in the Mama-

roneck Tournament, the Huskies went on to beat Mamaroneck in the finals, winning the game by a score of 44-38.

"Our success on the court this year is due to the fact that we play together and don't rely on any one player," said Coach Chiarella about the key for success on the court.

This answer rings true when looking at the course of the season. The Huskies lost players to injuries and illnesses, and fought through some difficult games that came down to the last minute. In addition, they were

junior varsity. We are also not the tallest team in the world but we have turned that into an advantage for us using our speed to help us win games.'

While the Huskies unfortunately failed to make it back to the County Center, they certainly built upon last year's success. After returning to the County Center for the first time since 1968, per USA Today, an opening round victory and a close defeat to Tappan Zee still constitutes a successful season.

The Huskies had four se-

"We are not the tallest team ...but we have turned that into an advantage, using our "

niors this year, including Co-Captain Joey Nannariello, Justin Stagg, Dustin Hart, and Brian Ganis. Each of these players had a key role in the team's success and will certainly be missed next



Twelve Grasp Tournament Triumph: Michael Nannariello and Justin Stagg clutch the trophy after the team wins the Mamaroneck Tournament. different than This was a true momentum builder for the team, as well as a confident victory overall.

speed...

year. While they leave big shoes to

fill, the underclassmen and rising seniors are more than capable of playing important roles and transferring what they have learned over this past season. They will be able to use their experience to help bring about success in a "Some of year's time.

> This season, filled with many entertaining and close games, has gone by very fast. The Huskies were able to find success throughout the year and the school truly enjoyed the ride. The seniors will hang up their jerseys, never to put on a Harrison Basketball Uniform ever again. However, they can leave the gym with their heads held high, proud of their accomplishments and confident that the underclassmen of the team will build upon their success for years to come.