

THE COURIER

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The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

Dear Edwina Wows Audiences

by Lauren LaPlaca

This year's spring musical, *Dear Edwina*, was a wonderful experience for the cast and crew, as well as for the many people that came out to see it. Singing! Dancing! Acting! Costumes! It turned out really great. Ms. Irlen taught us all of the songs. There were a lot of songs because the whole story was basically told through songs. Every song was performed to perfection in the end. Ms. Johnson, our choreographer, taught us all of the dances, and it was agreed that the dances were the hardest part of the play. But with all of the support it turned out

really great. We learned some helpful acting exercises too! For example, I played Becky-a cheerleader in the school play- and I really had to know my character to be my character. This goes the same for every person in the play. The costumes were very fun and the different looks were really cool to see. All of them were extremely awesome. It made the play complete.

Thank you to all of the people who could make all of this possible. *Dear Edwina Jr.* will be a play we will never forget. The entire cast hopes that you enjoyed it!



Fans were treated to two wonderful performances of this year's hit musical "Dear Edwina"

Tiger Tech Gives Highlands a Fresh Look

by Matthew Barberio

I recently interviewed the Highlands Technology teacher, Mr. Hauser, and he shared some great stuff about the Technology program. I learned that certain classes of his make the plastic classroom signs found outside many teachers' doors. He thought of the idea after finding it difficult to find certain classrooms when he first started working here. He then found a vacuum molding machine and began playing around with it. He made one for his own room and then started to make them for others. One interesting fact is that teacher picks the props for their own sign. They are made by heating a sheet of plastic and then molding it to a mold. They are fun to make.

Some other projects that Mr. Hauser's classes have done are the school store in the cafeteria, guitar hangers for Ms. Irlen and radiator covers on the first floor. The current Tiger Tech team is working on bookshelves for Mrs. Hricay's classroom. Mrs. Hricay received a grant to buy a lot of books for her class. She had nowhere to store them so she called Tiger Tech. The shelves should be complete by Early March.



The Highlands School Store was created by Tiger Tech Students

2011 Grammys Are a Hit

By Danielle Herman

This year's Grammys were a big hit with lots of great performances, but the awards were a bit of a disappointment, with Lady Antebellum winning five awards for the same song/album. The opening act was a well done tribute to Aretha Franklin the "Queen of Soul", performed by Jennifer Hudson, Florence Welch (from "Florence + The Machine"), Christina Aguilera, Yolanda Adams, and Martina McBride. There were also several other great performances by Lady Gaga, Muse, Janelle Monáe, Bruno Mars, B.o.B., Lady Antebellum, Gwyneth Paltrow, Cee Lo Green, Katy Perry, Rihanna, Dr.Dre, Eminem, Mick Jagger, and Drake. Lady Gaga performed the debut of her new song "Born This Way". Her new album also debuted in stores the same day. At the beginning of her performance, Lady Gaga was rolled on stage in a giant egg, in which she stayed in for three entire days prior to her performance, so when she emerged from it she would feel as if she was really being "born". Muse's performance had great special effects, creating the illusion of the stage destroying and rebuilding itself. Fire was also digitally projected onto the stage.

One act which was performed by several artists was the collaborated work of Janelle Monáe, Bruno Mars, and B.o.B. Something that stood out was Bruno Mars slow, 50's version of "Grenade". Another group performance was by Rihanna, Dr.Dre, and Eminem. Rihanna also performed a duet with Drake singing "What's My

Name", with a real bonfire onstage. Katy Perry had an amazing performance. During her first song "Not Like the Movies", she was suspending in the air on a swing, and a backdrop was draped from the back of it, touching the floor and then curving up to the ceiling. Pictures of her and Russell Brand at their October wedding were projected onto the backdrop. Perry's next song "Teenage Dream", had a Valentine's Day theme. There was lots of pink, red, and hearts. Another performance was the song "Forget You" sung by Cee Lo Green and Gwyneth Paltrow. However Cee Lo Green's over decorated costume made him look like a bejeweled rainbow peacock chicken crossbreed.

This year for the first time ever, Mick Jagger, lead singer of the Rolling Stones, performed on the Grammy stage. Instead of singing one of the Rolling Stones songs though, he sang a tribute to soul singer Solomon Burke. Lady Antebellum also performed, singing their multi award winning song, "Need You Now". One performance that didn't go so well was Justin Bieber and Jayden Smith singing "Never Say Never." in which a stunt performer on stage messed up and fell on their back.

As far as awards go, only few were actually given out on air. Most are presented during commercial breaks or before the show. Some awards are listed to the right, but if you'd like to see a complete list of winners and nominees go to grammy.com/nominee.

- Record of the Year: "Need You Now" by Lady Antebellum
- Album of the Year: "The Suburbs" by Arcade Fire
- Song of the Year: "Need You Now" by Lady Antebellum
- Best New Artist: Esperanza Spalding
- Best Female Pop Vocal Performance: "Bad Romance" by Lady Gaga
- Best Male Pop Vocal Performance: "Just The Way You Are" by Bruno Mars
- Best Pop Performance By A Duo or Group With Vocals: "Hey Soul Sister" by Train
- Best Pop Vocal Album: "The Fame Monster" by Lady Gaga
- Best Dance Recording: "Only Girl (In the World)" by Rihanna
- Best Rock Album: "The Resistance" by Muse
- Best Male R&B Vocal Performance: "There Goes My Baby" by Usher
- Best Urban/ Alternative Performance: "Forget You" by Cee Lo Green
- Best Rap Solo Performance: "Not Afraid" by Eminem
- Best Rap/Sung Collaboration: "Empire State of Mind" by Alicia Keys and Jay-Z
- Best Rap Song: "Empire State of Mind" by Alicia Keys and Jay-Z
- Best Rap Album: "Recovery" by Eminem
- Best Country Performance by A Duo or Group: "Need You Now" by Lady Antebellum
- Best Country Song: "Need You Now" by Lad Antebellum
- Best Country Album: "Need You Now" by Lady Antebellum
- Best Musical Show Album: "American Idiot" by Green Day and the original Broadway cast
- Best Short Form Music Video: "Bad Romance" by Lady Gaga

Sibrizzi Shows his Irish Spirit

By Jared Rogovin

Green, green, green! Green from head to toe. On Thursday of March 17, 2011 the auditorium at Eastview was green, the lunchroom was green, and the food was green (just kidding) So almost everyone, even most teachers, wore green all day long!

Mr. Sibrizzi was dressed like a leprechaun! He won the prize of, "Best dressed for St. Patrick's day," and I assure you no one would disagree. He had mini-tights, an orange beard, the classic hat, and the famous shoes—like he was a leprechaun himself! Green, green, green, and more green was all the eye could see, so let's see this next year folks!

International Dinner a Huge Success

by Annick Tabb

On the night of Wednesday February 9, 2011, the parents, teachers and students at Eastview gathered together for an evening of food, flag-making, performances and fun. The food was delicious. There were things from all over the world, like egg rolls, spinach and cheese English muffins and pastas from everywhere.

Many people tried things that they usually

wouldn't have, myself included. If anything was better than the food, it would have been the performances. The chorus led us in four songs, "Arroz con Leche", "Sur le pont D'Avignon", "Waving Flag" and "Waka Waka". There was also a dance. As we sang, we waved the flags we had made at dinner. This was a real gathering of people who wanted to be more united. As we left the auditorium, I'm sure that I wasn't the only one who wouldn't ever forget this night.

Editorial- Bullying

"Courage is fire, and bullying is smoke." –Benjamin Disraeli

Bullying. Just mentioning the word makes some kids cringe. The image most people get in their heads is that of a bigger stronger kid who beats up little kids. Wrong! A bully can be anyone who puts down others by verbally, emotionally, or physically abusing them. And now it is worse with social networking sites like Facebook, Myspace, Formspring and Twitter.

I have personally had experiences where people have used Facebook against me and it is not fun. If you are ever thinking of putting something nasty about someone on a social networking site, remember you can't take it back. Every

day in the news you hear about a young person that has done something tragic because of bullies and there are millions of kids out there hurting themselves and suffering in silence. Recently, a YouTube video surfaced of a young boy who was applauded for standing up to his bully; however there are many ways we can fight bullying without violence. People need to intervene when they see a bully abusing someone. Bullies are just cowards who are powerless without an audience. Stand up for your peers and for yourself to battle bullying!

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot done at both campuses to heighten awareness about bullying. Students need to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. Administrators, teachers and staff are not going to tolerate it. Let's work together to put a stop to bullying!

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Wintersteen

By Luis Valenzuela

The teacher in the spotlight this month is Mr. Wintersteen. He has been teaching art at Highlands Middle School for 7 years. He studied art at the Design and Art Education at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, NY. He also studied Studio Art at the College of New Rochelle, NY.

His favorite student projects are printmaking, painting and clay sculptures. You can find his students' artwork displayed all around the building. He likes to place the displays outside the classroom and the main entrance of the school. In his free time, Mr. Wintersteen draws, paints, works on the computer, watches scary movies, hangs out with friends in Manhattan, goes to the gym and relaxes. His favorite

part of teaching is watching his students create original and creative works of art and express themselves through their work. Mr. Wintersteen's favorite museum is the Museum of Modern Art in New York City because he loves Modern Art. He also enjoys visiting contemporary galleries in Chelsea and 57th street. He says he would like to take his class to New York City for a field trip because there are so many museums and art galleries like the MOMA, Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Guggenheim, The Whitney and the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art. He also said that they would eat lunch at Ray's Pizza for lunch, because it has the best pizza in the city.

These are just some of the things that make Mr. Wintersteen so cool.



Mr. Wintersteen says that he wishes he could take his students to the art museums in New York City, and then Ray's Pizza for lunch!



THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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Courier Staff Welcomes in April With New Satire Section

For the April Fools edition of The Courier, the staff decided to include something fun-SATIRE! Initially it was hard to understand how to write satire, however once we started brainstorming ideas, we were able to come up with some very clever ideas.

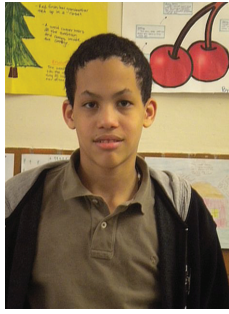
Webster's dictionary lists satire as "a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn." There are a lot of funny things going on in the world, so it was easy to find stuff to poke fun at.

The new section, entitled *The Blurrier*, contains many articles poking fun at the budget crisis, teachers, celebrities (as well as teachers dressed as celebrities!) We even included a parody of our advice column. Readers beware...it's all completely untrue, but have fun reading.

As usual, The Courier is always accepting new writers. If you'd like to be a part of this great paper, please come to our next general meeting on **Monday, April 11**. Location to be announced.

Classroom Spotlight

Elizaual Baez, Eastview 8th Grader
Response to reading of *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Patillo Beals



Introduction: Melba learned something we wouldn't know even if we were in her time. If she hadn't tried to integrate Central High School, I and many other people, wouldn't be sitting here together in peace with each other. Melba had to deal with many harrowing experiences in Central High and throw her life. Would you have done what she did? This is a poem of her choosing to keep on the fight on the "battlefield" of integration.

MELBA, KEEP YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH

Melba, you've seen the darkness in the eye of the unwise
you have heard it and you have felt it
but Melba, show them your strength
show them your courage
Melba, keep your head held high.
Not like those others hanging from the tree
looking down
overwhelmed with fear and sorrow
for the one next in line
whoever it is
their brothers or sisters
daughters or sons
their friends or other family members
next by next
we all fall down
but all forgetting to fight for what's right
Melba, fight for them
let them see the light of joy
untangling them from their fear
Melba, keep on your dream of hope
that dream that we could sit together with no pain
and those words that struck you to be no more
that dream Melba, keep that dream
as they force you to forget
trying for you to be scared of them
but you don't forget
you make them scared of you
you inspire the rest "of your kind"
so for them, Melba,
keep your head held high.

Happiness

by Kayla Gray

happiness is something to keep
happiness is something neat
happiness will never fail
happiness is something you never bail
happiness is what you have
happiness is never bad

Reviews

RESTAURANT

Outback Steakhouse

By Aaron Weidner

My family and I enjoy the outback steakhouse located it the Westchester Pavilion in White Plains. The environment is impressive and the lights are dimmed to give you a calm feeling. The waiters are very friendly and the food tastes amazing.

My favorite way to start of my dinner is to kick it off with the Outback's amazing appetizers such as their original "Bloomin' Onion" and "Kookaburra Wings". Their wings are tossed in a blend of secret spices and the onion is cooked until golden. When ready for the main course, I personally like to order one of the Outback's signature steaks. I think the "Outback Special" is the best on the menu. This signature sirloin is seasoned with strong spices and grilled just right for the perfect taste. I never leave the Outback without one of their mouthwatering desserts. A piece of carrot cake? A small sundae? Or sometimes I go extreme with the "Chocolate Thunder From Down Under!" It's a chocolate brownie crowned with rich vanilla ice cream, drizzled with chocolate fudge and finished with chocolate shavings and whipped cream. Yum!

The Outback is great for any occasion and provides a healthy and exotic eating experience. It has very decorative walls with many pictures and other interesting things that catch your eye. Outback stands out in every way.

VIDEO GAMES

Mario Sports Mix

by Harry S. Seymour

Mario Sports Mix is a video game with almost all the Mario characters, and includes 4 sports. The sports are Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball, and Dodgeball. In each sport, if you get points, you could have enough points to activate your special move. This special requires in all sports of Mario Sports Mix. Also, in all sports, if you collect coins and you get 3 coins and 1 point in a sport, 4 points would be added to your score. ! Point for the game, and the 3 coins you collected during the game. Another cool thing about this game is that you could play with your miis.

Also, some include features like party mode, and are a lot of fun. In each sport, you can also play Tournament. That's a way to unlock characters, stadiums and more! I've already told you enough about the game, so I'm going to tell you a little bit more. Mario Spots Mix is a game of challenge, fun, sports, and it's only for Wii! So if you have a Wii, and you've never tried the game, go to Target or GameStop to buy it now!



Green Day Rock Band

By Chris Kozlow

Green Day Rock Band is an enjoyable game for all ages. For those who like rock 'n roll and are huge fans of green day, you will enjoy it more. Some of the songs on *Green Day Rock Band* include "Wake Me Up When September Ends" and "Jesus of Suburbia" which is a ten minute song that's enjoyable for non-stop gamers. And for those people who keep track of Billy Joe's hair color, it is blond on the cover and other various colors in the game. A little negativity though, they've included the first venue that Green Day played in, but none of the songs that they played there is in the game. On a scale of 1 to 10, I give it a 8.5 or 9.0. I guarantee hours of fun with *Green Day Rock Band*.

BOOK

Forge

by Laurie Halse Anderson

Forge is the sequel to *Chains* which is also by Laurie Halse Anderson. *Forge* continues the story of a black girl born into slavery fighting for her freedom, and trying to save her little sister too. Curzon, a slave boy who is doing his best to help her, leaves her after a huge argument.

I can't tell you anything more or it would ruin the book. (It also gives an interesting perspective of the revolution). If you like to read then this book is for you.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

L K P D I O E V X C H E W P N A Z W P D
K I A K W Z S S E K N C U P O U D G T D
T U R G V L U S I T S S E N I P P A H H
P O T P O Z P O E U M O P U S J N D B C
F V L O A X Y R N P G W O I U E Y Z M X
O X F P N O T G T K D S N L L Q S L G Y
X R F G W A N S N Z N J I B L H U J B M
X V G F I I E J O K E S N D I H P O Z C
V D A N S C S K C I R T O I J B S V P Q
K K I U R N K U L P D N Y U X X Q E U S
E N M E E X Q C P H R W O W S H O I K E
G A T B K L O V O Q V A M P F P A V F R
S S C N O A P Y V X B P N D H D Q E X J
C B B G U V L W U K H N R K N Y V H L S
A D U K N F F A I D B O Q M S Z Q Y B I
R Q P I G J Z W U W I Y R R I A S Q M L
E X G E J C L N W G E P E W S T E O G L
S Z Z D F A M B U S H L Q H Q R K W E Y
E M A G P I K B L P Q S N S R S A P V Q
F D K O V Q J S J B A I E D L F F L W B

AMBUSH
AMUSING
APRIL
DISGUISE
ENTERTAINING
FAKE
FAKES

FOOLS
GAME
HAPPINESS
ILLUSION
JOKES
LAUGHS
PLOT

FRANK
SCARES
SECRET
SILLY
TRAP
TRICKS



Spring



E S W N F B M E G M Z Q L F C S W N O X
H D U P E K D P L V G A J N B J W E M A
G S A N W I E I J S J T F U L S W E C Z
U H K N S F Q H G R P R M B N T P R E Q
F I U T O P L A N T S I M A I R S G N T
C Y U J Z M S T R O P S C P A E C Y Z R
M O Q M Y V E C X G W K Y E R E H E C O
P Y R T D I A L J U S P A D V S O F Q X
C A A B O C P P B G P P N R O F O F J L
W C B L K X B J B A M H C W G H L H Y H
V G U S P A E P H T I W J S T M C D Z N
T D R R S Y Q L Z E H H C H W E X W O H
H O L E D S S R I N G O B Q R A F Z V H
W E F W L J A E V O L U U C V K F K H C
L J C O Y D P R U M G C E E U U G Q Q A
S F O L F U N R G S N Q N O X K O N F H
T W P F D J S F E V Y F L M G T K B K B
P J Z A X E U A R T O R M J P M N C F N
B R H D A T E I A I T G D V J T T R X C
E J C A B V T N T U Z Y K O C F T N M K

BUGS
FLOWERS
FUN
GRASS
GREEN
HAPPY
LEMONADE
LOVE

OUTSIDE
PLANTS
PLAY
PRETTY
RAIN
SCHOOL
SNACKS
SPORTS

SRING
SUN
SWEET
TREES
WARM

Entire Highlands School Community Takes Time to REACH OUT AND READ

by Jackie Gershman

The first R.O.A.R. day at Highlands was a huge success! Everyone had a book and was reading like wild. This is great because, due to the 30 minute block of time, everyone was able to read several pages of their favorite book.

As we walked around Highlands during this event, we were able to see some of the great books that were being read such as *The Magician's Ward*, by Patricia C. Wrede, *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allen Poe, *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Many students and teachers found that taking the time out to read was fun, especially since everyone was doing it. We are looking forward to the next R.O.A.R. day!

REACH

OUT

AND

READ!



Eastview Students Celebrate Spirit Week!

TWIN
DAY!



ORANGE AND BLACK DAY/PEP RALLY



PAJAMA
DAY



MIX-maTch Day



The Bully

When at school class is great
 Until the bully ruins my happy state
 He ruined my chance at love
 He gave my life a shove
 He makes my depressed
 He makes me hate myself
 I feel like a shelf
 Staked with insults
 Then I notice that he is the one
 with all the faults.

- By Nathan Rabinowitz-Buck



No Bullying Week

By Jared Rogovin

With the transition from January to February, There was a sense of excitement in the air. The Eastview S.O. worked with Mrs. Prober to organize a no bully/no name-calling week. This included a poster contest. The winners received gift cards. The winners included one boy and one girl from each grade. The winners from the sixth grade were William Lacey and Diana Mendez. In seventh grade the winners were Jamie and Janine Fernandez and Greg Parelli. In the eighth grade the winners were Jacqueline Celestino and Stefon Ricardo. Congrats to all and a good job to those who participated! The posters of all who participate decorate are halls even today. These posters are working the magic and there seems to be a safer environment then before now. Great job, everyone!



Janine Fernandez



Gregory Parelli



Jamie Fernandez

Highlands 6th Graders Speak Out about Bullying

Students in Ms. Sherman's 6th grade health class wrote essays that discuss what bullying is, what it means to them, and how we can work together as a school community to combat bullying. Here are some excerpts from those essays.

"If you are being bullied, tell an adult or someone you trust because they will help you...Bullies usually back down when they are outnumbered." -Kristen Troise, Bladdee Segura

"Bullies act the way they do because of attention; the more they get, the more powerful they feel, and if they feel powerful they can do more damage to their victims." -Darnell Steen

"People bully others to feel better about themselves, for attention, to get what they want, or even because they want to be popular." -Danielle Okun

"Bullying is bad and we should stop it. Take my hand and we will stop bullying together." -Diana Heredia, Adriana Cruz

"There are a lot of reasons why people bully other people. They might do it to look cool, to make themselves feel good or maybe because they were bullied themselves." -Kiara Luna

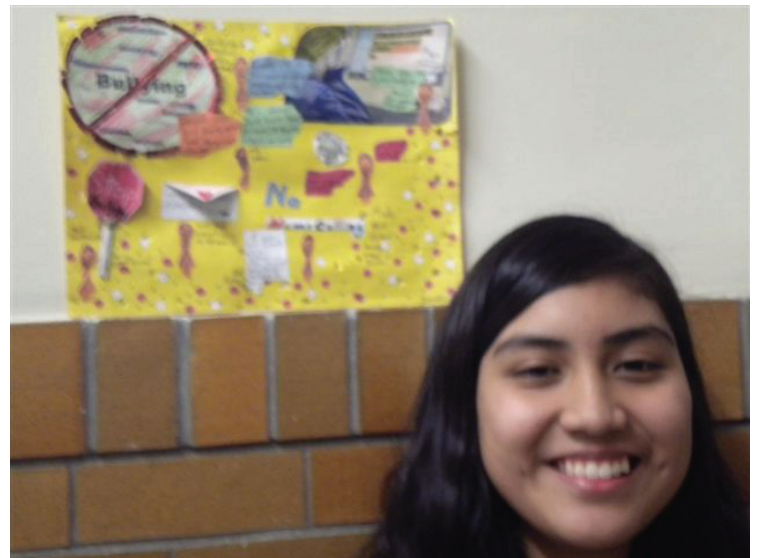
"Bullying isn't funny, it's not cool and you shouldn't be part of any of it." -Jessica Monachelli

"Cyberbullying is a serious matter. Bullies text their victims or even embarrass them on the internet." -Josmar Dominguez

"Bullies usually pick on someone who is weaker or smaller than they are. If you ever see someone getting bullied, either tell them to stop or, if it's too dangerous, go get an adult immediately." -Andrew Gugger



William Lacey



Jacqueline Celestino



Diana Mendez

THE BLURRIER

Blurring the truth since 2011

A satirical supplement to *The Courier*

☺ April 1, 2011 ☺

New Summer School Program Unites Campuses, Builds Character

By Danielle Herman

Due to recent budget cuts by the White Plains Board of Education, the school district will no longer be holding or funding any summer school academic programs. However, there is a new alternative for students who are failing classes.

If students are failing two or more classes, they will be enrolled in a new district sponsored summer program which requires less staff and materials. This new program will be called "Project CAT". CAT is an

acronym for Create A Tunnel.

Students who are enrolled in the new C.A.T. program will gather at the Highlands campus the first Monday of summer vacation, and begin digging a tunnel connecting Highlands and Eastview. This will help students build character and will truly unite our two campuses. There is also an academic advantage; participants will all be educated in the physics of digging and in geology as they battle those stubborn rocks sure to be hidden beneath the schools!

The new tunnel will

bring many changes to the 2011-2012 school year. All P.E. classes will be held at Highlands, and the Eastview gym will be used to store digging equipment. Eastview students will be allotted extra bell time when going through the tunnel to and from their P.E. classes. Also, busses going to and from both schools for afterschool activities will no longer be used for transportation. Golf carts and bicycles will be in the new tunnel, and will be used by students going to a different school than their own for afterschool activities and meetings. Just remember to stay to the right!

Budget Cuts Also Bring Big Changes to FCS Program: Food Service Workers Outraged

By Allison Jasne

This just in: the FCS classes are due to replace the cafeteria workers next quarter. The school has decided that since the FCS classes often gift the office workers and school personnel with their cookies, pizza, and the occasional sloppy joe, they must be skilled at cooking and baking, and are fit to run the cafeteria. Morning classes will prepare the daily foods, decide the "menu," bake the delicious cookies and order the assorted fresh foods for the sandwich bar and packaged goods such as chips and Twix bars. The students will be assigned a day of the week and on that day they will either serve the daily food, pizza, and sandwich bar or run the cash registers. The afternoon classes will clean the cafeteria from the lunch rushes, restock the juices and snacks, and count the money earned.

Reactions from students have been mixed. Some students have formed a fundraising group to avoid this; some have joined

because they are concerned about the health risks and have expressed concern over how clean the food and utensils will be if students are running the cafeteria; others joined because they have FCS this semester and don't want to serve the food and give up their lunch period. Other students are exuberant because it may mean a more kid friendly menu with cheesier pizza and more chocolaty cookies. However, this reporter doubts that the food will improve, and worries that it might be worse

with overcooked, burnt pizza and cookies that are solid as a rock.

Food workers, in an uproar, were spotted throwing tomatoes at Mr. Cloherty's and Mrs. Scheinman's doors, while demanding to keep their jobs. One member of office personnel was hit by a wayward tomato and had to be rushed to the hospital! No word from either principal, the superintendent, or the school board if they plan to reverse any changes to the café staff.



Angry Highlands Food Service Workers load up on tomatoes in order to protest the new program

"Caramel Club" Revealed! Teachers Panic

by Annick Tabb

One big secret, if leaked, could cause many of the Eastview teachers to be fired. In the Eastview basement there exists a safe haven for teachers to relax after a long day at work. The lounge has been dubbed "The Caramel Club", due to the caramel ice cream sundaes that are famous in the mini ice cream shop.

Personal Ice Cream Maker, James Lee, said he was bribed with a raise to keep this all quiet. Not only is there an ice cream shop, the state of the art movie theater is stocked with the latest movies and game systems. I interviewed a teacher

(who wishes to not be named for obvious reasons) while she was watching a movie on one of the comfy couches. She said, "I will be really sad to see this go."

The basement was expanded over the summer, without the consent of the administration, and then it was completely renovated. Buttery leather couches and shag carpeting were added with too many amenities to count. The lounge was discovered when a custodian came down to check something, when he saw a pink ice cream cup on the floor. He searched the basement and found the secret hideout. The teachers were taking a complimentary yoga class when he found them.



Caramel sundaes are a favorite among the staff who frequent the club

The yoga teacher bolted and is still on the loose. A list of the teachers who used the lounge frequently has not been put out yet, however stay tuned to find out more about what happens behind those sky blue tasseled curtains.

ROAR Ticket Scam Uncovered

by Max Kratzok

Junior Investigative Reporter

The guilty operatives have been operating guiltily out of the suspicious looking locker 3.141. After being uncovered at Highlands by the Highlands S.W.A.T. Team (Students Working Against Terribleness Team) they moved their operations to Eastview; however, this seemingly ingenious plot didn't work as planned since R.O.A.R. ticket are only valid at Highlands.

In an interview with the S.W.A.T. Team they said that what really gave away the locker was that on the back of all the fake tickets was the code phrase "I really love pi π " so they

first suspected the lunch ladies, however this soon changed when they were found not guilty because they were way too nice. The guilty party, who will not be named until a later date, recently released a statement "IT'S NOT FAIR!" Apparently their ELA teachers haven't taught them about persuasive essays yet. These hoodlums were caught "with their hands in the cookie jar" not really, just an ancient printing press (it left dust on the R.O.A.R. tickets).

P.S. The Blurrier is not responsible for laughing fatalities related to this article.

Second Locker Scandal Rocks Highlands

After months of investigations, mystery candy seller finally caught!

by Harry Seymour

After months of investigations, the teachers and staff have finally caught the 6th grade student who secretly sells candy from his locker. This student has raised millions of dollars by secretly selling all types of delicious candy to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Apparently, his teachers have known all along, and have

been enjoying a cut of the profits!

This person has made millions of dollars by selling candy. He sells Hershey chocolate, Skittles, M&Ms, gummy worms and anything else sugary sweet. However, the game is up. He has been finally caught.

We were unable to publish this students name, due to the fact that he has been granted immunity. In exchange, he has agreed to donate his candy profits to help balance the school budget. I guess he's not such a bad kid afterall!

Graduation Canceled; 8th Graders to Remain in Middle School Indefinitely

By Jared Rogovin

Budget cuts are deep. *Too deep.* In fact, they are so deep; 8th grade graduation is officially and unfortunately cancelled. No diploma for the 8th graders. This means they can't go to high school, and they will be classified as 8.5 graders. The middle schools will have to contain more and more students until the

schools eventually explode. Mr. Cloherty explained, "When the school explodes, then we can move forward, and start all over again". Studies have estimated that, at the current rate of growth, the school will explode in 2040 most likely during a pep rally. "Wow!" said Mrs. Holder, a reading teacher from Eastview, "That would definitely make it a Pep Rally to remember!" I agree.

Dear Kitty Kat...

Dear Kitty Kat,

My imaginary boyfriend broke up with me and I am in such a state of despair that I don't know what to do. I recently found out that he existed in my best friend's imagination too! CHEATER!!! I am so mad and sad that I am thinking about daydreaming about another boy just to spite him. HELP!!!

Signed, Dee Lusional

Dear Dee,

I suggest you exist in your best friend's imagination with another guy to make him and your best friend jealous. Make sure he's super hot and is completely in love with you. Play the song "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood over and over again so the song gets stuck in her head and they can both suffer. Revenge boyfriends are always the best boyfriends. Good luck!

Staar to Teach at Both Campuses Due to Budget Cuts

By Elana Mariani

An announcement was just made that due to drastic budget cuts, teachers will have to take on more work and responsibilities. One teacher was singled out to teach at both Highlands and Eastview at the same time. At first, she was really shocked, but the more she thought about it, she realized she could easily handle it. This teacher is Mrs. Staar. She was the one chosen because of her extremely loud voice and extremely loud buzzer. There were two solutions to this arrangement: meet halfway and scream for both schools to hear, or set up a TV screen and broadcast from the school's channel. First they tried to scream at a midway spot between the two schools. After a very long time of searching and searching, they found their midpoint. It was not easy, but they found it! After trying to yell, even Mrs. Staar couldn't be that loud. Time for plan B! In her room at Highlands, Mrs. Staar's television was set up so that students from Eastview could watch her as well as ask questions, answer questions, and even do the same worksheets and homework! There was only one problem... the TV kept



disconnecting! This was a big issue in a situation like this. Mrs. Staar had enough so she got one of her friends (a bus driver) and went to Eastview, got all of the kids in the class, and brought them back to Highlands. Each student from each school paired up and they sat on each other's laps. This actually worked out well until the principal walked in and saw students stacked one on top of each other! She was mad!!! However, after convincing a lot of people that the one teacher/two campuses thing wouldn't work, Mrs. Staar got to keep her job as a Highlands teacher exclusively. We are happy to have her all to ourselves.

Zombie Testing Boosts Grades

Head Scientist says it is to help kids get more "brain food"

By Mark Bosmediano

It all started one average day when five unfortunate kid's souls were asked by their teachers to stay after the bell. As soon as everyone was gone, cameras captured images of kids being escorted to secluded locations on campus and continuously injected with viruses developed to turn people into "brain-food-eating" zombies. The rest of the week, the kids said they were sick, yet the nurse didn't find anything wrong with them, except that they wouldn't stop reciting difficult math problems. Their grades, rapidly increased from a C+ average to an A+ average in two days.

This scandal was discovered by a janitor who was going down to check the boiler in Eastview and found a tunnel that led to a field in an unknown place. This was later discovered

to be the unused football field at Highlands, just covered with a well made cloth that makes it look like the real thing. The janitor found a fallen security camera and captured images of how the students were being tied down to beds and injected with a large range of needles that contained different liquids. The janitor immediately ran to the police station and showed them the images. They immediately ran to apprehend the scientists. They just made it. The scientists were already in the tunnels on their way out. They were charged with child abuse and were sentenced to 40 years in prison. When questioned about why they did it, they said they were hired by a rich crazy man named Bush George, who didn't want any child to be left behind. The police immediately went to his house and apprehended him.

And so ends the scandal that frightened so many parents and middle-schoolers.

Summer Vacation Canceled Due to Mischievous Birds

by Jacob Harellick

It's a beautiful snow day. You turn on the TV and realize it's the 40th snow day of the year. News reporter Barbara Clark says that summer vacation has now been canceled. Well, I decided to investigate this unfortunate mishap. Using my frequent flier miles, I hopped on a plane to Antarctica and discovered that the penguins there have been creating little slingshots. I was

shocked at the amount of brains the penguins have. They were loading up the slingshots with tons of snow and were letting it rip! In addition to contributing to our excessive snow days, we have now uncovered the mystery of Global Warming. It's not the earth--it's the penguins stealing ice from beneath the polar bears and loading up their slingshots. Anyway, thanks to these clever, flightless birds, we'll be in school all summer.

Tiger Tavern Changing for the Better?

by Noelle Spano

Recently, students were excited to discover blueprints of the new Tiger Tavern, indicating that the Tiger Tavern is going to change dramatically.

First of all the Tiger Tavern, which is located in the back of the cafeteria of Highlands, is a ROAR incentive. You and 5 friends can enjoy lunch in this special place, but as some of you may know it's not all that exiting except for the radio. The new plans, however, show the Tiger Tavern as being completely closed off, painted blue, and equipped with a dance floor and a light panel that has the different colors. You can change the colors on the dance floor, isn't that cool? There are also 3 vending machines that take roar tickets, and the tables are the same but the benches have a back, and the benches are also coated with fabric. Also, there are strobe lights that you can turn on and off. What a way to party and be rewarded!

Too bad students aren't allowed. It's being reserved for the teachers!!!

Goodbye Pens and Paper, Hello iPad!

By Louis Valenzuela

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! There have been rumors that budget cuts are going to really hurt schools. One of the many cuts will be to basic school supplies. The schools will not be given any more money to for paper or pencils. Instead, schools will have to give every student their own personal ipad. That's great because it will save money on supplies and on recycling fees. The principal of Highlands, Mrs. Scheinman said, "This is a big step forward for schools, now we can finally make students feel good about going to school."

While most parents protest because it takes away learning from kids and takes away jobs, they're wrong. In actuality, all the teachers have set up their own websites that they update everyday to make sure students learn everything they need to learn. Now, to make sure kids are learning, all other websites (ex. Facebook, Myspace, Youtube etc.) are blocked and all the teachers' sites are in the favorites. And for any kid trying to delete them, you can't. It's some new rule. President Obama says, "These budget cuts always bring in new ideas that help this country a lot." Even the president agrees with the iPad rule.

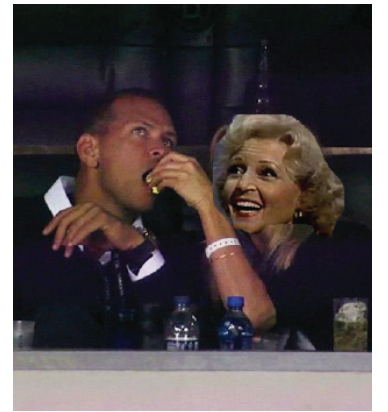
A new dawn is emerging for WPMS. Bring on the iPads!

A-Rod Love Triangle Exposed

Cheating On Cameron Diaz With None Other Than Betty White!

By Chris Kozlow

Breaking News!!!! Witnesses believe that Alex Rodriguez is cheating on Cameron Diaz, and has fallen for the well-known actress Betty White. A-Rod, (a.k.a. A-Roid), was seen kanoodling with Betty White in a luxury box at an opera house. Before the opera, they were seen together dining at a local eatery known for their early-bird special. Betty White was actually seen feeding A-Rod broiled salmon, with her fingers! Secret agents -who remain unknown-followed A-Rod to a nearby CVS where A-Rod was discreetly sneaking hearing aid batteries out of the store, along with some steroids. This guy has issues! The agents then followed A-Rod to a local Best Buy where he bought Betty the new iPad and rented



the services of a young Best Buy Associate to teach her how to use it. Within a few days Betty could be seen Tweeting and Facebooking with the likes of Kirk Douglas, 102 year-old George Beverly Shea and Charlie Sheen. She's experienced such a surge in popularity that she confided to our reporters that she was getting a bit "tired" of A-Rod. "He's not meeting my needs. He may have to go." Stay tuned to find out how Betty handles "A-Roid".

New Mascot Arriving Soon

by Drew Smiley

Starting in the 2011-2012 school year, the Tiger we have had as mascot for decades will be retired. And when I say retired I mean it's living in Florida, playing Golf and reminiscing about "the good old days" with his buddies. Why is this, you may ask? I'll tell you why...it's because tigers are officially "out."

Ever since one 6th Grader at Highlands found out that the Tiger was endangered people have started to call for a new mascot and symbol for our two campuses. When Ms. Knight was asked to change the Mascot back in 2008 her response was, "We are not going to simply abandon an old and valuable friend of ours; the Tiger has stayed with us through thick and thin... Oh, and we can't afford a new costume." While she might have saved the feline celebrity for a while, it ultimately proved useless. On June 8, 2010, Mr. Cloherty let it slip that the schools were, "surveying possible alternative options" for the Tiger's position. Since then the school board has narrowed the pool down to 6 candidates.

The first is the Platypus, an Australian mammal that has a duckbill, lays eggs and...well...I guess that's it. Also in the running is the Kookaburra, also a native of Australia - this bird was selected because it has a funny name. The Pig-Nosed Turtle was also nominated on the basis that if it were chosen, opposing sports teams would be disgusted by it and refuse to play. A Trout was also thought up because someone thought, "hey, lets

get a fish in here somewhere." It goes without saying that the Unicornasaurus (1/2 Unicorn and 1/2 Stegosaurus, Duh!) was also named because, honestly, who wouldn't want to see that dancing around at football games. Finally, the 6th nominee for WPMS Mascot was A Waffle, because who doesn't like Waffles.

On February 25 a secret group of 1030 students were pulled from class and were told to vote for their choice of the 6 mascots. The least votes went to the Pig-Nosed Turtle because "it's just unlovable" said one student. In 5th place was the Kookaburra. One anonymous voter said "I just couldn't vote for it, it had too long a name, and also I couldn't spell it anyway." Coming very close to each other in 4th and 3rd were Trout and Unicornasaurus. It was a real nail biter between waffle and Platypus to get the job, but after every vote had been counted and after a lunch break at Quiznos, the vote counters proclaimed the Platypus the new official mascot by a margin of only 14 votes.

The new mascot is to be named Parker the Platypus and the "Tiger Tavern" at Highlands will be renamed, Parker's Palace and will now be half full with water. When asked what she thought of the new mascot, Ms. Scheinman said, "What the heck is THAT!?" Thinking we really should find a new group of people to choose our mascots, this is Drew Smiley reporting for the Blurrier.

Teacher of the Month: Elvis!

