

Husky Herald

Harrison High School Harrison NY 10528

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Welcome to the New Rose Garden Wing

Samantha Marano

Staff Writer

The Rose Garden Wing is finally complete. The project took about seven months. During construction, all math classes were held in the small gym.

Assistant Principal Mr. Mastrotta recently talked about how the Rose Garden Wing turned out.

"The district offices, Assistant Superintendent for Business Bob Salierno, and Dr. Wool all chose the decorative choices for the building," he said. "I really like the building because it's unique and is a different style compared to the rest of the building, which was made in 1974. The reason for building an extension is because the math teachers were scattered around the building and we wanted to give them a place in the building for their own space out there."

All the other classrooms have Smart Boards, but the new math classrooms in the Rose Garden all have interactive TVs. The interactive TVs have a computer inside the TV

and can easily connect to the internet faster. Mr. Mastrotta sent out an email to all students at Harrison High School regarding the official movement of the math classes.

Some teachers have a classroom all to themselves, but some

have to share. Mrs. Berg is in RG 100, Mr. Roberts in RG 101, Mrs. Borella in RG 102, Ms. DeGrazia in RG 104, and Ms. Devine in RG 105. Mr. C is in RG 103 during periods 1 and 4 but during periods 3, 7 and 8, he is in RG 107; Mrs. DeBold is in



RG 103, Mrs. Murden is in RG 107, Mrs. Layton is in RG 106 and Mr. DiGioia is in RG 106 during periods 2, 4, 8, and 9.

The building is complete, but the landscaping is not. It is winter now and the weather prevents progress. Mr. Mastrotta mentioned that the landscaping will be completed in the spring. The landscaping will definitely include rose bushes upon request from our Principal Ms. Beukema, according to Mr. Mastrotta.

One of the math teachers, Mr. Roberts, has his own classroom and he said, "It's indescribably awesome. It also has the best decorations of any classroom ever."

One of the big questions about the new extension to the building is what will happen if there is an emergency or a drill. There has been a recent fire drill and Mr. Mastrotta said, "One of the reasons why we drill is to assess how students and staff respond to the situation of the drill. It was the first drill for the new extension, but there are certain things that we learned and we will update students and staff to any changes to more effectively exit the buildings."

Sophomore John Carpino spoke about the Rose Garden Wing, saying, "I like how they made the math classes all in one area. I understand why they

named it the Rose Garden, but why name a building after one rose bush?"

Since all the other subjects have their own space, the math department was given their own as well. Now everyone finally can enjoy the new classrooms.



A Room of Their Own. Some of these beautiful new classrooms are dedicated to one teacher, while others still are shared. The finished product is a classy upgrade to our high school.
Photos courtesy of Vincent Longo



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NEWS & FEATURES

Impressive Debate Team Wins One Tournament After Another

Larissa Iraj

Sports Editor

The Harrison High School Debate Team marked the start of another school year with impressive praise and awards. This is the tenth season for the HHS Debate Team, which has many nationally ranked members. The popularity and increase in new membership is due to the publicity and recognition this team has received over the past year.

Mr. Chetan Hertzog is the advisor for this team and has been recognized with two Diamond Awards from the National Speech and Debate Association Honor Society. The team captains for this year, senior Eli Lapkin, junior Ava Zinman and junior Ethan Voskoff, all bring strong knowledge and experience to help this team go far.

The early successes of this team is partly attributed to the hard work and training many of the students put in this summer. In July, ten members of the team traveled to Global Debate Symposium at Colorado College to where they honed their debate strategies and skills. Then in late July, the HHS team members attended an institute in Philadelphia. Ava Zinman placed as top seed, top speaker, and a quarterfinalist at the NSD Philadelphia camp tournament.

The HHS team opened the sea-

son at the Byram Hills Invitational the first week in September. Ava Zinman made the team proud by reaching the final rounds and by placing second after a 2-1 decision.

The following weekend, the team traveled to the Yale Tournament where sophomores Anthony Kang, Sonali Nicola and Molly Ryan did not lose in an elimination round. Sonali Nicola successfully reached the octofinals. Anthony Kang and Molly Ryan reigned as co-champions of the JV division. The participants for the varsity division were sophomore Rebecca Anderson, who made it past the elimination round, and seniors Justin Wilson and Matt Wilson.

Meanwhile at The Greenhill Tournament, Ava Zinman, Ethan Voskoff and sophomore Giovanni Cutri all held onto strong records and Ava was able to reach octofinals and earn her first Tournament of Champions (TOC) bid.

By late September, the members of this HHS team had already racked up many awards and it came as no surprise that the team did so well at Valley High School's Mid-America Cup national championship in Des Moines, Iowa. Eli Lapkin placed in the quarterfinals which was the top eight debaters, he was also the fif-



Take that, Scarsdale! The regional championship at the Scarsdale Invitational was the HHS debate team's fifth tournament win of the season. Pictured here (left to right) are Matt Wilson, Ava Zinman, Mr. Hertzog, Eli Lapkin, Molly Ryan, and Justin Wilson.



Climbing to the top of the Ridge. The Ridge Debates regional championship at Basking Ridge, NJ, was Harrison's seventh tournament win of the season. Pictured here (left to right) are judge Matt Murno, Lizzie Murno, Giovanni Cutri, Ali Ahmad, Anthony Kang, Gabe Voskoff, and Sonali Nicola.

teenth speaker, and earned his first TOC Bid. Ethan Voskoff reached double-octofinals, the top 32.

Some other highlights of the season thus far include, great advancement by Eli Lapkin to the bid round to place 32 after seven competitive rounds at the Bronx High School of Science's New York City Invitational in mid-October. Rebecca Anderson, Giovanni Cutri, and Anthony Kang also had great performances, all with 4-3 records. This is a great accomplishment for the High School Debate Team since this competition draws 164 debaters from over 20 states.

The success of this team continued the following week with the a big win for Giovanni Cutri and Rebecca of the Annual Princeton/Yale Tournament on October 28.

Only a week later the team had one of its best competitions of the year. Eli Lapkin ranked third place in semifinals and Ava Zinman placed eighth in the quarterfinals at the prestigious MinneApple Invitational in Minnesota. This is the first time in five years that debaters from the

Harrison High School Team have made it to so far in this tournament. The JV debater, Molly Ryan, reached the final round and placed second.

The achievements of this team has been mirrored by their impressive New York State rankings. Eli Lapkin ranks third, Ava Zinman eleventh and Ethan Voskoff sixteenth. As the season continues, there is no doubt that other members of the HHS debate team will earn rankings of their own.

Molly Ryan said, "The best moment of the season so far was this past weekend, at Apple Valley, Minnesota. I enjoyed the tournament because many people on the team were very successful and it was fun to celebrate with everyone. As the season continues, I hope to become more experienced in new areas of debate that I haven't been exposed to in the past."

As of mid-December, this team has already won seven tournaments, with a certainty there will be more to come.

DECA Brings Out Business Success

Darin Iraj

Staff Writer

The Harrison High School DECA club has been off to a busy year so far. With over 100 members in many different clusters, the club's participants have been actively involved in learning about the world of business, fundraising, and attending competitions. The returning advisors are Mr. Joseph Santo and Mrs. Deirdre O'Brien. The current president of the club is senior Matthew Griff. Matthew has been a part of this club since his freshman year, and has been instrumental in the organization and success of the club.

During the month of September, members were divided into groups and the cluster-leaders helped teach them the basics of their events. Soon after, many members of the board shifted gears and started their fundraising efforts. The members went to local businesses to talk about the importance of the DECA club at Harrison High School and to ask for these businesses to place ads in the DECA Yearbook.

The DECA yearbook features events that DECA has conducted, pictures of competitions and other memories, and has advertisements from the businesses who sponsor DECA at our high school.

Hailey Mcguire helped contact and travel to local businesses to help aid DECA fundraising.

"As a person who wants to pursue a career in business, I found this experience very valuable," said Mcguire. "I enjoyed learning about some of Harrison's local businesses

as well."

In November, over 50 students from the DECA club attended the Sports Business Day at MetLife Stadium in Rutherford, NJ. This field trip provided a direct way for students to see and learn about the different aspects such as advertising, marketing, entrepreneurship, and web design that are needed to successfully run a business.

"Students that attended the MetLife Trip not only got a behind

said Mrs. O'Brien. "One of the most interesting points all of the speakers talked about was the importance of real world experience and internships students should be taking advantage of in their high school and college careers."

In January, after a lot of hard work and preparation, the club competed at the Regionals Competition at Rockland Community College. The club took home many awards this year.

Josh Cooper in Hospitality Services, Darin Iraj and Jared Schnapp in Travel and Tourism, Aiden Lefkowitz in Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, Yoko Miyoshi in Principles of Marketing and Reese Ptashnik in Apparel and Accessories Marketing.

The second place winners were Meghan McGurk in Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, Mohamed Kapadia in Automotive Series marketing and Aerin Grief in Hotel and Lodging Management. The third

Herman in Sports and Entertainment Marketing.

Of the 35 students who attended the Regional DECA competition, 22 are advancing to compete in the upcoming DECA State Competition held on March 6, 7, and 8 in Rochester, NY.

These talented business students will have the opportunity to move on to Nationals, if they place top five in their respective events at States.

Ariane Guyonnet, a first year DECA member, said, "I think the club will perform well this year at States because it has strong teams who are ready to compete. I am not as sure about us advancing to Nationals, however, because it is very challenging to achieve. Still, I do think Harrison has a chance at it."

"The competition at Rockland Community College was definitely one of the highlights of my DECA career at Harrison High School," said club president Matt Griff. "Having competed at four regional competitions, the results of this one were extremely impressive. Many of these students put countless hours into preparation and their success really paid off. I look forward to continuing preparing and working with these students in the next couple months for the state level competition and hopefully the international competition. Our students represented Harrison High School in an extremely professional matter at this competition."



Sports Business Day. Over 50 HHS students visited MetLife Stadium to hear speakers addressing advertising and marketing, branding and merchandising of a professional sports team. The students got to hear directly from business executives in the Jets' organization. Such trips point out the advantages to be gained from internships and real world experiences.



Photos courtesy of Mrs. O'Brien

the scenes tour of MetLife Stadium, but also had the opportunity to ask questions and hear from business executives in the Jets organization,"

Harrison had seven first place winners: Matthew Griff in Retail Merchandising, Sophia Langiulli in Principles of Finance, Matthew and

place winners were Nicole Herman in Principles of Finance, Tina Liu in Accounting Applications, Brandon Lum in Business Finance and Jake

Athletes in Action Gets Community Involved

Matthew Cooper

Guest Writer

Together with Mr. Galano, HHS Athletic Director, Josh Cooper, Matthew Cooper and Connor Novak have created a program called *Athletes in Action*. The idea is to integrate community service into the

mentorship and friendship. Each sports team is invited to visit once per season (or more). It's a chance for the teams to introduce their sport to the Cottages' kids.

The HHS athletes will spend

be provided for time spent at Cottages.

A group of 22 HHS students rep-



Something to cheer about. A group of 22 Harrison High School students, including 16 varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders made the trip to the Pleasantville Cottages earlier in the school year. The results were fun for everyone, including the 25 Cottages' students who worked on cheerleading drills and played basketball together. This is the kind of valuable giving back to the community activity that defines *Athletes in Action*. Consider signing up and taking part.

Photos courtesy of Connor Novak



Harrison Athletics program.

Athletes in Action has connected with Pleasantville Cottages, home to children displaced from their families, so that students involved in Harrison team sports can add value to the Cottages' kids lives through

approximately one and a half hours at the Cottages, playing their sport or doing some other fun activity. Since the students live at the Cottages 24/7, they are eager for new things to do.

Community service credit will

representing *Athletes in Action*, including 16 varsity and JV cheerleaders, plus the Varsity coach, participated in a visit to the Cottages earlier in the school year on Saturday, November 17.

The group spent time with approximately 25 Cottages' students

doing cheerleading drills, playing basketball, and other activities in the Rec Center. The Cottages' staff was excited by the turnout and enthusiasm. The HHS volunteers had a lot of fun and said they'd like to visit again.

The next *Athletes in Action* visit is scheduled for February 9 in the

early afternoon. Anyone interested in participating is welcome - whether you are a student athlete or not. Contact Mr. Galano, Mr. Roberts, Connor (novakc@harrisoncsd.org), Matthew (cooperm@harrisoncsd.org) or Josh (cooperj@harrisoncsd.org) to sign up.



opinions & editorials

Protecting Our First Amendment Rights

Staff Editorial

Considering the current state of things, it is getting easier to wonder if the truth still matters. The very heart of journalism is the tenet of presenting objective truth. There is a belief that through hard work and tenacious reporting, such truths can be discovered and then delivered to readers at large, from the high school level to international news organizations. This very belief is now being challenged, starting with the current Administration's popularization of the term "fake news" and its early references to the press as an "enemy of the people." This venomous view of the free press has taken its toll.

The *Committee to Protect Journalists*, in its recent annual report, reported that 53 journalists had been killed in 2018, many of them murdered during dangerous assignments. When our top intelligence agencies advised government officials about the brutal murder of *The Washington Post* reporter and American citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, at the behest of the Saudi Arabian government, people expected our country to take a firm, humanitarian stand in defense of free speech and our first amendment rights, things that have always been a source of pride in our democracy.

When no censure for that action was forthcoming, when our financial ties to Saudi Arabia seemed to garner greater protection than a journalist's right to free speech, many were surprised and angered. After all, it has always been our hallmark as a nation to protect such humanitarian rights; yet this seems to presage a new era where finances dictate policy over human rights and there is a new comfort level in presenting lies to the public.

This disregard for truth in the new age of "alternative facts" is alarming. There are plenty eager to point fingers and blame targets, including some as far-reaching as social media, foreign propaganda, or even the postmodern world. Yet truth has been diminished by the growing amount of misleading claims presented on an almost daily basis in this new world of tweets and crises.

When *CNN* reporter Jim Acosta had his White House press pass temporarily suspended, many were up in arms about the possible threat to free speech. While Acosta's behavior might be seen as less than exemplary and bordering on disrespectful, it did not warrant that kind of reaction and censorship. Yet this is an age of division, of challenges to our first amendment rights, of increasing (as *The Washington Post* calls it) 'truth decay.'

Our first amendment rights are under attack both from the government and from the public. Yet journalists must continue to pursue objective truths through investigative reporting, regardless of what consequences might befall them. They cannot succumb to fear and bullying (or worse). The truth is worth the sacrifice. They have a responsibility to check facts and report them. We cannot give up when fighting to preserve the very freedom that makes our constitutional democracy worth preserving. True journalists must continue their quest for objective truth, regardless of the danger.

Recently, a high school newspaper in Springdale, Arkansas, after months of investigation, published an expose of five students who violated rules by transferring to another school in the district because it gave them a better shot at being recruited to play Division One college football. Their reward for their hard work? That district's deputy superintendent ordered the faculty adviser to remove the story from the website. So you see, even on a high school level, journalism gets censored. High school journalists and their faculty advisers have an obligation to be responsible and objective. Thankfully, *The Husky Herald* is given a lot of leeway to allow students the kind of voice that other schools might not. Even on our smaller scale, there is a concern for the example being set by our first amendment rights.

These first amendment rights are the very foundation of our government and our country. Without these, Americans would face chaos and confinement. Holding onto these rights is crucial in our quest to remain free and to know the truth. It is extremely important that we advocate for these rights and continue to make sure that our Constitutional right to free speech is maintained and preserved.

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Harrison High School
 255 Union Avenue
 Harrison NY 10528
 Students: 1102
 Staff: 172

Principal: Ms. Kimberly Beukema

Staff 2018-2019

Editor-in-Chief - Ella Napack
 Managing Editor - Emma Berkowitz
 Sports Editor - Larissa Iraj
 News Editor - Madison Schiro
 Copy Editor - Micaela Udell
 Photography Editor - Vincent Longo
 Club Secretary - Julia Ansel

Staff -

Mia Altamuro, Olivia Burghouts, Alexis Cameron, Julia Cox, Dimitrios Gkinis, Paul Glenn, Avery Heilbrunn, James Horvath, Darin Iraj, Josiah Johnson, Michael Jubak, Maddie Kraus, James Lowe, Cynthia Malota, Adrianna Mannino, Samantha Marano, Sarah McGinity, Austin Mueller, Joshua Naar, Isabel Paris, Sam Ptashnik, Fatima Nolasco Rojas, Jolie Roshco, Jordana Roshco, Maya Schnier, Emily Scremin, Ben Stephenson, Yuiko, Suzuki, Ericka Taveras, Michael Tolve, Madison Tuminaro, Lucila Waisburg, Sofia Weissman

Faculty Adviser - Mr. Gary Glauber

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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.

Pink Wave Hits the House

Emma Berkowitz and Madison Schiro
Managing Editor and News Editor

Women made huge gains in the 2018 Midterm election, with a record number of women elected to Congress.

With increasing passion for women's progress with feminists centered around the loss of women's rights and the surging #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, this was an important step in the right direction.

The increasing number of women will ensure that the country is more fairly represented in Congress. This election also hit significant milestones for women in communities not previously represented.

On Thursday January 3, 2018, a record number of women were sworn into office. A total of 112 women will now serve in Congress: 106 Democrats and 21 Republicans.

Numerous milestones of this election were reported by Li Zhou from Vox. For instance, Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas were the first Native American women to join the ranks of Congress. According to *NBC News*, Davids is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Haaland is part of the Pueblo of Laguna. Davids is also the first openly LGBT member of Congress from Kansas, surprisingly ousting Republican Representative Kevin Yoder by nearly a double-digit margin. Also, Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar were elected as the first

Muslim women that would serve in the House of Representatives, and Omar is also the first hijab-wearing member and first former refugee to be elected.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Abby Finkenauer are now the youngest lawmakers in history at only 29

and extreme progressive platform, and now she has moved to Washington, D.C.

Junior Sydnee Smith said, "A Congress that is diverse is important and beneficial because it will help please other groups of people since they will now be represented in the

elected to the U.S. Congress also signals a shift in the paradigm of the typical political candidate."

This article cites research that shows that "an increase in women in office can inspire more young women to consider politics."

This demonstrates the huge

tive of the country and therefore the country should be pleased.

The current "pink wave" in Congress could turn into a future "pink ocean" because of the young women that are being inspired.

"Women being more represented in Congress is very exciting," said junior Nasia Meimeteas, "because it demonstrates that women are making progress in politics and society."

According to Nicole Gaudiano of *USA Today*, "protests against sexual misconduct in the workplace contributed to women's political involvement. Some candidates have shared their own #MeToo movement stories in their campaigns."

Women represented in politics will possibly aid in the #MeToo movement and other movements that defend women's rights.

Gaudiano also states that "almost 80% of voters said it was very or somewhat important to see more women elected. That was a higher priority for women than for men."

Since many women did get elected to Congress, voters will be pleased to see the increase of seats in Congress for women.

In ensuing elections, women are hopeful to continue making progress in Congress and in government in general. For now, this was a momentous step in pursuing a government that is more representative of the actual country.



Women in White. Women representatives were asked to wear white to the President's recent State of the Union address to show solidarity and to serve as a symbol of the ongoing fight to attain equal rights for all women.

Courtesy of NBC News

years old. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez was an organizer for Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign; she has gained national attention from her prominent social media presence

government. So, this election was significant in that groups not previously represented now will be."

Christina Vuleta from *Forbes* stated that "the diversity of women

significance of this recent election. The increasing amount of women as a political presence will be beneficial to the future in that it will help create a Congress that is more representa-

How Effective Has The #MeToo Movement Been

Madison Schiro
News Editor

Following the Pulitzer Prize-winning reports from *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* about former film producer Harvey Weinstein's countless decades of sexual abuse, a huge wave of women stormed social media, particularly Twitter, to share their own personal experiences with sexism, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

This has been dubbed the 'MeToo Movement' coined by American social activist Tarana Burke, and further made popular by actress Alyssa Milano on Twitter, who encouraged victims to tweet about their own experiences.

Along with action on social media, women have taken action in the real world as well. Numerous other men, of all different careers and backgrounds, have been exposed and accused of sexual misconduct, such as comedian Louis C.K., former "Today" co-host Matt Lauer, senator Al Franken, actor Kevin Spacey, USA Gymnastics national team doctor Larry Nassar, and comedian Bill Cosby, whose successful conviction at his second trial has been attributed to the success of the #MeToo movement.

According to *The New York Times*, more than 150 women read victim-impact statements during Larry Nassar's week-long trial, and although only one woman's, Andrea

Constand's, accusation towards Bill Cosby was allowable inside the statute of limitations, many other accusers were present during the trial, and shared their own statements.

There was also, of course, the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, who alleged, in front of the U.S. Senate, that current Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her in the '80s before his appointment was later confirmed.

Despite all this, there is the question of how successful the #MeToo movement has really been overall in the years after the fall of Harvey Weinstein.

Accused men have, for the most part, seemingly paid for their consequences, but what's next? Do men who get accused now suffer the same consequences? Does this country have a general understanding of what the #MeToo movement means?

It would be nice if the answer was a simple yes. But it's not that simple.

Accused men have slowly attempted to return to their careers, such as Louis C.K., who, according to *The Huffington Post*, sold out three shows in San Jose this week and had a comedic set made up of jokes about the allegations against him, and about the Parkland School shooting.



Too Soon? Recently Louis C.K. has returned to doing standup comedy, to mixed reaction.

Courtesy of Kevin Masur/ Getty Images

C.K. admitted to the charges against him shortly after he was accused.

And what about men who were accused prior to the #MeToo movement? Woody Allen, an award-winning director and actor, has been accused by his daughter of sexual assault. *The Child Sexual Abuse Clinic of Yale-New Haven Hospital* concluded in 1993 that he was innocent, but his daughter has remained adamant about her father's abuses.

Allen was awarded with a Golden Globe Lifetime Achievement in 2014.

Brett Kavanaugh, of course, was elected to the Supreme Court, and many others haven't really been subjected to any sort of investigation

(Morgan Freeman, Michael Douglas, Aziz Ansari, James Franco, and the late Stan Lee, to name a few).

Is this a bad thing? Does it go against the #MeToo movement?

Joshua Gomez-Cruz, sophomore, says no.

"The concept of the #MeToo movement is wonderful, that victims of sexual assault and the American people should come together and stand up against sexual assault," he said. "However, there is reform that needs to happen. The #MeToo movement has ignored the core principle that the accused is innocent until proven guilty. Cases should be looked at closely, and there must be clear evidence to support claims of accusation. False accusations ruin lives. We must find a medium in which the accused and accusers are both given equal and fair chances to defend their claims."

What about the world's perspective on sexism and gender relations? Has there been any sort of consensus or understanding of toxic masculinity or the feminism movement?

The response to a recently released *Gillette* commercial may hold the answer. On January 14, *Gillette*, whose main product is razors, released an ad that, through a series of incidents exposing 'toxic masculinity,' encouraged men to be the

best they can be by helping and supporting others, and not contributing to violence and sexual harassment.

To say the responses have been mixed is generous.

Consumers, particularly men, have voiced their outrage towards the ad and the message it stands for.

The video currently has over one million dislikes on *YouTube*, compared to some 559 thousand likes.

According to *BuzzFeed.com*, users on Twitter have retaliated by burning their products, even throwing razors into the toilet, which is reminiscent of the kind of reaction prompted by Nike's Ad Campaign featuring Colin Kaepernick, the NFL football player who began the practice of kneeling during the National Anthem to protest police brutality.

Although there were also many who were appreciative of *Gillette*, public reaction seems to suggest views towards feminism, toxic masculinity, and in turn, the #MeToo movement, still are varied at best.

Senior Becky Burkhardt sums it up like this:

"There is definitely still this cultural difference," she said. "I know people who think feminism is the worst thing in the world. Despite all the good coming from the #MeToo movement, we are all still very divided."

Should the Portal Stay Closed During Grading?

Emma Berkowitz
Managing Editor

The end of a quarter usually means an increase in anxiety. Last minute work and tests often cause students stress. A dependence on PowerSchool Portal increases as students make sure none of their work is missing and that their grades are correct. The most popular time of the school year for the portal is towards the end of each quarter. Students become almost addicted to seeing their grades.

As the first quarter came to an end this year, a new change was put into effect at HHS. Students were notified that PowerSchool was going to be shut down until all grades were finalized.

Parents and guardians of students received an email making them aware of this new circumstance.

The email stated that the por-

tal would be closed until grades were finalized from Monday through Friday at the end of the first quarter. This has been repeated over Mid-Term week and the end of the second quarter.

Many students disagreed with the advent of this new way of having grades released. They felt that this was unfair because they were not able to see any of their grades. Anxiety increased as a result of students being denied this access. Confused students desired to know the real reason for this new procedure and wondered about the wisdom of this change. It seems to be an ongoing change that has become policy. When the change first occurred, anxieties became apparent as students questioned teachers in an effort to express their concern and obtain answers.



Courtesy of PowerSchool
Junior Gabi Bucci was one student who didn't really agree with the change. "I was frustrated to hear about this new system," she said. "My grades are important to me, so not being able to see what they were was scary, especially because the end of the quarter is the most stressful time for

grades."

According to teachers, the intention for this change was to benefit them. Many teachers stated that they receive many questions as a quarter ends while in the process of entering grades into the portal. So, this procedure was created in order to minimize the questions that the teachers receive and therefore intended to keep the teachers from becoming overly stressed during the grade entry process. Also, it was supposed to keep the students from becoming stressed because they wouldn't see their grades until they were finalized. However, students felt stressed anyway because they were worried about grades that were potentially entered wrong and anxious about seeing their GPAs.

So, has this new procedure re-

ally been as effective as hoped for?

The purpose was to minimize student and teacher stress but it is obvious that it has made students even more stressed out. As for teachers, it seems as though this may have caused more anxiety for them also. After grades were finalized, they were probably flooded with emails.

Junior Sydney Saviano said, "I don't think that this procedure is effective because it just causes me more anxiety and I feel that it would cause the teachers some stress after receiving emails from students. I don't think that the school should continue with this new system because grades are so important to me and many other students in our school. As a result, we should always have access to them."

Time to Wake Up to Vaping's Harmful Effects

Olivia Burghouts
Staff Writer

Over the past five years the e-cigarette has spread its popularity with teenagers all over the world. Young teenagers do not realize that what they are doing to their bodies with these e-cigarettes can seriously hurt them and will damage their health later in life. Vaping or juuling is becoming more and more common amongst teenagers. Change has to happen soon before thousands of lives are ruined by the resulting



Courtesy of Juul

life-threatening diseases. In order to save this generation, there must be stricter laws on e-cigarettes.

Nick Zagorski of the *American Psychiatric Association* reveals in a recent article that "about 13 percent of eighth graders, 24 percent of tenth graders, and nearly 28 percent of twelfth graders at U.S. schools reported using a vaping device in the past year."

How can this possibly happen? As teenagers get older, more and more teenagers are found to be vaping. To make matters worse, a 2017 *Monitoring the Future* (MTF) survey reveals that, "while most of these students said they mostly vape flavoring liquids, 1 in 10 reported vaping nicotine, and 1 in 20 reported

vaping marijuana." The effects of nicotine and marijuana have been proven to be extremely detrimental on the brain and the rest of your body, especially on young, developing brains and bodies.

Medical News Today reveals in an article about nicotine that it can affect the heart, hormones, and the gastrointestinal system and can eventually lead to seriously dangerous diseases like lung cancer, leukemia, heart disease, diabetes, and many more horrifying and scary illnesses. The immediate effects of nicotine include an increase in heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing activity. As if that wasn't enough, the article also reveals that nicotine is just as addictive as heroin.

Marijuana is also something that teenagers smoke. Just like nicotine, there are risks tied to smoking marijuana as well. Marijuana is a drug that has been legalized for medical uses in many states, although it is definitely not legal for minors. An article on the website *DrugFreeWorld.com*, states that some of the short-term effects of marijuana include short-term memory problems, severe anxiety, hallucinations, increased risk of strokes, and other possible harmful effects. Marijuana doesn't only affect people in their teenage years, it may also cause problems for people in their later years. The article listed some of the long-term effects of ingesting marijuana as potential development

of opioid abuse, decline in IQ, and more.

Morela Paris, a mom of a student at Harrison High School, had a lot to say about the subject.

"I have to say that I am not only horrified by the recent increase in vaping, but I am also extremely saddened by it," she said. "It is extremely sad that this new generation of teens is now exposed and attracted to such harmful chemicals. Didn't we learn anything from our past?"

Parents are deeply upset to see that this generation views vaping as cool when it is actually one of the worst things that they can do to their bodies. Perhaps with greater knowledge of the possible harmful effects, change will happen.

Seniors' Early Decision Obsession

Micaela Udell
Copy Editor

Students this past quarter were impatiently waiting to hear back from their dream school to which they applied early decision (ED). This indicates that students prioritized this college or university and solely wanted to attend this particular one. Although the odds are in one's favor by applying early decision, because the acceptance rate increases, it is an extremely competitive pool. Applying early and hearing back early can put students at an advantage by committing to their favorite school and being done with the college process by January.

However, because ED is binding, once one gets into the school, he/she is required by contract to attend the school in the following fall or spring. The college process is one that can prove to be extremely stressful and competitive. Moreover, qualified students are often deferred

or rejected from these schools, simply because the popularity of a school has increased, causing a greater number of other applicants to be accepted.

The obsession with ED has become a common theme on a national level, in which stress and anxiety has come hand-in-hand with applying ED. The Anxiety and Depression Association of America reports that "85% of college students reported they have felt overwhelmed by everything they had to do at some point within the past year."

This number is extremely large and may have stemmed from the stress and anxiety that is present throughout high school, especially in senior year. Applying to colleges, even ED, is a stressful time for all 17 or 18 year olds in America who wish to continue their education on past high school.

"Applying to all my colleges was very stressful and it was a lot of hard work," said senior Alex Baio. "I applied ED and worked very hard on my application."

Students often can feel consumed and overwhelmed by applying ED because they are "putting all of their eggs in one basket." By doing so, many people also apply to other colleges in case they do not get admitted to their ED school. However, most students desire to get in early and commit immediately. Applying ED may be binding and expensive, however it is a popular choice for students who know exactly what they want.

Senior Sarah McGinity said, "Although I did not apply ED, I know many people who did and were very happy with their choice to do so. It shows interest in a certain school and increases the chances of getting

in."

Applying early decision is not for everyone, but it definitely has its pros and cons. Not everyone at the age of 17 or 18 knows exactly what they want to study or what job they want to have in the future. Moreover, deciding on a university can be tough for students with undecided majors. Selecting a university goes far beyond how beautiful the campus may or may not be, including how well-rounded the education one would be receiving there. Another consideration might be finding the kind of people with whom you might picture yourself being friends and staying in contact with for the rest of your life.

Choosing a favorite school is a huge weight on seniors' shoulders, added to the many stresses that go along with twelfth grade. Selecting a dream school may not be for ev-



Courtesy of Deposit Photos
everyone, due to the additional costs, the binding aspect of it, and the high pressure of competing against other ED applicants. However, for those students who know exactly what they want in a certain college or university, then early decision is more than worth it.

Channel Your Outrage Accordingly!

Ella Napack
Editor-in-Chief

In late October of 2018, rumors emerged about a horrible epidemic plaguing America. Whispers turned into outraged cries as angry salad consumers across the nation endured an agonizing fear of accidentally consuming the newly identified silent-but-deadly killer, Romaine lettuce.

In all seriousness, the problem with Romaine lettuce was a legitimate issue: 32 people in 11 states were sickened by E. Coli in Romaine lettuce according to the *Center for Disease Control*, however no deaths were reported. There is no question that the experience for those affected was very painful, as the infection resulted in hospitalizations, but the concern over this “crisis” seemed to take on a fascinating life of its own.

Starting in November of 2018, newspapers as prominent as *The New York Times* began publishing articles detailing the facts behind the problem, and many social media trends of attack against companies

selling this deadly vegetable took force from this information. Teenagers on social media began obsessing over the issue, creating “memes” about the problem while also spreading enormous amounts of fear about the dangers of ordering Romaine lettuce to all of their followers. The “crisis” was nearly inspiring in its ability to unify America’s youth and millennials around the new surprising enemy: lettuce. Even though this was an issue of a very small scale, teenagers across the country advocated online for change, facilitating improvement of the situation and drawing necessary attention to the problem.

Romaine lettuce resulted in 0 deaths in 2018, while in the U.S., there were nearly as many mass shootings as there were days of the year in 2018. According to data from the *Center for Homeland Security*, there were 97 school gun violence incidents in 2018 alone, and only a little over a month into 2019, there

have already been 12 large scale school shootings in the U.S.

So where is the outrage now? Where is the unification of teens across the nation over an issue that demands to be addressed? Teenagers would rather live in fear of a vegetable than become aware of the reality that their chances of being a victim in a school shooting are increasing at a terrifying rate. Teenagers have become numb to the real issues plaguing America, distancing themselves from the true “deadly killer,”guns. This concept is reflective of a larger issue within the nation of teens pushing away the more controversial issues and instead focusing on the more simple problems such as infected vegetables that affected less than .00000007% of people in the U.S.

The current state of the government has politicized the issue of gun violence to such an extreme that it pushes away teenage involvement in solving the issue. Teens fear be-

coming “too political” and offending someone of an opposing viewpoint. In teenagers, gun violence is immediately associated with politics and opposing political parties, discouraging unification across party lines to prevent further deaths of innocent children. In reality, death by gun violence is not an issue of politics, but rather an issue of humanity.

Political parties are insignificant in regards to gun violence. There are conversations that must be had across the nation; the U.S. has the highest number of mass shootings in the world. According to *CNN*, a country that makes up less than 5% of the world holds 31% of all global mass shootings. Change is imperative. This highly politicized issue is truly a matter of life and death that requires the next generation of voters to take a stand for change, to start trends on social media, and advocate for new policy both online and in within communities. Teenagers must find the outrage they possessed for infected

lettuce and
channel
it toward
the real
infection in
America;
according
to *BBC News*, 113
teenagers
were killed
in mass
shootings in
2018. in perspective.



Lettuce put things

There are ways to change the narrative. As a society, we must not let ourselves become so numb to death and tragedy that we push concerns over lettuce, rather than preventable fatalities, to the forefront of conversation. How many more “wake up calls” must the nation endure before there is enough widespread anger to enforce change? How many more innocent lives will be lost before we give value to the expression, “never again”?

The Homework Dilemma - Part One

Let’s Keep Work at School

Isabel Paris
Staff Writer

Students everywhere are learning how to balance their homework, social life, and their own mental health. As students grow older, it gets more difficult for them to balance all these tasks equally. Sometimes having to balance so much can get pretty difficult.

Freshman Sabrina Buffone explained, “School can be very overwhelming. We tend to get lots of homework from certain teachers. Sometimes it takes a couple hours to complete just one class’s homework.”

Julia Miele, another freshman, said, “We have to find an equal balance between every single thing in our life. Having lots of work from school can sometimes result in an

imbalance.”

“Homework and studying can sometimes get to the point where students have breakdowns considering all the tests, quizzes or homework assignments they have,” she continued.”I’ve had several friends who’ve had breakdowns because of those exact reasons.”

Clifton B. Parker, from *Stanford News*, wrote that “56 percent of students consider homework a primary source of stress.” His article also states, “Less than one percent of the students said homework was not a stressor.”

Parker’s article summarized a recent survey, in which “ Many students said their homework load led to sleep deprivation and other health

problems. The researchers asked students whether they experienced

“...their homework load led to sleep deprivation and other health issues...”

health issues such as headaches, exhaustion, sleep deprivation,

weight loss and stomach problems.”

The survey also explained that these overburdened “students were more likely to drop activities, not see friends or family, and not pursue hobbies they enjoy.”

Oxford Learning said that having too much homework and focussing on studying so much can cause unmotivation in a student, as well as causing students to feel overwhelmed.

Isabella Stewart, a student from Sacred Heart said, “I feel that having large amounts of homework can sometimes lead to anxiety. I can sometimes feel anxious when I have a lot of homework that I have to get done or else

I could get in trouble by teachers or others of authority at school.”

“I feel that when I have more homework it tends to lead to more procrastination,” she said. “Most of the time when I have more homework to do, it makes me feel even more annoyed to do it. Having more to do makes me want to procrastinate more. When I have less homework, I feel that I always want to just do it right away, so then I can have more time to do things I enjoy.”

Elizabeth Scott, from *VeryWell-Mind*, explained that when students are stressing out about school, it’s a good idea for them to do breathing exercises, take power naps, listen to music, learn how to be organized, eat well, and think positively.

The Homework Dilemma - Part Two

Let’s Bring the Work Home

James Lowe
Staff Writer

There are always two sides to something. Homework is a major discussion where both sides are more opinionated and less factual.

Kids have always hated homework because they have been at school for about seven hours and then they get home and need to do another one to two hours of work for the same classes that they had just been in all day.

Most teachers give out homework every day in order to enhance the students’ understanding of what they had been working on that day.



Cartoon by Dave Granlund

Although kids think that homework has no other use but to make you bored and take up time out of your evening, it has been proven that homework improves kids’ memorization of a subject.

These topics that teachers spend their day teaching you about always have a connection to the real world and are able to be applied to everyday life.

According an article about whether homework improves academic achievement in *Duke Today*, there is an increased achievement rate when students are given homework compared to a smaller achievement rate with kids that are assigned no homework.

The article also says that students in high school receiving a sufficient amount of homework might be doing around 30 minutes per class and when taking higher level courses you should expect an even larger

workload.

Although homework can be beneficial to helping students understand topics on their own, it can also take away from the social life that teens are so desperately fond of.

“Homework is annoying ‘cause we already spend so much time in school doing work,” said ninth grader Alexandra Dedvukaj. “Why would we wanna spend more time doing more work at home? Plus, it takes away from family and friends and it gives stress to a lot of kids especially in high school.”

Many kids have afterschool activities such as sports and clubs that they may be participating in, so for them to get home right after their activity and work throughout the rest of the night, this could put a lot of stress and pressure on the child.

Parents adore spending quality time with their children so when the child has no time to do anything

with their parents, this can make the parents upset with the teachers and the child. The parent may ask the kid why they haven’t been doing their work or think that the child is being too lazy in school and that’s why they have so much homework.

This may be the case but sometimes it’s not and the kid just has so much on their plate that he/she can’t complete everything on time, leading to lower grades and upset teachers. Most teachers give something for homework every night and each assignment could range in the amount of time it will take, but when you have six or seven teachers all giving out separate homework you take whatever energy left over from your long day at school and put it all into your homework.

One major issue with homework is the lack of sleep that some students get because they stay up really late working on their home-

work. Sure staying up late and completing your homework proves dedication and can bump your grade up a little bit, but your missing sleep means you come into school the next day super-tired and trying your hardest to stay awake during each class.

This can really hinder your learning by lowering your focus during class and you will probably understand the lesson less because you are too busy being tired to be aware of what your teacher is teaching.

“Homework may not be my favorite thing to do, but I need to prove something to my teachers, and I know it’s going to help me in the long run” said freshman Johnny Antolino.

Homework can be a good thing if given in the right amounts and given for a purpose, but it can also be a burden on teens and kids.

Senior Teacher Day - A HHS Tradition

Every year on the day before break, seniors dress up and following a unique Harrison tradition, become their favorite teachers. They follow their teacher's schedules, attend the Winter Concert together, and teach their various classes. It is often a great way for students to learn about their teachers (Kahoot, anyone?), and for seniors to appreciate what goes into being a teacher. Here are just some of the photos from this past year's Senior Teacher pairings..



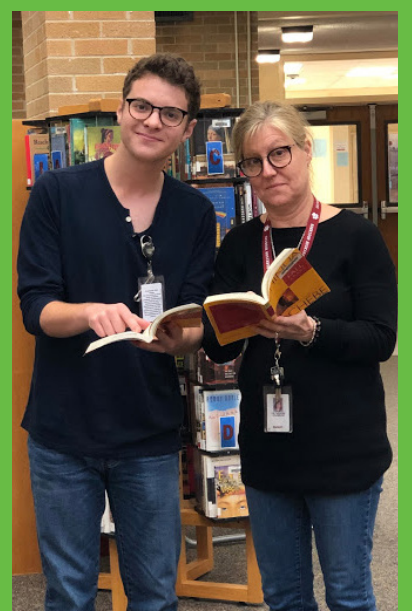
The Blairs



The Caseys



The Dearstynes



The Johnsons



The DiGioias and The Laytons



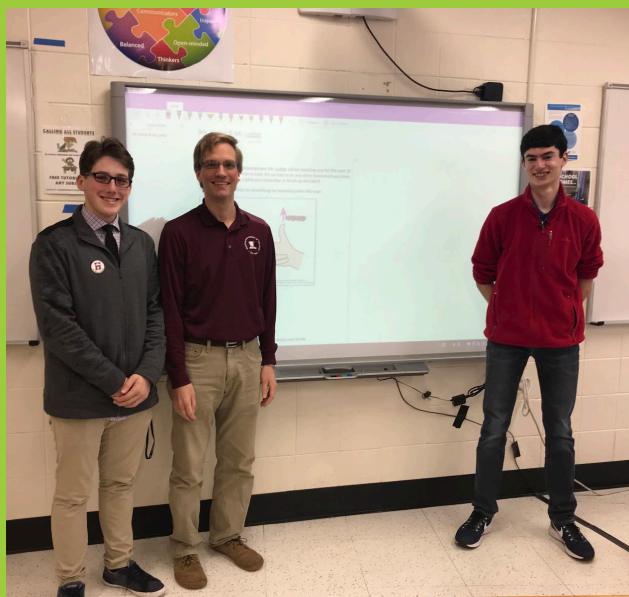
The Blunts



The Maricevics and
The Xanthopouloses



The Swensons



The Reiters



The Santos



The Totedas



The Labranos



The Napolitanos



The Phelps



The Loertschers



The Hartys



The Salinases



The Meraes



The Kails



The Glaubers



The Makarczuks



The DeBolds



The Morrises

ARTS & entertainment

The Laramie Project Tells Powerful True Story

Joshua Naar, Madison Schiro, Mia Altamuro
Staff Writers and News Editor

Harrison High School's fall play was *The Laramie Project*, a powerful story performed by our very own Black Box Theater and directed by Ms. Haberli.

Laramie Wyoming, home of the Badgers, is where one of the most influential and notorious hate crimes in American history took place. Matthew Shepard, an openly gay student at the University of Wyoming, was viciously beaten and tortured on the night of October 6, 1998. According to police reports, Matthew met his attackers at a bar and was lured into a truck by them, in order to rob him. They then drove him outside of town into a rural area, where he was severely beaten, tied to a fence and left to die.

Matthew, although badly injured, survived 18 hours tied to the fence and was subsequently taken to Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins Colorado by rescuers. He would die from his injuries a week after the attack. Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson were later arrested and charged with first degree murder.

The trial and its coverage in the media exposed the need for more comprehensive hate crime laws in

awareness of anti-gay hate crimes. Prominent comedian and talk show host, Ellen Degeneres, spoke during Matthew's vigil and pop star Elton John wrote a song called "American Triangle" describing Matthew's case. In New York, the protests for Matthew Shepard ended in a near riot when police were pushing onto the crowd to contain them.

The Laramie Project was a play written by Moises Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theater Project to shed light on Matthew's story. The theatre company visited Laramie, Wyoming to get more insight into what really happened on the night Matthew Shepard was attacked. Eleven of the theater group's members compiled over a hundred interviews with multiple people involved in the case, ranging from the Laramie police officers to Matthew's friends. They then incorporated the various interviews into a play, which features only a few actors playing multiple characters.

This past October marked the twentieth anniversary of the date of the murder. To commemorate Matthew's death, the

the weekend of November 4. A cast of 20 Harrison students played over 60 characters, describing not only the crime but also the Laramie values and community.

At Harrison High, a part of the ninth graders' English block curriculum was to learn about the hate crime against Matthew Shepard.

Before the play



characters during times the audience desperately needed to laugh.

Harrison Sakai was another standout, in particular, two moments were when he was a college student talking about his parents not supporting his work because it had "homosexuality" in it. He also played Matthew Shepard's father, who delivers a passionate speech to the man who was found guilty of murdering his son.

"Michael made me laugh so hard," Jade Saccomanno, sophomore, said. "His moments were the best in the play, since they were happy."

Despite a low budget, few actors, and some occasional difficulties with tech, the cast and crew of *The Laramie Project* came together to tell a powerful story, and they told it well. The end of Act I ended with the entire cast coming in through the darkness of the stage holding candles while music played in the background. Then everything dimmed. It was powerful.

"Overall, I thought they did a really great job," said senior Becky Burkhardt. "They honored Matthew's life well and they seemed to really care about the work being done. I'm glad I came."



A talented cast taking on a powerful subject with humor, heart, and emotion. The cast of 21 took on over 60 roles in this impressive performance to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Shepard's death.

Photos courtesy of Ms. Haberli

America. Many celebrities spoke out on this topic, increasing the public's

Harrison High School Playhouse presented *The Laramie Project* over

premiered all the freshmen saw the first act of the play.

Freshman Alex Rosenstock said, "I sympathized with Matt and his story, and when his close family talked about him, it really impacted me. I also thought seeing many characters made me learn a lot about the case in only a short period of time."

Overall, the play was a huge success, bringing more awareness of anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in America.

Rainbow decorations and pictures of Matthew Shepard, the real-life person the play is based on, were hung up in the hallway for

all audience members to view. This was especially powerful due to the contents of the play, which documents the after effects on Matthew Shepard's town of Laramie after his brutal murder, one that occurred because he was gay.

The style and effects of the play were simplistic; the focus was on the emotion of the actors. Each actor wore a beige shirt and dark pants as a base costume, adding on accessories to indicate playing a different character, an occurrence that happened quite often due to the initially 50+ person cast only being played by 21 students in Harrison.

Standout performances were Michael Jubak, who provided laughter and humor through his eccentric

HEY HUSKIES!

What is the weirdest thing in your backpack and why?



"Perfume, because it's always good to have."
Sabrina Buffone, freshman



"A brush, so I can always look good for the ladies."
Billy Petrillo, sophomore



"A half-eaten cheese stick from the beginning of the year, because I just never have taken it out of my bag."
Marco Angarano, junior



"I have some eye contact solution and an eye contact case, if something goes wrong with my contacts."
Jerry Castro, senior

Compiled by Samantha Marano
Question by Ericka Taveras

Bird Box Breaks Netflix Records

Olivia Burghouts and Alexis Cameron
Staff Writers

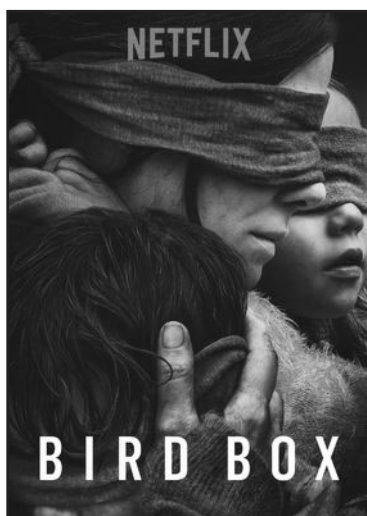
On December 13, 2018, Netflix released a horror-based movie starring Sandra Bullock called *Bird Box*. Bullock and her children in the movies (Boy and Girl), travel blindfolded through an ominous river and spooky forest to protect themselves against the evil monsters that, if seen, will cause people to kill themselves. Searching for hope and a new beginning, they embark on the search to find the one place that may offer sanctuary.

A few weeks after the movie's release on the streaming service, Netflix stated that "over 45 million people have already watched *Bird Box*." The movie broke Netflix viewership records, and is now declared as the single most streamed Netflix movie ever. Everyone, it seems, is

watching this thrilling, new and intense movie.

Not all the news is good regarding this movie's popularity, though. The large popularity of this movie has inspired a new dangerous online craze called the '*Bird Box*' challenge. The dangers became real in a hurry and so the "challenge" forced Netflix to speak up about it, and how they do not want the fans of the movie to put themselves in jeopardy over something like this.

On January 2, 2019, Netflix released an official statement on Twitter, saying, "Can't believe I have to say this, but: PLEASE DO NOT HURT YOURSELVES WITH THIS BIRD BOX CHALLENGE. We don't know how this started, and we appreciate the love, but Boy and Girl



Seeking Sanctuary. This movie about a family's blindfolded journey is now the most streamed Netflix film ever. It stars Sandra Bullock.

Photo courtesy of Netflix

have just one wish for 2019 and it is that you not end up in the hospital due to memes."

This clearly indicated Netflix's concern for its viewers. The challenge urged people to put blindfolds over their eyes while attempting to perform daily tasks similar to those that Malorie, Sandra Bullock's character, had to do in '*Bird Box*.'

In the beginning, the challenge was meant to be a harmless and funny game, but soon people started taking it more seriously and began trying to do things that could potentially be extremely dangerous and harmful. Of course in this age of oversharing, the videos couldn't stay hidden in people's phones. They soon were shared all over social media platforms like Instagram,

Twitter, and Snapchat. In some videos, you can see the challenges going horribly wrong with people bumping into walls and people hitting their heads; people rarely complete the challenge successfully.

Parents are not on board in regard to having kids take this challenge seriously. Still, many people did enjoy the movie itself.

"*Bird Box* was an amazing movie and showed how people have the inability to connect with one another while being in a scary situation," said freshman Gabby Marraccini. It is a suspenseful work that keeps viewers wondering what going to happen next.

Michelle Obama Inspires With Book, Event

Emily Scremin
Staff Writer

Michelle Obama, the former First Lady, is arguably the most influential and memorable First Lady of our time. Her memoir *Becoming* sold more than two million copies in North America in its first 15 days, according to a statement released by Penguin Random House. Now in its sixth printing, the book has 3.4 million copies in print in the United States and Canada.

"I believe that the book was really well written, from what I've read, and it's so inspiring from what she's done up until now," said junior Tanya Reyes. "She continues to spread a positive message and is an incredible,

powerful icon."

According to reports in *The Guardian*, her novel is "frequently funny, sometimes indignant or enraged, and when Michelle describes her father's early death from multiple sclerosis it turns rawly emotional."

Former First Lady Michelle Obama took to the stage in Brooklyn this past December as part of a national tour to promote her book. At that time, she dazzled the crowd with anecdotes about her life and marriage to the first African-American president.

Although billed as an "intimate conversation with Michelle Obama," the energy at the former First Lady's book tour stop was described by many as more akin to a rock concert, with roughly 19,000 fans packed into Brooklyn's Barclays Center to hear Obama speak about her new memoir *Becoming*. It was the seventh stop in an 11-city tour, and the event was completely sold out.

Obama spent the evening speaking candidly about her path from the South Side of Chicago to the White House, and the lessons learned along the way. The former First Lady addressed the "white flight" that changed her South Shore neighbourhood in the 1960s, to the high school counselor who once told her she was not "Princeton material."

"It's sad that it's so frequent, and it still happens," she said. "When

somebody sets your bar lower for you than you think"]

Six or seven months later she got her acceptance letter in the mail.

"I never did stop in on the college counselor to tell her she'd been wrong— that I was Princeton material after all. It would have done nothing for either of us," Michelle writes in her book.

In the book, Michelle Obama also was blunt in describing her marriage to Barack Obama, whose own ambition "forced me to think about myself and think about my path." Balancing motherhood and a career was difficult with her husband away from home most days running for state senator.

She said, "It's not always enough to lean in, 'cause that [expletive] doesn't work all the time." she remarked. Although she promptly apologized for swearing, she electrified a crowd that seemed unaccustomed to hearing a former First Lady speak unrestrainedly.

As First Lady, one of Obama's main goals was to host more programs for children at the White House. She teared up talking about a girl from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, who said that her visit to the White House saved her life.

"I think she's a really cool and interesting individual," said Brisa Medina, a junior at IN-Tech Academy.



Barclay's Center was sold out that night. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker hosted former First Lady Michelle Obama at her Brooklyn Book Tour event. It had the feel of a rock concert.

Photo courtesy of OK! Magazine

"She's done a lot more for the young people of our country than most first ladies and I believe that immensely adds to her popularity, which is well deserved."

The former First Lady said, "I think about the kids whose lives are transformed because we gave them a little light. If they could walk into the White House and feel welcome... then they could do anything."

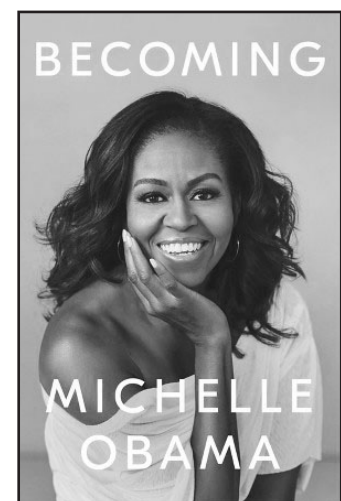
For many eager attendees, the tour was larger than the book itself, also marking Obama's return to the public sphere after the change in administration.

"I love Michelle Obama," said Charifa Smith, 43, from Brooklyn, according to *CNBC*. Stephanie Paradiso, 29, of Maryland received tickets from her mother for her birthday. In an interview with *CNBC*, she said,

"Michelle's philosophy on girl power and girl empowerment is something that's important to me."

"Michelle Obama is a very iconic female figure in the political history of recent American presidents as she used her First Lady powers as an opportunity to make changes in many issues around the world, for example, world hunger and physical health of children", said HHS student Zoe Sala. "Overall she was a memorable and charismatic First Lady, and continues her efforts outside of the public eye."

The *Becoming* Tour is one that left attendees feeling inspired and empowered, showing a candid side to one of the most influential women in America and sharing a message toward '*Becoming*' the best we can be.



Best Seller. The former First Lady's book was the best-selling book of 2018.

Photo courtesy of Random House

Conservatory offers Singer-Songwriter Classes

Micaela Udell
Copy Editor

The Music Conservatory of Westchester has brand new singer-songwriter classes available for high school students. The classes will be starting in February in a private lesson structure with one-on-one attention for students to write their best songs and hone their skills,

offering performance opportunities for students in the Conservatory Recital Hall and around the Westchester County community. Professional singer-songwriter and recording artist Melissa Frabotta (stage name is Mosa - www.mosasings.com) will teach the classes. She has toured

the U.S. and Canada sharing her original music, and has recorded and performed with numerous musicians in the Tri-State area. Visit <http://www.musicconservatory.org/registration/new-students> for more information about Ms. Frabotta and the new classes.



Learn with Mosa. Professional singer-songwriter Mosa now is teaching a class for students in Westchester. She wants to share her experience and develop new talent.

Photo courtesy of Mosa

90-Second Interviews



“90 Second Interviews” is a feature wherein we sit down with two staff members and see how many random questions they can answer in only 90 seconds. This issue we turn to the realm of psychology, probing the minds of friendly colleagues and Psychology Instructors Mr. Chetan Hertzig and Mr. Heath Kaplan, in search of inner truths.

Photos courtesy of Micaela Udell

Mr. Hertzig



Nature or nurture? Both?
Meat or vegetables? Vegetables!
Favorite psychological theory? Social cognitive learning theory. The Bobo doll better watch out.
Intrinsic or extrinsic motivation? Intrinsic, please.
For what in life do you feel most grateful? Heath Kaplan.
Why do we have emotions? They add spice to life.
Why do psychologists answer questions with questions? They're trying to find out the meaning of life and it hasn't yet worked out.
What would you be doing if you were not a teacher? What *wouldn't* I be doing if I weren't a teacher?
Coke or Pepsi? Coke.
Do you have a useless talent? Recalling minute details of insignificant events that happened years ago.
Tea or coffee? Tea - my favorites are ginger, cinnamon, and decaf chai, in case anyone wants to get me a gift.
Instagram or Snapchat? Snapchat. Streaks!
Favorite film? *Back to the Future*.
Best way to relax outside of school? Watching YouTube videos and/or eating pie, preferably while sitting on a couch.
How many years have you been at HHS? This is Year 11.
What has been your greatest teaching accomplishment? Surviving TOK presentations.
Favorite color? Red.
Yours is an unusual first name. If you could change it to something else, what would it be? Heath.
Favorite play or video game? Play: *Sunday in the Park with George*; Video game: *The Legend of Zelda* - the original (throwback to the '80s).
Briefly describe your ideal vacation. One-two weeks in London and then one-two weeks traveling through places I've never been.
If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, what would you be eating? Thai or Indian food.
If the HHS faculty was involved in a *Hunger Games* scenario, who would win? Mak, hands down.
If you could choose, what would be your theme song? The *Laverne and Shirley* theme song.
Some teachers have memorable phrases - what is yours? “Rise and shine” or “peas and carrots.”
Favorite subject outside of what you teach? English!

Mr. Kaplan



Nature or nurture? Nurture, but nature sets the boundaries.
Meat or vegetables? I am all about the meat.
Favorite psychological theory? Linguistic relativity.
Intrinsic or extrinsic motivation? Intrinsic.
For what in life do you feel most grateful? Mr. Hertzig (and I guess my family too).
Why do we have emotions? To remind us that we are alive.
Why do psychologists answer questions with questions? Why do you think that is?
What would you be doing if you were not a teacher? I would be a Cirque du Soleil performer.
Coke or Pepsi? Sprite Cranberry.
Do you have a useless talent? I have won three solos in *Fortnite* without one kill.
Tea or coffee? Trenti iced coffee, 6 pumps (sugar-free) vanilla, 4 pumps (sugar-free) hazelnut, 3 pumps (sugar-free) caramel, 2 pumps skinny mocha, a splash of soy, ice, double-blended!
Instagram or Snapchat? Chatroulette.
Favorite film? Anything with Bradley Cooper.
Best way to relax outside of school? Madden on the Xbox.
How many years have you been at HHS? 17.
What has been your greatest teaching accomplishment? That I still love coming to work every day.
Favorite color? Shamrock Green.
Yours is an unusual first name. If you could change it to something else, what would it be? Thor - nobody messes with Thor.
Favorite play or video game? *The Full Monty*.
Briefly describe your ideal vacation. A week in Las Vegas with unlimited Caesar's Buffet Passes.
If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, what would you be eating? Moist pumpkin bread.
If the HHS faculty was involved in a *Hunger Games* scenario, who would win? Mak.
If you could choose, what would be your theme song? *Redemption Song* by Bob Marley.
Some teachers have memorable phrases - what is yours? SALAMI (Stop and look at me immediately)!
Favorite subject outside of what you teach? Criminal Justice.

SPORTS

Recapping successful seasons for Boys' and Girls' Bowling

Larissa Iraj

Sports Editor

The Varsity Bowling Teams started the season off strong, despite graduating many star players last year. The new talent quickly stepped up to face some tough competition early in the season.

Coach Phil Digioia returned as coach of the Boys' team for the eighth season, and Coach Jon-Erik Zappala returned for the fifth year as the Girls' team coach.

Coach Zappala also reflected on the Girls' season and said, "I was pleased with the growth in averages and overall individual improvement. We beat everyone in our league at least once and played against competitive teams. We had a core group of seniors and returning juniors. I was very pleased that the sophomores purchased their own ball and shoes. Having your own equipment legitimizes the sport and makes athletes better contenders."

Under the leadership of senior and captain Robert Kalten, the Boys' team has practiced hard and has placed in the top five teams thus far this season.

Juniors captains, Ava Franco and Caitlyn Bilotta, and senior captains, Judy Fierman and Jules Schwartz, have kept the Girls' team focused and determined to end the season holding on strong as first place champions.

The Girls' Varsity Bowling Team opened the season with a big win of 7-0 against Mamaroneck. During the first week in December, the Girls' team had seized first place after another victory of 7-0 over Port

Chester. In the first game, the score was 459-447, 514-482 in game two, and 396-390 in game three. The girls only won this close match by a total number of 50 pins, with a total score of 1369 for Harrison and 1319 for Port Chester.

The Boys' team started off the season with a lower ranking due to the first game upset loss to Mamaroneck. However, the Boys' team moved up to fourth place after dominating a three game win and score of 7-0 over Port Chester. The match against Port Chester was a close one, with a tight first game score of 707-584. Harrison continued to lead by 674-651 in the second game and 628-544 in the third game.

Next both teams were faced with their toughest opponents, New Rochelle, who was ranked one place below Harrison for both the girls and boys. The Girls' team won the first game, with a score of 482-380, lead by Ava Franco with a high score of 138 pins. The Boys' team also came out victorious, and the final score of their match was 672-580. Robert

Kalten had the high score of 227 and a player on New Rochelle had a high score of 143. In the second game, the Harrison Girls' were on fire and defeated New Rochelle 495-396, with help from senior captain Jules Schwartz, who bowled a game high of 111. On the Boys' lanes, Harrison was leading 753-615 and Michael Gentile had the high score of 169. By the start of game three, the Harrison Girls were up by only 28 points. However, the girls regained momentum and were able to come out with a 7-0 victory. The boys also won all three games for a final score of 7-0. This was a big win for both Harrison teams as the girls' team remained undefeated and in first place for another week and the Boys' team held onto their top five spot.

In mid-December, the Harrison Bowling Teams faced another big rival, White Plains. The Tigers were also quickly moving up in the ranking and hoping to take the lead from Harrison. Harrison came out with a 4-3 victory on the Girls' lanes but faced an unfortunate loss of 7-0 for the Boys' team.

This was followed by a big win for both Harrison teams as the Girls' team remained undefeated and in first place for another week and the Boys' team held onto their top five spot.

However, the winning streak for the Girls' team finally came to an end when they had a tough competition against Scarsdale with

a loss of 5-2. Harrison won the first game, but their lead was gone by the end of the second game when they were tied 2-2. The Scarsdale girls came back and won the third game, winning the match. The Boys' team was able to pull through a difficult match and win 5-2 against Scarsdale.

Round two against Mamaroneck also did not go as well as the Harrison Team had hoped. For the Girls, Mamaroneck was behind Harrison in the rankings by a single point. Despite the Girls' high record for a game of 144 bowled by Ava Franco, Mamaroneck won the first game 601-468. Harrison lost the second and third games for a final score of 1708-1424 making a 7-0 loss for the Harrison Girls' team. On the Boys' alley, Mamaroneck took the lead from the first game 745-614. Jackson Wolverton had a great game high score of 171. The Harrison boys ultimately fell 7-0 to Mamaroneck.

The Girls' team faced some major upsets with losses of 7-0 to Port Chester, New Rochelle and Scarsdale, moving them down the rankings into fourth place. The Boys' team proved to have more luck and was on a winning streak of 7-0 against Port Chester, New Rochelle, and a 5-2 victory against Scarsdale on their last match and moved them up to end the season in fourth place.

Leading in game averages for the season for the Girls' team was Ava Franco with an average of 108 points and a game high of 144. Not too far behind was Judy Fierman with an average of 104 points and a game high of 132, and Caitlyn Bilotta with an average of 98 and a game high of 135.

For the Boys' team, Robert Kalten finished with a 195 average

placing him to compete in sectionals and he had a record game high of 236 points. Michael Gentile had a great season with an average of 153 and a game high of 207, while Jackson Wolverton had an average of 136 and a game high of 205 and the newest player, Nick Colotti had an average of 135 and a game high of 193. Most improved player was Anthony, who ended the season with a 112 average and a game high of 134. The team is sad to see many of their long time senior players head off to college next year, but hopeful that the success they had this year will only make the team stronger for next season.

Coachpala explained, "Team-mates individually took feedback seriously, encouraged each other and showed continual growth throughout the season," which is why he believed the girls were able to succeed this year.

A major highlight of the season was Kalten's first place win in the boy's division of the Westchester Winter Bowl. This bowl is where all teams compete by seeing which player can get the highest score. Kalten had finally surpassed his own high score of 289 and bowled a perfect game of 300 points. His two game total was 565.

Both coaches are looking forward to seeing their teams continue to improve next year. Coach Zappala said, "I would like to see team improvement in regards to posture and continuity: It is very important in bowling to keep your shoulders square, lightly flex your abdominal muscles and follow through with your dominant hand while exhaling. Being a team member is a three day commitment and everyone should schedule around team practices and matches."



Strike Force One. This year's Boys' Bowling Team has knocked the pins down bigtime. Pictured are (Back row, left to right): Thomas Gisi, Evan Cacchione, Michael Gentile, Anthony Vallaro, Robret Kalten; (Front row, left to right) Darin Iraj, Nicholas Colotti, Joseph Castillana, Jackson Wolverton, Robert Cirillo, and Coach Digioia.

Courtesy of Coach Digioia



Making a difference. This year's Girls' Bowling Team surrounds coach Zappala. Pictured here are: (Back row, left to right), Jules Schwartz, Judy Fierman, Larissa Iraj, (Front row, left to right) Anna Wolverton, Lia Aslanian, Caitlyn Bilotta.

Courtesy of Coach Zappala

Commitment Corner

Spotlight on Austin Mueller

Jimmy Horvath
Staff Writer

Being a high school athlete isn't easy. The task of managing school, sports, and social life is like a full-time job. However, being an athlete who is trying to commit to a college is an entirely different situation. On top of the regular stresses in a life, these collegiate hopefuls have stresses from the commitment process, a demanding system that creates anxiety for many.

For those who don't follow sports, the commitment process is complicated, as there are many regulations and terms that may be unfamiliar to many. First, most athletes gain exposure through showcases, which are events where college coaches attend to observe players and their skills. It is simply a place where players show off their talents to college coaches. There are many complicated rules for committing, but first, one must verbally commit to play for a college. This simply means that the athlete and school have agreed the athlete will play the sport at their school. An athlete can choose to withdraw their verbal commitment from the school, and likewise, the school can choose to remove their commitment to the player at any time.

The official commitment comes when the athlete signs their National Letter of Intent in their senior year of high school. This is the document confirming their commitment.

One special student athlete here at Harrison High School that has announced his verbal commitment is none other than senior lacrosse player Austin Mueller. Austin has announced his commitment to Endicott College, located in northern Massachusetts. They play in the Commonwealth Coast Conference, and have reached the last two CCC championships, winning in 2017. Recently, the Husky Herald talked to Austin about his journey toward becoming a college athlete. Here is that first-hand look at the commitment process.

Husky Herald (HH): Austin, congratulations on your commitment to Endicott College for lacrosse. Throughout your journey, there must have been some influential people who have helped you become the athlete and person you are today. Who would you like to thank and acknowledge?

Austin Mueller (AM): Thank you. My parents are definitely the most important people who inspire me because they helped me the most in my journey by pushing me and allowing me to achieve my dreams of playing college lacrosse. During my sophomore year, I didn't believe I was talented enough to play in college, but my parents helped me persevere to become the athlete and person I am today. Also, my cousin and high school varsity lacrosse coach, Matt Cipolla, has been my coach since I was little. He has helped with the recruitment process by talking to college coaches, while teaching me new ways to get better.

HH: How did you get introduced to the sport, and when and where did you start playing?

AM: I started playing when I was three years old because my family has a history of playing lacrosse, as my parents played and my cousin, Matt Cipolla, was a college goalie at Springfield College. Ever since I was little, I had a lacrosse stick in my hand and I fell in love with the sport right away.

HH: When did the dream of becoming a collegiate lacrosse player first occur to you?

AM: The dream really hit me first when I went to my first showcase, where I got to play in front of college coaches. Before that showcase, I wasn't getting invited to any

campus or showcases, and after, I got my first invite to a showcase from a coach, where I played really well. From there, I started talking to coaches, which gave me the realization that I had the ability and talent to play in college.

HH: What position do you play? And for people who don't know lacrosse, could you clarify what that means?

AM: My position is attack, which is the offense. My job is to



On the attack. Senior Austin Mueller drives hard against Sleepy Hollow defenders. Mueller will be attending Endicott College in the fall. *Courtesy of Austin Mueller*

score and to lead the offense from behind the goal, in front of the goal, and all around the field in order to score goals.

HH: As a high school athlete, how did you manage school and lacrosse?

AM: For me, it wasn't as intimidating as most people made it seem. When I was in season, I was a better student because I became more organized. I also developed the skill of time management because I often decided to do work before practice during free periods in school because I knew I would be exhausted when I got home.

HH: What does Austin Mueller do outside of school other than lacrosse?

AM: Other than lacrosse, I'm pretty much a normal kid who

hangs out with friends. I participate in community service at SUNY Purchase, where I help the organization Backyard Sports, where I teach kids who have special needs how to play sports.

HH: How did the recruiting process work for you?

A: My recruiting process started very late, at the end of my junior year. The majority of my friends who I play with outside of school (on travel lacrosse teams) started during their sophomore year, so I thought I was way behind my peers and my competition. In my junior year, I hit my growth spurt, and that's when my journey really began. During the summer of my junior year, I went on many road trips to visit different colleges. It was very tiring, but also very exciting. Talking to all the different coaches was an amazing experience, but the whole process was hard and stressful at times as well.

HH: In the fall of 2019, you will be attending Endicott College. Other than getting an offer, what made you choose Endicott?

AM: Endicott was a school where I envisioned myself attending without the benefit of playing lacrosse. If there was ever a scenario where I got injured or I didn't want to play anymore, I would stay there and receive my education. The feeling of knowing I would stay at Endicott for all four years was relieving and made me content with my decision.

HH: What are you looking forward to about being a "Gull" and wearing the blue and green?

AM: I am excited to play on Endicott's field because I got to play there over the summer and I fell in love with it right away. I'm looking for-

ward to a whole new start and playing with kids from all over the country and meeting new people.

HH: What's the best advice you have received?

AM: The best advice I've received was to keep pushing yourself and never give up. One coach in particular told me that if I didn't hear back from coaches after a showcase, I shouldn't let that discourage me. He also told me to keep practicing and get better everyday, because offers will eventually come. That really motivated me to keep pursuing my dream, and I am very fortunate to be committed to a school and be the athlete I am today.

HH: Finally, what advice would you give to other high school lacrosse players and athletes in general that are trying to play at the next level?

AM: Go to as many events as possible. If you get invited to an event, you should go. Even if you don't like the school, you should go because there are always other schools attending, and schools contact one another about players. Also, it doesn't matter how tall you are or how much you weigh. In my sophomore year, I was a pretty big kid and I didn't get many offers, so I worked my body and lost a lot of weight. If you don't like how you are, don't let it affect you negatively, just keep getting better and good things will eventually come.

Austin is currently in his senior year at HHS. He has been impactful on and off the field, making our community a better place. He is simply a winner. On the field, he has helped the lacrosse team by being a good teammate and playing well.

Connor Novak, a teammate of Austin's, says, "Austin's a kid who will always come to practice and works hard. He cares about the team and never takes plays off."

Off the field, he is nice to everybody and prides himself on being a loyal friend.

Girls' Varsity Basketball Making Great Strides

Cynthia Malota
Staff Writer

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team has had 9 games and have a record of 3-6/ The team practices for about two hours a day and works their hardest to do the best they can in the games they play. But the season is not over yet and they have 11 more games to go and the team remains optimistic.



Boxing out for the rebound. Sophomore Olivia Debal boxes out Rye's Amanda Latkany, while Ashley Stagg follows up for the rebound. *Photos courtesy of Coach Kail*

The players on the team are all very dedicated. The roster consists of 11 players, all all very talented in their own ways: Gabby Marraccinni, Emily Hassett, Ashley Stagg, Jeannine Eljamal, Alexandra Sinis, Cece Gilmore, Victoria Lendino, Sam Andrews, Nia Stephenson, Olivia Debal, and Mikayla Tucci.

The team is a mix of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The playing time is not based on age; rather, it is based on skill so everyone has a fair shot.

"I started playing basketball for the school this year because I wanted to get closer to the girls in Harrison and play the sport I love," said freshman Tori Fernandez. "It has been very fun and has allowed me to improve and get closer with the

girls on the team."

The team has been showing improvement at their games this year. On January 7, Harrison had a game against Rye at Harrison. Since Rye and Harrison have always been rivals, it was a competitive game. In the end Rye ended up winning, but at the start of the game, Harrison held the lead for a little while.

Another thing that really matters in sports is teamwork, getting along with your team, and sportsmanship.

The Harrison team does a really good job of working as a team probably because they practice together every day and take their practices very seriously. Another reason for this could be that all the girls on the team get along and have become friends. This makes the team a safe and fun place and also helps them to win their games. Finally, they display

really good sportsmanship because even if they are winning or losing, the team knows how to play fair.

This team has many strengths. When you go to their games you can see that they are all very talented players, but everyone has a strength. In addition, they have a very talented player for each position.

Overall the Girls' Varsity Bas-



Ready for victory. Coach Kail and this year's squad: Back row (left to right): Victoria Lendino, Cece Gilmore, Emily Hassett, Olivia Debal, Sam Andrews, Tori Fernandez. Front row (left to right): Alexandra Sinis, Jeannine Eljamal, Ashley Stagg, Gabby Marraccinni, Mikayla Tucci, and Nia Stephenson.

ketball team works really hard and is a very fair and supportive team of each other. Let's hope that unity soon translates into more on-court victories.

Boys' Varsity Hoops Starts Season Strong

Sam Ptashnik

Staff Writer

Coming off a 10-12 season, the Huskies varsity basketball team looked to come back stronger than ever with a new season that started December 4. This team can be very successful in not only this season but for many years to come. The Huskies have had a very strong start to the season, starting 2-0.

The opening game was against Nanuet at Harrison High. It was a relatively easy game for the Huskies as they won with a final score of 56-45. With senior shooting guard Alex Siapanides scoring 11 and junior forward Mike Plotkin scoring 10, it seemed like the Huskies were unstoppable.

Another reason for their dominance is that they were getting young players like Will DeLuca to score 8. This will play a very important role in close games.

A main reason for the big opening win was rebounding. Harrison dominated the boards which is great because they were able to get more shots at the baskets and limit the amount of shots taken by the opposing team. Following this game it seemed like the Huskies were ready to start fresh in what has potential to

be a great season.

To keep up the good basketball, Harrison traveled to Saunders where they absolutely annihilated them with a final score of 81-43. In this amazing game the players felt as if they couldn't miss, hitting shot after shot to post a season high 81 points. Varsity sophomore, Will DeLuca said, "Not only did we play great basketball and great team basketball, but our defense was really good and we were excellent on communicating which is a huge part of defending in basketball."

Defense wins championships. Another important reason to the team's success is coaches Gary Chiarella and Danny Pesco. Both coaches have provided the team with energy and have given the players great advice in how to play better.

Despite this hot streak, Harrison was knocked back to reality when they took on Albertus Magnus in a blow out. This was an awfully played game and defensively the energy wasn't there. The Huskies let up 91 points, and that's never a good thing. Hopefully the team watches film on the game to see how they could en-

hance their level of play so this doesn't happen again. The Huskies were outbounded by 14 and allowed 35 defensive rebounds.

Next season the Huskies should be very good. They have lots of talent coming up from JV and the current Varsity players are showing improvement every day. As of now, the Huskies were unable to defeat their previous record of 10-12; however, there is always next year and it is crucial that they can learn from their mistakes. A big part of this basketball team is the three point sho, so if they can get four or five knock down shooters, the Huskies are in great shape.



Winning in the Classic. Here is the team picture for the Dapper McDonald Classic. Harrison went on to beat Port Chester by 53-38. The players are: (Top Row left to right), Michael Plotkin, Anthony Gjokaj, Teddy Corcoran, Naz Hyman, Marco Angarano, Will DeLuca, Willem Baskt, Michael Vukel, Logan Wasserman, (Bottom Row, left to right) Reece Mullahy, Alex Sap, Connor Novak, and Joshua Cooper.

Courtesy of Coach Chiarella

Wrestling Team Has Impressive Season

Larissa Iraj

Sports Editor

The Varsity Wrestling Team has been off to a great season this year with a record of 19 wins and nine losses. The team picks up from placing eighteenth in the Division One Sectionals last year. Despite graduating two of their top wrestlers, Mike Rozell and Mark Rigano, this young team returns talented players, like Tyler Joseph, Dennis Brecani, and Zach Finn.

Coach Vincent Nicita returns as the head Varsity Coach, and right from the start he knew that this young team would have a promising season this year. Nicita's experience as the head coach for his 35 seasons has been instrumental to leading this team to one victory after another.

By early December the team record was 7-1, and the team had a

63-18 win against Irvington on December 15. This game gave Coach Nicita his three hundredth career win, making him only the seventh coach in Section One Wrestling to achieve this honor.

A preview in the *LoHud Wrestling Blog* predicted success for this season and named Tyler Joseph as one of the Mean Fifteen, the best returning wrestlers for the 2018-2019 season, and Zach Finn, as one of the next top 15.

The Harrison Varsity Wrestling Team opened their season at Rye High competing in the Bernie Miller Duals. The Huskies defeated St. Joe's by the Sea by a score of 68-18. They also beat Rye 72-18, Scarsdale 64-24, and Lakeland Panas 48-39. The team next faced Eastchester

in the finals, and they won 54-33 and claimed the title as Team Champions in the Rye Duals. The Award for Most Outstanding Freshman went to Cole Joseph, and Tyler Joseph received the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award for this tournament.

The team hit their first challenge the following week at Section Patriot Duals when facing John Jay Cross River. They came out with a hard-fought loss of 50-27, but soon recovered with a victory of 66-24 against Valhalla. Cole Joseph, Lightning Roggero, Will Roggero and Filipe Count went one and one while Tyler Joseph, Vito DeFonce and Denis Brecani remained undefeated after the first two rounds. Cole Joseph and Val McCoy went on to fight and win third place. Tyler, DeFonce, and Finn made it to the finals after winning their pools. DeFonce won second place as Tyler Joseph took the 132 pound title and Zach Finn the 195 pound title.

As a result, Harrison stood proud with the second place trophy at the Patriot Tournament.

The Carlucci Tournament at Suny Purchase, featuring the top teams in Division One and Section Powerhouses, was next on the schedule for the Harrison Huskies. The first

match was against Brewster where the Huskies came out on top 51-36. But they then suffered an upset to Port Chester with a close loss of 44-36. Huskies had a quick chance to regain strength and focus in order to beat Scarsdale 54-36. The Huskies ended the night with two wins and one loss but DeFonce, Cole Joseph, Tyler Joseph, Denis Brecani, and Zach Finn all remained undefeated in their competitions.

The Huskies were back at the mat early next morning to claim the three hundredth win for Coach Nicita after defeating Irvington. The rest of the tournament was not the best for the Huskies as they lost 62-18 to Woodbury/Monroe, 70-9 to Pleasantville, and a tight match of 52-36 against Tappan Zee. Zach Finn worked hard and was able to come out undefeated with wins and Denis Brecani had four wins and one loss, claiming the the team award of MOW.

The Huskies had one last win of 72-9 against Somers before the December vacation. It was a big win for Cole Joseph and he fought strong in a hard match of 9-8 against the number four ranked player in the division. The team was then off to the KSA duals in Orlando, Florida for their holiday break. The team faced some tough competitors from all around the nation and with a record of four wins and one loss they were able to reign as second place champions.

They returned to New York with the record of 15-6, ready to end their season with only more wins added to the record. This was clearly the case

as the Huskies traveled to Nyack for the first match of the New Year. The team beat Nyack 66-22. Cole Joseph, Tyler Joseph, and Zach Finn all recorded pins.

The team faced some ups and downs the next few weeks as they had a close loss of 37-39 against Tappan Zee, then a win of 60-30 against Sleepy Hollow and a loss of 51-36 to Horace Greeley. Despite some tough team challenges throughout the month of January, some wrestlers were able to attain some new victories of their own. At Sleepy Hollow, Tyler Joseph achieved his one hundred thirty-second win which placed him tying for the third place spot on the ALL Time Husky Win List. Other notable highlights from the season included Zach Finn's record of 30 wins during the season and his crown as the Westchester County Champion at the Westchester County Championships on January 18-19. In addition, Dennis Brecani, Lightning Roggero, Tyler Joseph, Zach Finn, Val McCoy and Cole Joseph were all named in the 20 Win Club.

The team is headed off to the Section One Championships next with high hopes that the season will end on a high note.

Victor Arcara looked back on the season and said, "The best part of my season was hitting 20 wins, since I set a goal for myself in the beginning of the season to record 20 wins and I accomplished it. Overall, our team had a very successful season."



Pinning and winning. This year's Wrestling team accomplished so much, including getting Coach Nicita his three hundredth win.

Courtesy of Coach Nicita

Rye/Harrison Titans on a Roll

Larissa Iraj

Sports Editor

The Rye Town/Harrison Titans Hockey Team has started off the season strong with a record of 4-2 and moving up the Lohud hockey ranking quickly.

The Titans are lead by second year Head Coach Rich Myers and Assistant Coach Jamie Funigiello. These coaches are looking to build on the momentum from last season's finish of 14-7. The team has great chemistry with seven returning starters from last season, including senior captains Jack Shapiro, Christian Pizzutello, and Evan Ketchabaw.

According to *Lohud.com*, before the season began Coach Myers stated, "This year with our veteran players leading the way, coupled with our strong underclassman group, I am excited about the direction of the program."

Coach Myers should be excited with the Titans program as the Titans were ranked sixth in the Lohud rankings and number five in Division I.

The Titans opened their season playing in the White Plains Guy Mathews Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament, and their first game was against Mahopac. The Titans were in the lead in the first period, due to a great goal scored by Joey Harrison.

However, Mahopac struck back with four unanswered goals to end with a 7-2 victory over the Titans.

The Titans kept their heads high and bounced back with a 6-4 win over Clarkstown in the next

round of this tournament. The Titans were tied at 2-2 when Joey Harrison again put the team in the lead, which they maintained with Eric Mehlman scoring the next two goals to give the Titans a 5-2 edge with three minutes to play in the second period.

Despite a comeback by Clarkstown in the third period, Christian Pizzutello was able to net a goal with 3:23 left in the third period to seal the victory for the Titans. The Titans closed out the tournament with a 9-2 win over Brewster/Yorktown, led by Joey Harrison with a hat trick and Jack Shapiro with two goals and two assists.

The Titans, whose ranking had dropped to ninth, next faced the third ranked Scarsdale team. This was a tight game from the opening face-off until just past midway through the third period, with a score of 3-2 Scarsdale, when Scarsdale scored three goals to take a commanding 6-2 lead. The Titans did not give up, and Christian Pizzutello and Jack Shapiro scored goals to pull within two goals with six minutes to play, but Scarsdale held on for a 6-4 win.

The Titans never give up with their experienced seniors leading the way into the Pelham Feb 21 Tournament at the Ice



Celebrating the goal. The Titans celebrate a goal against Greeley. Pictured here(left to right) are sophomore David Pizzutello, junior Scott Rossen, senior Jack Shapiro, and senior Christian Pizzutello.

Photos Courtesy of Christian Pizzutello

Hutch on the weekend of December 9-10. This is where the Titans swept the opponents to move back up the rankings to sixth, as well as having a Lohud Player of the Week given to one of their players.

The Titans started this weekend with blazing skates and sticks. Eric Mehlman opened the scoring and they took a 6-2 lead over Canisius. The Titans held on to the lead despite a rally from the Crusaders and came out with a 6-5 win highlighted by Jack Shapiro who had three goals and three assists. Nico Barry also finished the game with 41 saves and Christian Pizzutello had one goal and four assists.

Nico Barry was recognized as the Lohud Player of the Day on December 8. The Titans capped their weekend off with a 7-6 win over Lancaster. The highlights of this game included two goals and three assists by Joey Harrison, two goals and two assists by Jack Shapiro, and one goal and three assists by Jonah Schultz. Joey Harrison earned the honors

as Lohud Player of the Day on December 9.

Barry and Harrison were not the only two on the team named as Players of the Day that weekend. Jack Shapiro was also named the Lohud Player of the Week. As stated on *Lohud.com*, Coach Rich Myers noted, "Jack had some very timely goals over the weekend. On Saturday, he had a natural hat trick to give us a cushion against Canisius, and on Sunday he scored the first goal to give us an early lead."

The Titans clearly worked hard to succeed during that weekend.

Jonah Schultz, sophomore from Harrison High School on the Titans says, "We've been successful because we all have been playing together for awhile and we know where each of us will be on the ice at all times."

Not only has this cohesive team demonstrated their resilience on the ice, they even attempt to give back to the community off the ice.

The Titans are holding their

first ever "Blackout Night" benefiting the Toys for Tots program and St. Vincent's Hospital, as they take on the Mamaroneck Tigers on December 17. The benefit is asking for support of unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program or Art Supplies for St. Vincent's Hospital Adolescent Therapy Program.

The Titans, at 4-2, look to build on the team momentum and get some revenge when they take on Scarsdale on December 15.

The hockey team took a trip upstate to Union College. A few of the stats are J Shapiro with 7 goals and two assists, C Pizzutello had two goals and four assists, Harrison with four goals and four assists, Schultz with three goals and two assists, Ketch with 5 assists, B Shapiro with one assist, and finally Coppola with one goal. This was clearly a good trip upstate for the Rye Titans.

Coach Myers is excited about the rest of the season and looks forward to the continued success of the program.



One happy captain. Senior Christian Pizzutello watches as another Titan victory unfolds.

Insider's View: Swim Team

Charlie Rube

Guest Writer

As a member of the Husky swim team since middle school, I can provide an insider's perspective. I wasn't much of a swimmer when younger, but injuries from other sports pushed me toward swimming while I healed, and I enjoyed it so much that I stayed long after.

Our team is a community formed around Coach Dearstyne, one of the kindest and most endearingly humorous men I have ever met, and the students who look up to him. When I joined the team, it was a mix of committed year-round swimmers and guys who joined in the off-season of their school sports to get in shape and have a good time with friends. Regardless of the motivation, there was an instant bond in joining the swim team. Between brutal workouts over 10 hours a week, bonding games of Sharks and Min-



Listen up and learn. The swim team gathers around Coach Dearstyne to get some good advice before the next important match.

Courtesy of Vincent Longo

nows or Water Polo, and a long season of meets, the team fights to win and to look after each other. I couldn't believe that as a ninth grader I had juniors and seniors patting me on the back in the halls, talking about some good races, or giving me rides over to practice, treating me as a peer. As a senior and a captain this year, the team was no different, and was as close knit as ever.

Behind the incredible swimming example set by my fellow captains Steven Kwon and Alex Miller(a States qualifier in the 200 IM, and current Harrison High School

Record holder), the team ended the season third in our league with lots of fantastic times had by everyone. It is an incredible experience to have almost every meet lead to someone beating their own records and improving, with the support of the entire team behind them, cheering at the poolside for that next personal barrier to fall.

The memories from my time in the pool at LMK will stick with me for many years to come, and if anyone is wondering what to do with their time next winter, for an amazing social experience, or if you want to work towards that six pack, I encourage you to find Coach Dearstyne or one of the Varsity Swimmers, because all who are willing to work hard are welcome.