

THE COURIER



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Highlands Welcomes New Assistant Principal

Nikolas O'Hanlon

This year Highlands is happy to welcome a new member to our administration, Mr. Gleason. He serves as assistant principal, and has lots to offer our school. Mr. Gleason was interviewed by our staff reporter.

I asked Mr. Gleason about his life before he started work as an assistant principal. Mr. Gleason shared that he wanted to be a marine biologist when he was younger, partly because he loves the water. He went to Colorado College in Colorado Springs, where he participated on the college lacrosse team. After college he also taught students in the History Bowl, was a leader in the ski club, and even coached some basketball. He enjoys sports in general and has also played soccer and basketball.

Before coming to Highlands, Mr. Gleason was an assistant principal

at Fredrick Douglass Academy. Mr. Gleason has lots of good ideas for Highlands. His lifelong goal is to make the world a better place, to live a happy life, and hopefully look back and see that he's added happiness to people's lives. At Highlands he said that he wants to help continue the great traditions in our building: making sure students feel challenged, supported, and happy during their time at Highlands. Mr. Gleason also wants to help students find something they are interested in, such as classes or clubs. Mr. Gleason has a very high opinion of Highlands and really likes being here. He believes that both the teachers and students are very hard-working.

I asked Mr. Gleason what his favorite things are. He said his favorite subject was Social Studies and his favorite vacation trip would be to take a sailboat trip from the US to Turks & Caicos and back.

In conclusion, Mr. Gleason's messages are: "Try many different activities and clubs; try to find your passion which can include clubs, classes or other activities; and with hard work and persistence you can do anything you imagine."



Smart Schools Bond Brings Tech Money to District

Caitlin Daronco

New York State will be writing a check to the White Plains City School District for \$1.7 million to upgrade technology, thanks to the Smart Schools Bond Act that was passed by voters in the November elections. A total of 2 billion dollars will be divided up among 700 school districts in the state. The Smart Schools Bond Act "will provide funds to do several things to upgrade our use of technology across the school district. The governor indicated they will try to get the money to schools this year," said Tim Connors, White Plains City School District superintendent. So what will White Plains do with our share of the money? Mr. Connors says the top of the list will include Wi-Fi in all the

schools and preparing for online testing.

A report by the state commission says the bond project is supposed to pay for four main categories: equipment such as whiteboards and computers, internet connectivity, high-tech security, or facility renovations for prekindergarten programs. Schools can also use the money for professional development or Internet connectivity for community projects that affect public libraries and students' homes. Each school district will have to draft their tech wish lists and they will have to get community input. Then it will be up to the New York State Review Board to approve each school district's plan.

Acclaimed Author Visits Highlands

Liliana A. Wray

On October 14, 2014 the author of the widely known "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie" came to Highlands to talk to us about dreams. I know most people thought he would talk to us about writing the book and all that boring stuff. Instead, he taught a life lesson. You guys probably thought "Yay, that's totally better than a boring speech about writing a book." Without being sarcastic here, it kind of was. He taught us first to be a happy grown-up. He said, "I should have learned that in middle school, but I didn't. I learned that when I was already an adult." So if anyone was wondering, that's why he taught us that.

He then went on to explain what led up to him writing "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie". He started by telling us all the problems he had as a kid. This included being hyperactive and tapping on everything, and so he decided to take drum lessons. Also as a kid, he would constantly make jokes. This makes Steven, the main character, hilarious.

Mr. Sonnenblick stated that if we have a dream, we should start it right now, not after you watch TV, or play video games, or whatever you do with

your lives. He says this because he used to brag about writing a book, but probably never would have if it wasn't for Emily, a student he taught. He was in his 11th year of teaching when he met her. She was the girl who would burst out laughing for no reason at all. So he blamed the girl next to her naturally, who seems an awful lot like Renee Albers, the amazing girl character. She would roll her eyes, flip her hair, and say, "GOD!" He tried everything, but her friendship powers kept getting in the way. Until one day, Mr. Sonnenblick was going to get his daily candy bar. It was being sold to raise money for Emily's little brother who had cancer. Mr. Sonnenblick didn't know that Emily's brother had cancer, and it was quite a shock. This was much like Jeffrey, the main character's younger brother. So Mr. Sonnenblick decided to write a book for Emily.

He says there will always be an inner voice that tells us we can't do anything. We have to ignore that voice and keep going. After reading the book, Emily's family loved it. That gave Mr. Sonnenblick the courage to write more books. He ended by telling us, to do what you love and use it to help other people.

New Plague Strikes

Bethsie Brice

Ebola, a deadly and contagious disease has now spread from West Africa to the United States, Germany, France, England, Norway, and northern parts of Africa. For those who are wondering, Ebola is a deadly filovirus, which means that it inserts its genes into a human's genes to cause physical problems. It is marked by fever and severe internal bleeding and spread through contact with infected bodily fluids. If you have Ebola you may have not realized it at first. The first signs of Ebola are a fever involving a headache, joint and muscle pain, a sore throat and severe muscle weakness.

The history of Ebola is that on October 13, 1976, 38 years ago, Frederick A. Murphy, a CDC virologist (a person who studies viruses) and expert in photographing viruses peered into a microscope and saw an Ebola virus for the first time.

Some ways Ebola can be transmitted are by physical contact with bodily fluids, such as blood, saliva, stool,

urine, or sweat of an infected person and soiled linen used by a patient. If you have a cut or touch your face while your hand is contaminated, this can also lead to infection. The virus can also pass through mucus membranes such as the mouth and nose. It can also be transmitted by objects like needles and syringes that have been contaminated by a victim of Ebola, or even contaminated animals. Ebola cannot be transmitted through air, food, or water.

There are chances that there may be some people that have Ebola and carry it unknowingly. The scanners at an airport only check body temperature so they cannot check if a person has Ebola or not. Although, if someone's body temperature is high, they must take a test to see if they have Ebola.

There are ways people can avoid Ebola. There is no vaccine, but you can avoid places where Ebola is found. The most important thing is to go to your doctor if you think you have symptoms of Ebola.

News & Features

New NY Bridge: Futuristic Meets Function



Nikolas O'Hanlon

On October 10th, Brian Conybeare came to Highlands and presented information to students and staff about the new Tappan Zee Bridge, which will be renamed the New NY Bridge. It's one of the most expensive projects in the nation's history.

The new bridge, which crosses the Hudson River between Westchester and Rockland Counties, will be ready in 2018. It will have 8 lanes, a shoulder, four emergency/breakdown lanes, a state of the art traffic monitoring system, and a commuter bus lane. Unlike the current bridge, the new bridge will have two separate spans. A nice feature on the westbound Westchester span will be a pedestrian walking and biking path with scenic overlooks. The bridge will cost \$3.9 billion to build and it will be 3 miles long.

Planning for repairing the Tappan Zee Bridge started in 1999, but it was not until 2011 that plans were established. Starting in October 2011, there was a design-build legislation enactment, and a simultaneous environmental review. A project labor agreement was entered into with construction groups, and pre-construction activities started - all with community involvement. The bridge was designed and will be built by Tappan Zee Construc-

tors (TZC), but many other companies are involved in the project. All of the materials for the bridge are sourced and produced in the United States. In order to keep trucks off of local roads during construction, two floating concrete plants have been built right in the middle of the Hudson River.

The construction company is paying attention to the sturgeon and peregrine falcons that could become extinct if the construction company wasn't being careful. Bubble curtains are being used to protect the endangered sturgeon from the noise of the machines. Nest boxes are in action to save the endangered peregrine falcons and give them a place to raise their offspring.

The I Lift NY Supercrane will help in construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge. The crane traveled a 6,000 mile journey from San Francisco to New York, through the Panama Canal. Its boom arm is as tall as the Statue of Liberty, which is 328 feet high.

The New NY Bridge will hopefully help some of the traffic and safety issues we see with the current bridge. It will also provide pedestrians and bikers with a unique way to experience the Hudson River. I'm looking forward to driving across it!



Students listen to Mr. Conybeare's presentation

She Is Malala

Lucas Konarski

Malala Yousafzai is now the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner in history. She is only seventeen years old and is considered a hero for many kids and adults all around the world. It is her unstoppable strength which many admire. She fights nonstop for the education of girls. She was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan.

Malala started this movement in September 2008, after the Taliban attacked a girl's school. She gave a speech in Peshawar, Pakistan, and in 2009, Malala began blogging about how life is with the threats from the Taliban to stop her education. She tried to hide her identity, but at the end of that year, her true identity was revealed. After that, Malala kept giving out speeches about a woman's right to an education, and she won Pakistan's National Youth Peace Prize in 2011.

When Malala was 14, the Taliban threatened to kill her, but her family had thought that these people wouldn't kill a child. But this all changed when, on October 9, 2012



gunmen boarded her school bus and fired a shot at the left side of Malala's head. She was transferred to England for her treatment, and in March of 2013 she was able to get back to school in Birmingham, England.

After the attack, many people all around the world started supporting her and her campaign. She still continued fighting for her causes and wrote her biography, "I am Malala". She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, but didn't win that year. She was again nominated in 2014, and shared the Peace Prize with Indian activist Kailash Satyarthi, who fights for children's rights. But unfortunately, she is still considered a target for the Taliban. Malala is an inspiring role-model for young women around the world.

Terror Strikes Iraq and Syria

Lucas Konarski

By now, you have probably heard about ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Other people may also translate this to, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. They are a terrorist group with a huge military system they use to terrorize citizens all over Iraq, Syria, and possibly the whole world. They execute, torture and humiliate citizens who have different religions and beliefs in that area, and video tape them to share the video with the world. They have also killed many other people who were in Syria, including James Foley, an American journalist working for the Global Post to cover the recent events. ISIS now has control of many cities in Iraq, Syria and other places in the area. ISIS has over 30 thousand fighters. Over 15 thousand foreign people have traveled to Syria to fight

for some extremist groups. ISIS wants to create an Islamic state across the countries of Iraq and Syria.

ISIS can be traced back to the Al Qaeda In Iraq organization, also known as AQI, which was led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. He was responsible for many bombings and kidnappings in Iraq. He was killed by an American airstrike in 2006. After he fell, another man, Abu Du'a, took his position. The Al Qaeda In Iraq organization became less powerful after a war against an alliance of some tribes in Iraq, supported by the US. But the AQI organization came back to power in 2011. After a Syrian conflict, the AQI organization moved from Iraq to Syria. By 2013, after gaining their power in Syria, they have changed their name to ISIS.

EDITORIAL

How to Save a Nation

In the past few years, gun violence has been a big problem in America. People, even mentally unstable individuals, have easy access to automatic and semi-automatic machine guns. Originally, people wished to own guns to protect themselves. Okay, fair enough. However, they are to be owned responsibly and kept away from children. This is not always the case, and examples are all around. Children are killed or injured in accidents constantly, and sometimes adults are too. This is a growing issue, and when there is a request to at least regulate these dangerous weapons, many conservative Americans take it as a push to ban guns. In my opinion, guns should be banned completely. However, the reality is that guns will never go away. It will not happen, at least in our lifetimes. In addition, many individuals state that it is their "God-given right" to own guns. No matter what your beliefs are, they are irrelevant in our society, which has a separation of church and state. This means, quite simply, that religion has absolutely nothing to do with democracy, and in acts or discussions of politics, it is an invalid argument. Therefore, people who claim that God gives them the right to own guns are simply using religion as an excuse. Guns are also available to mentally unstable individuals, or those categorized as insane. People who have

a violent past or who have committed an act of violence simply should not be allowed to have guns. They could easily commit crimes or kill others with little to no regard for themselves or said others. The actual second amendment, quoted, is, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." This means, in layman's terms, that the civilians of the United States may at times have had to defend themselves against Britain if they had tried to take back the colonies, and therefore, in case a military force needed to be organized quickly, people who would have helped fight the British off would have been allowed to keep guns in their homes. It has nothing to do with personal self-defense as opposed to defending the nation, or "God-given rights". It just means that civilians may be called upon to fight in the military. The founding fathers did not foresee weapons capable of firing once per second or that people would make things up about the issue.

Here are some facts. Since 1982, 61 shooting sprees have occurred in the United States in 30 different states. 49 of those 61 shootings involved weapons obtained illegally. Of the 11 worst shootings in American history, 5 of them occurred after 2007. Shootings in America peaked in the late 1970's to early 1980's, but have since gone

down. However, America is a clear outlier in gun violence compared to other countries. It has far more gun deaths and shootings than other countries. The Southeast is also an outlier from the rest of the United States. Most gun deaths occur in states with little to no regulations. For example, California has more people than any other state (38,340,000 people), but has usually less than 5 gun deaths per 100,000 people. However, Alaska, with only 735,000 people, has 15-20 gun deaths per 100,000 people. (Gun death info from Washington Post and Wikipedia for populations of states.) Approximately 289 people are shot every day in the U.S. on average. 86 of them die, including 30 murders, 53 suicides, 2 accidents, and 1 police intervention. (From the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence, forwarded by NBC News.)

In conclusion, guns are a national problem and something needs to be done. The facts are there. They aren't made up, and are very real for families and friends of those who lost their lives due to the stunning amount of guns in this country and the miniscule amount of regulation. People are killed all the time. Those people had lives, families, and friends just like you. This nation is a troubled one, and it needs to be saved.

Ask Tigress



School Troubles

Hey Tigress, I have been having some major school troubles and I really need your help. Everything I do just doesn't seem good enough for these teachers and I am just going to faint from all the work. Homework feels like a bull, and I am the fighter on the floor. Please help me!

Dear School Troubles,

I know where you are coming from. Last year I was getting five F's, and that was during the first quarter. Just take a deep breath and tackle that bull. Ask a teacher if you can go to them during lunch to work on make-up assignments. Or, you can ask your parents for a tutor. That would surely help. Don't worry, you're a star!

Parent Pish-Posh

Hi Tigress, I have a problem. My parents are fighting a lot and are getting ready to have a divorce. I want everyone to be happy, but I wish things were the way they used to be. Do you have anything that can help?

Dear Parent Pish-Posh,

I can tell you are very sweet, and don't deserve going through this. No one does. And you love your parents, so talk to them. I am sure they would appreciate you talking to them. Or you can go up to your room and listen to music. Don't worry. Things are going to get brighter. Trust me.

Fitting In

Hi! I really need help with something. I need to fit in. I don't have a group of friends to hang out with during lunch, and so far my social status is at a big 0. Please help this monster in the crowd get by!

Dear Fitting In,

Don't talk like that! It is so stupid to have a popular group, the nerds, jocks, so don't even bother! One day soon, you will find a super cool friend who will let you join their group. Just be your super awesome self and you will be fine.

Insecure in the Rain

Hello Tigress, I have really low self-esteem. Is something wrong with me? For starters, my hair is way too thick and stringy, I have pimples all around my face, I am too short, and I am only just getting started! I guess this is just my life, and you probably can't even do anything about it.

Dear Insecure in the Rain,

You don't believe in me? Well, you should! You are beautiful no matter what, want to know why? Because you're you! Everyone is insecure. And I hate to say it, but it's called hormones. Pimples start coming up and you just want to cry. Plus, most of this is in your head. Just use a little face wash and get a new hair dresser. Don't be a rainy person!

Do you like to write? Do you enjoy taking pictures? Contribute to The Courier! See Ms. Miller, room 141, to join!



THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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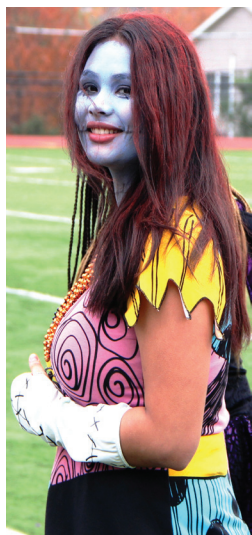
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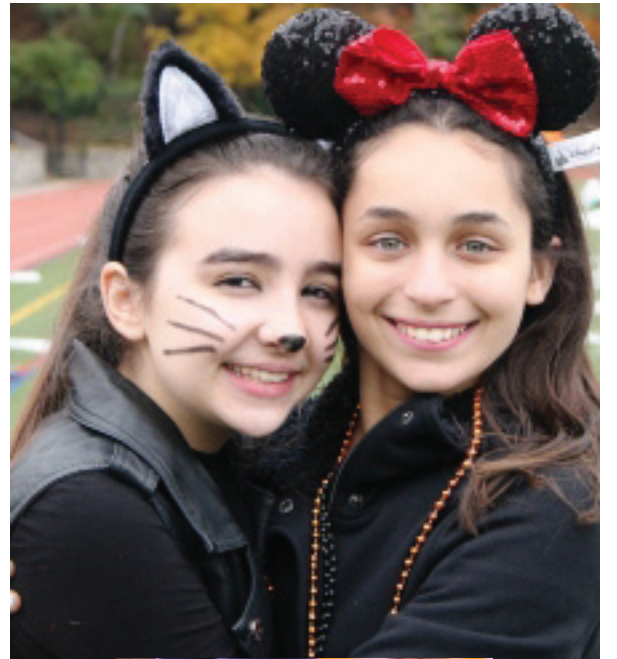
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Layout Help

Phyllis DeGenaro







Reviews

The Maze Runner

Finn O'Callaghan

The Maze Runner, directed by Wes Ball, is a movie about a boy named Thomas who was sent into a place that people call the Glade. The Glade is a large square of vegetation in the middle of an enormous maze that changes every night. The maze is inhabited by creatures the people of the Glade call "Grievers." The Grievers kill any of the people they find. Runners that go into the maze search for a way out, but they haven't found one yet. Ever since Thomas came, weird things have happened. In my opinion, this was the best movie I've ever seen. It was thrilling, riveting, and makes you want to watch more.

"It was action-packed, suspenseful, and had great character development. The overall plot was amazing," says one viewer.

"It was exciting and mysterious from the very beginning," said another viewer. This movie is rated PG-13, and for a good reason. It may appeal to us in middle school, but I don't recommend it to anyone at least below fifth grade. They may be scared by it or repeat some sketchy language. Overall I believe it was truly a great movie.

The Maze Runner has an incredible plot twist that will make you sit on the edge of your seat. Many people who have seen the movie will agree that it was fast-paced but had enough to keep you feeling interested. If you have already read the book, you might find

yourself saying that the book is better. Much like the Harry Potter series, most agree that the books are better but the movies are a close second. If you have not read the book, I suggest reading it first, and then watching the movie.



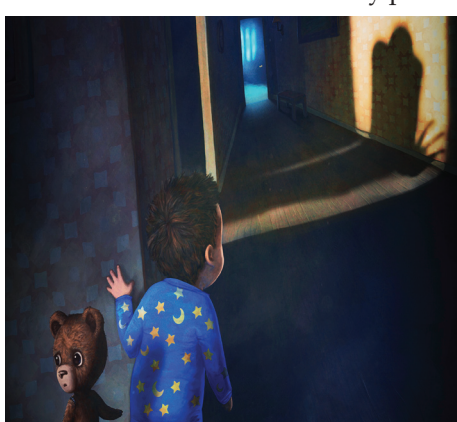
Don't feel pressured to read the book before the movie is out of theaters. I didn't read the book, but I enjoyed it just as much as if I had read it. I think that it's safe to say that this movie is very captivating and has a new surprise at every turn.

This is a fantasy, science-fiction, action, and mystery movie. If you're not into that kind of stuff and like watching movies more like Diary of a Wimpy Kid, then this isn't the movie for you. If you like to watch movies more like Percy Jackson and the Olympians and The Hunger Games, then I recommend watching this. My rating is a five out of five stars must-see, which is rare for critics to say. I suggest going down to the movies, grabbing some popcorn, and watching the next showing of The Maze Runner.

Among the Sleep

Danny DeGenaro

Among the Sleep is a survival-horror game developed by Krillbite Studios. The story is played through from a first-person point-of-view. The story begins with the playable character, a two-year-old boy, sitting at the dinner table



while his mother finishes icing a birthday cake as it is his second birthday. Then, there is a knock at the door. A stranger has come to the house, leaving a gift, which turns out to be a teddy bear, and the mother proceeds to put the child in his playpen while she answers the telephone. Here, the character plays through a tutorial and learns basic movements. The teddy bear appears to be alive in the child's eyes. The bear

also acts as a light in-game which is activated by pressing 'Q'. The child is put to bed, and awakes to find the bear in the washing machine. He rescues it, and they proceed on an adventure through four different areas, the first two having only jump scares and the second two having monsters which can attack the player. The areas seem to be figments of the child's

imagination, and crossovers between reality and his perception of places he's been. The player must complete various puzzles to progress, while evading monsters by staying quiet and hidden. This game is short, and takes only a few hours to complete, but it is very realistic and thrilling. Among the Sleep isn't much publicized, but it is incredibly fun and I would recommend it to anyone who likes to be scared.

Guardians of the Galaxy

Nikolas O'Hanlon

What group is strong, powerful, nature friendly and zoo friendly and saves the universe? Guardians of the Galaxy, that's who!

The name of the movie is Guardians of the Galaxy. The characters are Thoran (the most powerful being in the galaxy, who also is the adoptive father of Gamora and Nebula.), Ronan the Accuser, Nebula a highly experienced assassin, Gamora also a highly experienced assassin, Groot a walking tree, Rocket a cyborg raccoon that carries around a big rocket gun, Star Lord a crossbreed between a human and an alien and Drax the Destroyer (an alien that is enraged about Ronan killing his wife and children).

The stars of this fantastic show are Chris Pratt, Vin Diesel and Bradley Cooper. One of Star Lord's biggest enemies is Ronan the Accuser who wants to get a device called "the power core" which is so powerful it could obliterate all life in the galaxy. The genres are action, adventure and sci-fi. The box office total was about \$170,000,000. Let's put our hands together for the fabulous job that James Gunn did on directing this movie.

7th Grade Has a Blast at Bear Mountain

Shannon Rogers

On October 10th, 2014 some seventh grade students at Highlands spent their day at Bear Mountain State Park. Once teams 7B, 7C, and 7D arrived at the park, they spent the day



learning literature, observing animals and listening to some rich history that occurred during the Revolutionary War.

Bear Mountain is a very special place, meaning that it only has animals in their zoo that were abandoned, injured and could not survive, or were born into captivity. A lot of students saw eagles, birds, insects and other amazing sights that they would not typically see. Everybody was very excited to see two big bears climbing around their home and playing around. They had a bear specialist telling them facts about the bears, and even a bear skull to teach them about the bear head. On their way through the park, students stopped into multiple museums to see statues, paintings and different displays. For example, they were showed

In the beginning of the movie Peter Quill's (who becomes Star Lord) mom dies of cancer and he runs out of the hospital only to be picked up by this

black-marketing alien that can control his mind. 26 years later Peter is stealing a valuable ball (called a rune ball, which is really the power core) from this abandoned planet. Then Rocket and Groot try to capture and collect the bounty on the rune ball. The police capture all of them in the scuffle and then they all go to jail. They all team up to escape. While that happens

Drax joins the team. Then they fly to a planet called "Knowhere" to trade the rune for something else less dangerous. Ronan chases them to the planet. There Ronan's ship crashes. In the battle the Guardians fight Ronan and battle for control of the rune ball. The fate of the universe is in the balance. The beginning of the movie is very emotional because Peter Quill's mom dies. Nearly halfway into the movie it's very exciting and tense because Rocket is helping them escape prison. The ending is super exciting. You should definitely see this movie!

and learned about all of the different species of stuffed rodents and insects that made most people jump! They saw paintings that had been about the Revolutionary War, showing how the people's lives were affected during the deadly war, and they also had statues

of some important people that were soldiers during that time. Students met a historian who taught them a lot about the Battle of Fort Montgomery; his presentation included the outfits they wore, the weapons they used, the war plans they made and much more! Finally, to end their day they sat down and had lunch with their friends and teachers overlooking the beautiful lake that is in Bear Mountain State Park.

Bear Mountain recently held an Oktober Fest to the public, so that you could have stopped by and learned about German culture. They had food, drink and entertainment as well. The day at Bear Mountain State Park was an amazing educational experience yet loads of fun for everyone who participated!

Have an opinion? Want to share it? Write a review for The Courier!

The Year of the Bee

Caitlin Daronco

Chances are if you have not been stung by a bee in the last few months then you probably have an anecdotal story about an unusual encounter with a bee. This was a banner year for yellow jackets and many schools in the region had to deal with multiple nests according to Dr. Jody Gagloff-Kaufmann, coordinator of the New York State IPM program at Cornell University. "Schools have very difficult challenges when dealing with late-season yellow jackets. The yellow jackets come from nests located on neighboring private property and because there hasn't been a hard freeze yet, we are seeing the leftovers from deteriorating nests that haven't died yet," Dr. Gagloff-Kaufmann said. She described the bees as "hungry and hostile."

Highlands Middle School had its own encounter with these hungry and hostile bees. A total of twenty-one students were stung, some multiple times when they went outside for gym on a beautiful fall day. The students were returning from gym class when the bees surrounded the students, according to Ernest Spatafore, Principal of Highlands Middle School. He said the students did not provoke the attack. All the students went to the nurse and none had allergic reactions to the sting. Mr. Spatafore was also the victim of a

bee sting while running in a marathon with his daughter a few weeks later.

Many local schools had multiple nests with hundreds of foragers of five different species and this seemed to be universal among schools and local communities, according to Dr. Gagloff-Kaufmann. She went on to clarify that the offending insects were yellow jackets and not bees. "In our educators' experiences, there seem to have been a lot of yellow jacket issues this year, both at schools and everywhere else. There is no particular reason or good explanation for this, except that all populations of living organisms have up and down numbers. "This is probably an up year for yellow jackets," Dr. Gagloff-Kaufmann said.

So what can schools do to not attract bees? Dr. Gagloff-Kaufmann suggests that the best a school can do is clean up food trash immediately, like drink containers. Parents and teams also play a role here, too. Everyone needs to be conscious of the food and drinks that attract yellow jackets, and keep them away from them.

While just about everyone I know (even my dog) was stung by a bee this fall, the good news is that the colonies will dissipate as the cold weather sets in. While the experts call this year a banner year for bees, they agree it was unusual and chances are next year won't be as bad.

The Incredible Roaring Tigers



Jared Villa

Many people worry about animals being extinct, but do they worry about tigers being extinct? I personally think that tigers are the most amazing creatures living. That's my personal opinion. What they don't know is that they are harming the earth by eliminating creatures that don't deserve to be eliminated. Furthermore, many other animals need tigers to survive. Also, people bring tigers into zoos. Are they helping them or are they harming them?

Many people just see hunting as a sport. When people hunt tigers, they don't know that first, they are destroying the food chain, and second they are eliminating tigers from the world. According to pudang.tripod.com, "100 years ago, there were 100,000 tigers in the wild. Today there are as few as 3,200." The main cause of the extinction is illegal hunting for medicinal trade. People are hunting for the magnificent furs of tigers for wall hangings, rugs, and fur coats. Those are less important now to trade marketing. The poacher's targets today are

bones and other parts of the body.

In addition, another reason that tigers are becoming extinct is pollution. Pollution is a bad side-effect of the way people live today. When people create pollution, they probably know that they are hurting the earth and the animals living on it, but they just don't care. Many living things breathe in the polluted air that can either kill them as it is doing already to too many animals such as tigers, or it can make them very sick. Pollution can enter many things such as soil and natural water systems. That can affect animals in many ways. They could be drinking contaminated water without knowing.

In conclusion, the most amazing creatures living are becoming extinct in the most horrible ways. We need to start taking care of our beautiful planet in order for us and our beautiful animals to survive. We need them as much as they need us, so don't ruin the opportunity to have majestic creatures on our planet. That's why tigers are becoming extinct and why we should do our part to help them survive.

Falcons Take Flight



Richard Daronco

The best real estate in New York for the endangered peregrine falcon is on top of the Tappan Zee Bridge. It will cost big bucks to move the birds when the new bridge is built. Even though the present nest is a simple wooden box located on the top of the main span truss on the north side of the current bridge, the cost will be approximately \$100,000 to relocate the three falcon chicks born in the bridge nest in 2013. On most days you can spy on Skylar, Shea, and Nina because the Thruway Authority has installed a live camera which monitors every moment of the falcons' day. "While the youngest falcons may have 'flown the coop' this year, we are committed to protecting these incredible endangered birds

and creating a safe new home for them on the new span as part of the project's unprecedented environmental protections," said Brian Conybeare, special advisor to the Governor on the new bridge project. The nest is vacant right now because the birds fly to warmer places. When they return in the spring, you will be able to watch their every move.

Falcon facts:

The falcons like high places, such as bridges and skyscrapers, because it gives them a good vantage point to spot their next meal.

When they are in a controlled dive, peregrine falcons can reach speeds of up to 200 miles an hour as they hunt for prey, generally birds.

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

- APPLES
- AUTUMN
- FALL
- FEAST
- FOOTBALL
- HALLOWEEN
- HARVEST
- LEAVES
- PUMPKINS
- SCARECROW
- THANKSGIVING
- TURKEY

Sports Desk

The Faces Behind the Net

Liliana A. Wray

As you all know, there is a girls' volleyball team, and the girls on the volleyball team play games against other schools. But how much do you really know about girls' volleyball and the girls who play it? Girls' volleyball is very upbeat and happy. You can just walk into the room and feel the happy, energetic vibe, coming from the coach to the players and then to you. The girls can talk to their coach, Ms. Sette, about anything, not just volleyball. The girls start each practice with their warm-up. Half of the girls line up outside the perimeter of the gym, and the other half on the inside of the gym. Then they run along the gym, and when they pass each other they high-five. Then Ms. Sette turns on music and the girls do ballerina twirls to get their legs ready. After that they get themselves in lines and take turns passing and hitting the ball over the net. While they were practicing I interviewed 2 8th graders and 2 7th graders. They said that they

like communicating as a team. They also like how fun it is to play, fun to hang out with teammates, and be active. They also love Ms. Sette. She's a coach that stays positive no matter what and always encourages you. She makes volleyball really fun. In fact the players had such a fun time this season that they said they will continue to play it. Gabby said, "Don't give up on things you like." Andrea said, "Try things you like." During a practice game I interviewed Coach Sette. She decided to coach volleyball because she didn't learn how until she was older and totally fell in love with it. Coach Sette said she keeps the players positive with a good attitude because if the players are upset they won't do as well. She also told me that some of her best coaches were always positive. She added that volleyball is a fun sport you can play almost anywhere and anytime. Everyone can play volleyball, or any sport for that matter, if you put in the effort.

Girls Soccer Goes for the Goal



Caitlin Daronco

There was one New York State Olympic Development player, four Pre-Elite Club National League players, two National Premier League players and several Regional Premier League and travel soccer players who all came together to form this year's modified girls soccer team. The focus for Coach Leandro Francisco was not on winning every game but rather to have the girls play together as one team and by the end of the season that goal was certainly achieved. "The girls this year worked hard and in every game they demonstrated a greater understanding of each other and their ability to play as a team," Coach Francisco said. Coach

Francisco was especially pleased with the final game of the season against Ursuline. "The girls put it all together. The passing and defense was great to watch," Coach Francisco said. He is looking forward to next year with a lot of excitement for the returning 7th graders because he said that they really enjoy playing soccer and are motivated to be the best they can be. "I want to wish the 8th graders great success ahead of them and they will be missed," Coach said. It was truly a successful season for the Highlands girls on every level, because ultimately success comes through the hard work and dedication of all players.

Highland Continues to Dominate Boys Soccer



Richard Daronco

For the second year in a row, the Highlands boys' modified soccer team has enjoyed an undefeated season and the top-notch level of play has caught the attention of the entire community. "The White Plains team was awesome," said John McCormick, the coach of the Mamaroneck Middle School team. "They are the best I have seen in some time. Dynamic payers, great speed and excellent vision," McCormick said. Historically, White Plains and Mamaroneck have been competitive rivals on both the JV and Varsity level and now the Highlands team has raised the expectations for the years to come.

"I was impressed how the White Plains team played," said George Caceres, president of White Plains Youth Soccer who has coached most of the boys since they started playing travel soccer in 2nd grade. "I see a great future

when this group moves to White Plains High School next year," Caceres said.

The team was coached this year by Damien King, a technology teacher at Highlands. "Remaining undefeated this season was fantastic but even more inspiring was the boys' commitment towards working to grow and get better from one practice session and game to the next. I am looking forward to seeing these boys becoming great JV and Varsity players in the near future," Coach King said.

Jack Gigli, the White Plains High School Varsity coach, made it a point to catch a few of the modified games. He thought the team was "very balanced" and was impressed by the way they moved the ball. "They covered the field well and every position had skilled players. I was very impressed with the talent and I am looking for great things in the future," Coach Gigli said.

Derek Jeter Goes out with a Bang

Austin Antico

Derek Jeter, born on June 26th, 1976, is a baseball player out of Central High School (Kalamazoo, MI) and was in the MLB (Major League Baseball) for 20 years. He has always been a key part of his team, the New York Yankees, both on and off the field.

First, off the field, Derek has a foundation called The Turn 2 Foundation. "Turn 2's mission is to create and support programs and activities that motivate young people to turn away from drugs and alcohol and "Turn 2" healthy lifestyles" says Jeter. "Turn 2's goal is to see the children of these programs grow safely and successfully into adulthood and become the leaders of tomorrow." Jeter, who sees the streets of the Bronx all the time, has witnessed the effects of the alcohol and drug misuse. The Turn 2 Foundation strives to create "signature programs" to guide children each day toward healthy lifestyles while reinforcing the avoidance of drugs and alcohol. Derek's organization helps to raise awareness in children that good choices must be practiced daily.

On the field, Derek has provided his team five World Series rings (1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2009) and 5 silver slugger (best hitter) awards. He played shortstop and was an outstanding fielder. He has four gold gloves (best fielder) awards. He was drafted in 1992 in the first round by the Yankees. From there on he has brought the team to a new standard, winning 5 championships in the next 20 years. Derek has changed the way Yankee fans view their team and Jeter will always be remembered.

Over the past year, all 32 teams of the MLB have commemorated him by offering gifts of their appreciation to Jeter. Gifts ranged from the Boston Red Sox giving him a piece of the Green Monster (The famous wall at Fenway Park in Boston), to Bud Selig (The MLB Commissioner) giving him the Historic Achievement Award. Derek Jeter will always be remembered for his contributions to the sport and to the world in general.