

THE ORANGE

White Plains High School

All the juice that's fit to print!

December 22, 2022

Winter Edition

Vol. 2

President Biden Signs Respect for Marriage Act into Law

Historic legislation ensures all couples are treated equally under the law

By Colleen Cave

WHITE PLAINS--On the morning of December 13th, President Joe Biden, in front of 5,300 people who had gathered to watch, signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law. This Act was passed with bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate finally erasing the Defense of Marriage Act. The Defense of Marriage Act was passed in 1996. This act defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman exclusively and allowed states to ban same-sex marriage under state law. This new law rules in the complete opposite direction, protecting the right to marry across the country regardless of sex, race, or ethnicity. Additionally, this recent law was also amended from its previous draft to include interracial marriage.

Marriage Equality wasn't always a main goal of LGBTQ+ activists. They instead focused on legalizing homosexuality and outlawing discrimination. The real push for same-sex marriage began in the late 1980s, following the HIV/AIDS crisis. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a disease that attacks a person's immune system, making it harder to fight off infections. At the beginning of the outbreak and for many years thereafter, HIV would subsequently turn into Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which was considered a death sentence, especially for the gay community. Due to the stigma surrounding homosexuality, and the lack of sex education and health care for queer

people, HIV disproportionately affected the gay community, particularly gay men. By 1980, over 120 thousand deaths due to AIDS had been reported. This tragedy highlighted the lack of protections for same-sex couples. Many people were unable to visit their partner in the hospital because they weren't related or married. Unaccepting families wouldn't share information about the infected person with their partner and would prevent them from seeing each other at all. The partner would also have no say in funeral preparations, no claim to personal affects and, no claim to any assets left in their deceased partner's will. After their partner's death, many people were evicted from homes they previously shared because either their late partner owned it, or renters didn't want someone who had close contact to someone with HIV living in their building. The lack of these basic legal protections and rights is why marriage equality is so important. Marriage is more than a ceremony of commitment; it's an important legal right that protects the union between two people.

The legalization of same-sex and interracial marriage as a law, instead of a court case is a very significant part of the new act. Previously, interracial, and same-sex marriage had only been protected by the Supreme Court cases *Loving V. Virginia* (1967) and *Obergefell V. Hodges* (2015) respectfully. The protections afforded by these cases were not substantial enough to adequately protect the rights of marriage for every American citizen, because cases are always



President Biden is congratulated by legislators as he makes history.--Associated Press

open to be reinterpreted and overturned. A recent example of this is the overturning of *Roe V. Wade*, a Supreme Court case which protects a person's right to an abortion under the 14th amendment's "right to privacy." This past June, the Supreme court ruled to overturn *Roe*, setting off the enactment of anti-abortion laws in over 30 states. Unlike laws, court rulings are only under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, so court decisions are not reviewed by other government branches, and only five out of nine votes are needed to overturn a case. Because federal laws supercede supreme case laws, the new Respect for Marriage Act will protect equal marriage across all 50 states, and in order to amend or overturn the law, it would have to go through

the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Institution of Marriage is more than just a public declaration of love; it is also a legal contract that binds two people together and gives them protections under the law. Marriage is tied into health insurance, buying a home, adoption, taxes, and inheritance. Past attempts to protect marriage for every American citizen, such as *Loving* and *Obergefell*, were not concrete or extensive enough to be effective. The latest law will ensure anyone of any race, sex, or ethnicity can marry whomever they want, and make it very difficult for this right to be revoked.

New Art Mural Honors the "Pandemic Class of 2020"

By Bria Cardarelli and Alicia Garcia

Remember walking past the blank wall in front of the auditorium? Well, it is not blank anymore. The new art piece hanging right outside of the auditorium was designed by the students in the Advanced Art Portfolio class early last spring.

The idea for the mural came about when Principal Emerly Martinez and former administrator for Student Activities, Dr. Natasha Freeman-Mack mentioned an idea for a new mural; however, they could not agree on what it should depict or what concept it should be based on. They discussed their idea with Michael Chiarello, the advanced portfolio teacher, who agreed that there should be a new mural where there was a blank wall in front of the auditorium.

Chiarello then brought up the new mural idea to his advanced art portfolio class, and the class was the one that designed it. The class, with the help of Sophia Sanchez, put together all their ideas on a digital art platform and combined them all to make the outline of the mural. After the completion of the outline in early April, the school ordered 2 4'x8' planks of plywood and an assortment of acrylic paints to start sketching the piece. Twenty five students from various art classes were involved in the sketching and painting of the design onto the plywood boards. With their help, the mural was finished by late May.

The mural was funded by the Class of 2020, and depicts their drive-by graduation, along with the changes everyone had to face with online school. When we spoke to fellow students about the mural the response was positive. According to



The mural, pictured above, is on display in front of the auditorium (photo by Bria Cardarelli)

James Liu a senior, "It's a nice use of space and I enjoy the bright colors and the geometric quality of it."

Freshman Imani Robinson added, "I like

the colors and the symbolism that the mural depicts." A nice takeaway from these interviews is that the mural is a positive addition to the White Plains campus.

Cassandra Acuña-Hoppe and Lance Anthony Advance to Poetry Out Loud Regionals



Congratulations to our champion Cassandra Acuña-Hoppe for winning our 2022-23 WPHS Poetry Out Loud tournament! Cassandra and runner-up Lance Anthony (WPHS 2021 champ and regional winner) will be moving onto the Regionals where they will be competing against NYC and Westchester County's best. We wish our WP Tigers much success in their pursuit to the Nationals!

Georgia Runoff Election Provides Further Disappointment for Republicans

By Sophia Alexandrou

WHITE PLAINS--Last month, following the midterm elections, the state of Georgia called a runoff for their Senate election between Democrat and incumbent, Raphael Warnock, and Republican, Herschel Walker. This is because the state of Georgia requires that the winner of the Senate race achieve a majority, and while Warnock was able to gain a plurality of the votes, the overall percentage of those who voted for him was just shy of 50%. With this runoff election, void of any third-party votes, Warnock was able to keep his Senate seat with 51.4% of the vote, about 3% more than Walker. With this win, the Democrats now have a 51-49 majority in the Senate, no longer requiring Vice President Harris’ tie-breaking votes, with the Republicans holding a 222-213 majority in the House of Representatives, proving this predicted “red wave” to be more of a “purple splash.” So, how was Warnock able to win?

Both candidates ran very different campaigns. Walker, the incumbent and someone with actual political experience, homed in on his experience as a pastor, while Walker, a former NFL player, had a campaign plagued with controversy. Throughout his campaign, Walker was hit with claims of domestic violence and paying for his former girlfriends’ abortions, despite holding a strong pro-life stance on the issue. In addition, Warnock attempted to connect with not just the Democrats, but also independent/third-party and Republican voters in Georgia. This is one of the factors that helped him secure the third-party and independent vote in the runoff. On the other hand, Warnock was very heavily endorsed by Trump and, as seen by the rest of the candidates that were endorsed by him this election cycle,

the post-Trump administration influence has not resulted in many victories.

Warnock also worked to make voting more accessible for Georgians. The Republican aversion to mail-in voting, gaining immense strength during the 2020 election, may have cost them a seat in the Senate. According to [Politico](#), Warnock was able to gain about 320,000 votes through mail-in ballots, winning over 58% support from these ballots. Black voters in Georgia, who were more likely to vote for Warnock, accounted for 31.8% of mail-in ballots.

Warnock was also able to gain high turnout in Atlanta, an area that votes heavily for Democrats, in the runoff. This allowed him to improve his margins to account for the slightly lower turnout of the election as a whole. Walker was unable to do this in generally Republican areas. In fact, Warnock improved his numbers in the only Republican area that showed higher turnout when compared to the November election, Walker’s home county of Johnson County.

The results of this runoff and the midterm election in general provided immense disappointment for the Republican party. This “red wave” they were expecting did not hold up and the influence that a Trump endorsement was expected to have severely underperformed. In addition, because the Democrats had performed much better than expected, President Biden has a better shot at reelection than anticipated. This runoff election, if anything, is a strong testament to the ever-increasing importance of voting and hope that democracy will succeed in providing power to those who will fight for the people.



Raphael Warnock (l) ultimately prevailed, winning the Georgia senate seat over Herschel Walker (r) in a tight run-off race. (Photo courtesy of the NY Times)

Opinion: Students Weigh in on Multiple lunch periods

By Sebastian Sanchez

For years, White Plains High School has had eight periods in the day, with one period being lunch. Students, including myself, loved the idea of being able to socialize with all of your friends in one lunch period and being allowed to seek help from teachers when needed during that time. Unfortunately, in September 2022, this all changed. Issues regarding security, the number of students, the lack of space, and lack of control have resulted in the need for an extra lunch period.

Although many students believe the change was “too much.” Jack Contreas, a junior believes that the change is “bad and it interferes with the abilities of students to socialize.” Many other students agree with Jack’s opinion; the change has made many, including myself, lose friendships and become more distant from friends compared to the previous years when students shared a common lunch.

Another student, Randy Cuateco-Aguilar, believes that the lunch periods are “boring and stale.” He also agrees that the separation affects students’ social lives negatively. Overall, most students believe that the change in the lunch period had a negative impact on their social lives. As a result, many students are seen eating alone at lunch not socializing as often as they used to in previous years.

In my personal experience, prior to the lunch changes, I was able to sit with my friends and seek help from teachers when needed during lunch. Unfortunately, as a result of this, I became distant from a lot of friends since our sources of communication via lunch had been cut. I believe that a change that the White Plains High School could make would be to perhaps reduce the lunch periods from three periods to two, in order to offer more help and opportunities for students to connect with the WPHS family.

Freshman Share Their Mid-Year Thoughts & Opinions about WPHS

By Imani Robinson & Maddie Steptoe

As we reach the midway point of the school year, many freshmen are still settling in as they are slowly being introduced to their new school. WPHS is a great place for students as it provides many opportunities in education such as sports, extracurricular activities, and electives. For some students so far, their freshman year is going well. Some may say otherwise. We interviewed many freshmen to get their perspective on life at WPHS thus far.

Many freshmen would say WPHS is high quality, but others say otherwise. We interviewed a few freshmen who asked to remain anonymous about their freshman experience so far. We’ve asked the following questions: If there’s one thing as a freshman you could get rid of, what would it be? As a freshman, should we have fewer class periods or less time in each class? As a freshman, should we be under this much stress as we get ready for the future?

One student said “One thing I would get rid of here at WPHS is seminar. I would get rid of seminar because some students could really use the thirty minutes. Our counselor doors are open if we really need to communicate or even to get in touch with them; all that takes is a simple

email. If we don’t need to get in touch with our counselors, we can use seminar as a study hall. This should be applied to upper classman too.”

Another student said “I would like to have fewer class periods because we already have a lot of work to do in other classes and the last thing we need is to go home and worry about homework assignments from just about every class. Another reason is countless students are busy with the many activities and sports WPHS has to offer therefore not many people have the time to go and spend several hours on homework.”

Lastly one student said “I say yes and no about being under this much pressure. People need the extra push, so they’re organized and prepared for college. Also, no because, a lot of people work differently. Some work well under pressure and some crack under pressure but it all depends on that person.”

As these freshmen said, their experience so far is reasonable but there’s room for improvement. That said, WPHS is a new environment for freshman who feel they are able to express who they are and have many opportunities to try out new things.

Would you like to write for The Orange? You can! Our staff of talented reporters and photographers meets every Tuesday in C126.

THE ORANGE

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Email Chain Forwarded to Over 500 Students

Chain email sent to all seniors in the class of 2022 and class of 2023

By Alex Salonich

A recent breach in student emails shows the vulnerability of White Plains High School’s technology. Though the event occurred a couple of weeks ago, it was the start of a wave of spam emails sent to students and staff at the school. The breach shows the ease of access to email for all students in the class of 2022 and the class of 2023. With the immense number of students that are accessible through just one email, it is easy for a scammer to phish account information. With the lack of closure about the issue, it is unclear even if many staff are aware of the issue. Teachers learned about the email from the students, but it seems that many higher-up staff members may have been left unaware of the issue.

Although from a cybersecurity standpoint the email was daunting, many students found it to be a form of entertainment. What was originally a phishing email between one student and a dating scam bot turned into an email chain with myriad people replying. The original email was sent during Tiger community

time, so many students had a fair bit of time on their hands to keep the emails going sending many different things such as funny images and videos.

One student, Bria Cardarelli, stated “It was like a show to me. I would put my phone down and come back to a ton of new emails”. Though it was entertaining for many, others were left confused with a student, Alicia Garcia saying, “I was very confused- I did not know what was happening. I thought it was something serious since it was sent to my school email.”

With various phishing emails sent from different students’ accounts in the past couple of weeks, with the most recent one being sent on Nov. 4th, it is unclear whether precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of student information. Hopefully, there will be some sort of clarity on the steps being taken to prevent any more spread of phishing scams within the school network to protect the safety of students through their information and accounts.

Tips for Someone With an Education Plan, From Someone With an Education Plan

By Nuala Stanghellini

Whether you have an IEP or 504 and whether you go to public school or private school, the Education Plan exists to assist students. The IEP and 504 outline accommodations, help students achieve their goals, and provide services to level the playing field for all students.

However, using accommodations can sometimes cause difficult situations. Sometimes teachers are not aware of one’s accommodations, sometimes it’s difficult to know what works best, and sometimes it’s hard to speak up. I empathize, as I have had an IEP since kindergarten, and I am now a junior in high school. So, I have come up with my top ten tips for someone with an education plan, from someone with an education plan. As you read, don’t forget that no matter what happens, you’re awesome!

- 1. **Learn to self-advocate.** Do it at your own pace but take some steps now. You can start slow.
- 2. **It’s very important to reflect on what you need and be able to effectively speak on it.** It’s important to ask yourself what the challenge is, so it will be easy for others to understand when you access your accommodations.

3. **Be aware of accommodations:** Try to get a copy of your plan or take notes on what accommodations you get. Try to get into your meeting or ask your parents about it. Keep the notes with you at school so you know exactly what to ask for. You can hold people accountable without seeming rude. The 504/IEP is required by law.

4. **It’s okay to make a change.** After reflecting on a challenge, I recommend being extra attentive to the success of the solution. Sometimes, there will be things to tweak, and sometimes, the original plan will need to be scrapped. It will be a much faster process if you, as a student, are aware of the situation.

5. **Make sure you’re getting the support you need.** Reflect. If you need another accommodation, contact someone on your team (your parents or guidance counselor).

6. **Follow up with teachers and make sure they have received a copy of the document.** Communicate with them! Teachers are not always aware of unique accommo-



dations. It can be hard to navigate when teachers do not hear the facts and figures from the student. Being knowledgeable about your accommodations will ensure that you will always receive the accommodations to which you are entitled.

7. **Your education plan is a legal document!** It’s mandated by law, and it’s okay to not share everything with everyone. While team members should be informed, it’s not up to you to answer your classmates’ questions about what you need.

8. **Always know what mandates your documents.** (IDEA, ADA, Rehabilitation Act, or whatever it may be).

9. **Don’t feel guilty about asking for accommodations.** You have an extra obstacle in your way. Part of being disabled is being aware of society’s need to accommodate you.

10. **Remember that your accommodations do not define you.** The Education Plan is there to help you, but it does not define you. It is only one aspect of your education. It is a tool that helps you achieve what you want, and it lets you learn in a classroom that is appropriately challenging for you, without holding you back.

For me, it took a few years to find a happy balance between accommodation and academia. However, after this balance is reached, it will be a much smoother ride.

These tips are general guidelines. Everyone’s education is unique to them, and some things that work for me may not work for everyone else. However, I do hope that I was able to give some inspiration to my fellow Education Plan users. I wish everyone luck and success this school year!

Taylor Swift Eras Tour Breaks Ticketmaster, the Internet, and Millions of Fans’ Hearts



By Emily Anastacio

When Taylor Swift announced her Eras Tour, it broke the internet, and soon enough, broke Ticketmaster. Millions of people were applying for presale trying to find any way to secure tickets, comparing this process to undergoing several bear attacks. Unfortunately, most of the efforts proved to be futile.

Over the two days of pre-sale, around 2.4 million tickets were sold while there were an estimated 14 million people on the site attempting to get tickets. The issues in this sale continued to worsen when Ticketmaster was no longer able to handle the immense flow of people. This caused the site to crash and brought

many people’s chances of getting tickets down to zero. After pre-sale, Ticketmaster sold many more tickets than anticipated, forcing them to cancel general sale and leaving fans and Swift in dismay.

Swift later posted a statement on her social media expressing her frustration towards Ticketmaster and their inability to handle the demand. Swift says, “It’s really difficult for me to trust an outside entity with these relationships and loyalties and excruciating for me to just watch mistakes happen with no recourse.” It is clear that this ticket sale did not turn out the way it was intended to, leaving fans enraged and causing Ticketmaster to get an extreme amount of backlash.

a single asteroid. The biodiversity of earth completely changed that day.

Thankfully, the technology we have now will prove vital for our defense against the possible dangers of space. DART uses kinetic impact when colliding with asteroids to change its trajectory. Kinetic impact is when an object smashes into another one to change the direction of the second one. In this case, DART is colliding with the asteroid to change its trajectory from earth. There is no gravity in space, so the asteroid will float away, never to be seen again.

DART also has a navigation system built within known as DRACO (Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for Optical navigation). DRACO does complex math to guide DART and identify Dimorphos instead of other rubble in space.

With both DRACO and DART, it is safe to say that humanity is in good hands against possible dangers lurking in our galaxy.

NASA Introduces New World-Saving Technology

By Gabriel Bernstein

NASA has finally announced its success on a new innovation that could save people worldwide from the danger posed by asteroids. Asteroids have always been an unknown variable to scientists as they are generally too unpredictable in trajectory to be deemed a threat. Thankfully, the testing on DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) was successful in preventing the asteroid, Dimorphos, from possibly impacting Earth. We finally have the technology required to protect our home from the unknowns of space. This test was the first sign of more to come.

The destructive potential of asteroids is boundless. Sixty-six million years ago, all dinosaurs became extinct from only

The Orange presents the

Awesome Human of WPHS Award



Send us a picture along with a few sentences explaining why you are nominating this person to be The Orange’s Awesome Human of WPHS award. All nominees must be students or staff members of White Plains High School

Send pic and information to

Theorangewphs@gmail.com

Entries must be received by March 25th



Pet Name: Luca
Owner: Julia Viera

Luca should be named Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because he loves everyone he meets and is very careful around children. Luca loves to sing along to my recorder every time I use it.

Pet Name: Cooper
Owner: Mr. Torres Iglesias

Cooper should be named the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because he is a very energetic and trained to do well around kids and he is very high-spirited and will raise your mood when you are around him.



Pet Name: Barley
Owner: Leah Dennis

Although her human is a bit biased, I think Barley should be named the Most Adorable Pet of 2022. He is the most adorable dog! :) He loves to be cozy and is happiest while chewing his bone next to somebody.

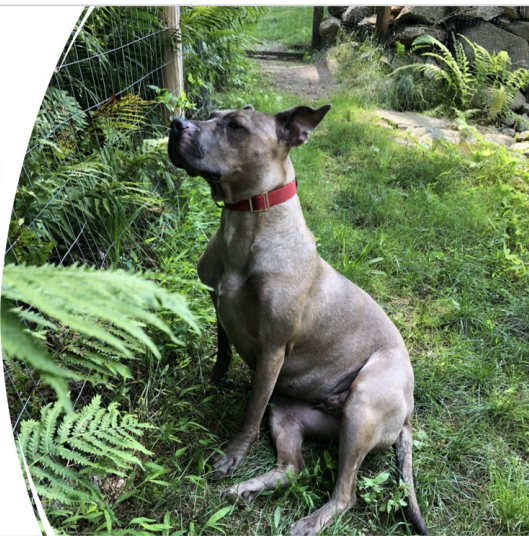
Vote for the Most Adorable Pet of 2022

Winners will be announced in the next issue of The Orange



Pet Name: Brownie
Owner: Ms. Farenholtz

Brownie should be voted the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because she is adorable and mushy and loves to go for hikes with her humans.



Pet Name: Tommy
Owner: Milena Nahue Rojas

Tommy should be voted the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because he is a very cute and funny kitten.



Pet Name: Duke
Owner Name: Galilea Dominguez

Duke should be the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because Duke is an awkward and quirky dog, as you can tell by his camera-ready pose.

Pet Name: Maximus
Owner: Camila Cruces



Max should be voted the Most Adorable Pet because he is 15 years old, and he is still the world's biggest ball of energy. He's a very good dog who's small, but alpha. Everyone loves Max!



Pet Name: Twyla
Owner: Mr. Vitiello

Twyla is the cutest pet because she is smart, loves to run and jump, and loves to throw her ball at whoever is willing to play fetch with her. Twyla is a rescue from Tennessee, and she loves to play in the snow!



Pet Name: Franklin
Owner: Sophia Alexandrou

Franklin is a wiener dog who after almost 14 years still looks just as cute as the day he was born. His adorable exterior is consistent with his adorable tendencies like nudging you when he wants to get pet and making a little noise when he yawns.

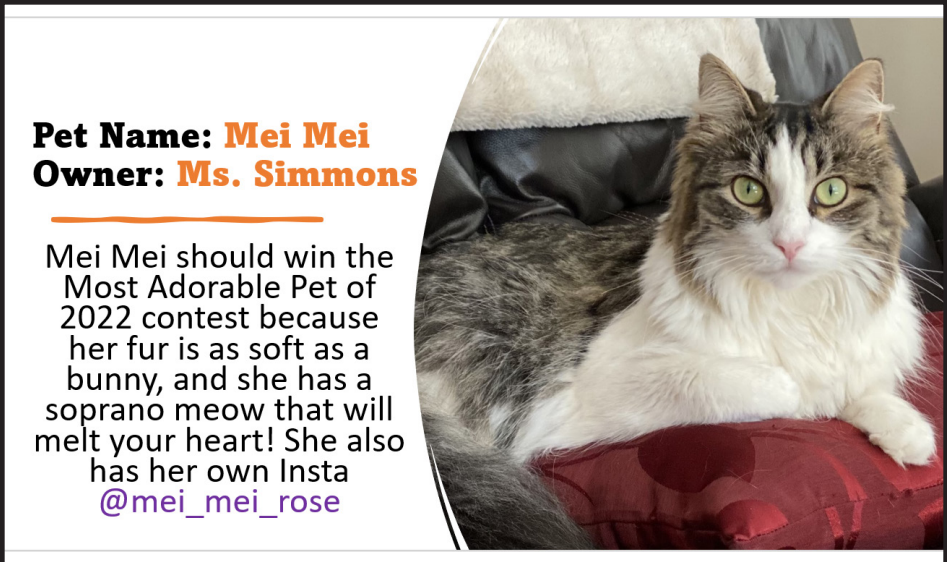


Pet Name: Harry
Owner: Ms. Simmons

Harry should be voted the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because he is all personality! He loves people and lots of pets. He also likes a nice brandy after dinner while he watches Jeopardy!

Most Adorable 2022!

ed in
ange



Pet Name: Mei Mei
Owner: Ms. Simmons

Mei Mei should win the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 contest because her fur is as soft as a bunny, and she has a soprano meow that will melt your heart! She also has her own Insta [@mei_mei_rose](#)



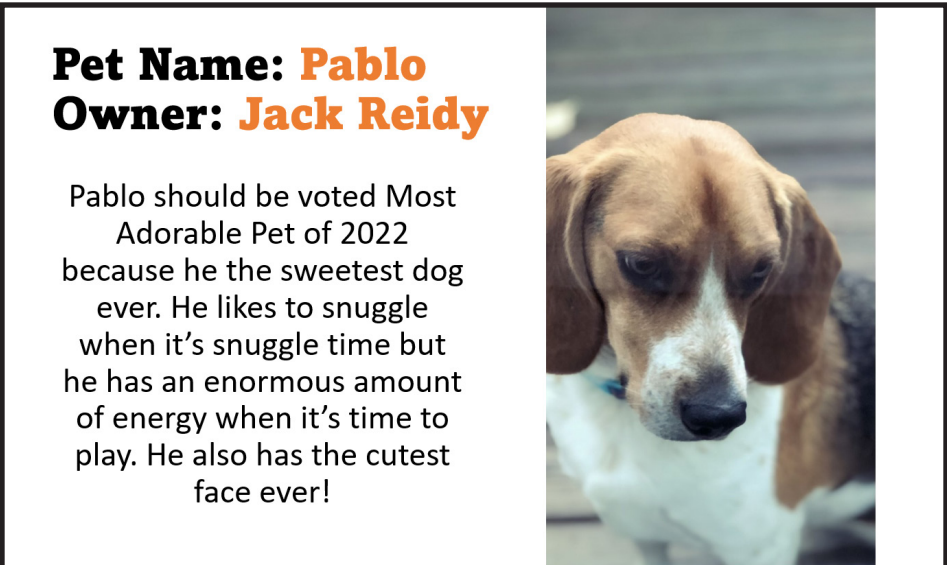
Pet Name: Champ
Owner: Matthew Fahey

Champ is 2 ½ year old. He should be voted the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because he loves to chase and chew lacrosse balls. He has the softest ears, and he can be cuddly when he wants to!



Pet Name: Axel
Owner: Peri Kahn

Axel should win the Most Adorable Pet contest because he is a great listener and gives really good cuddles during football games.



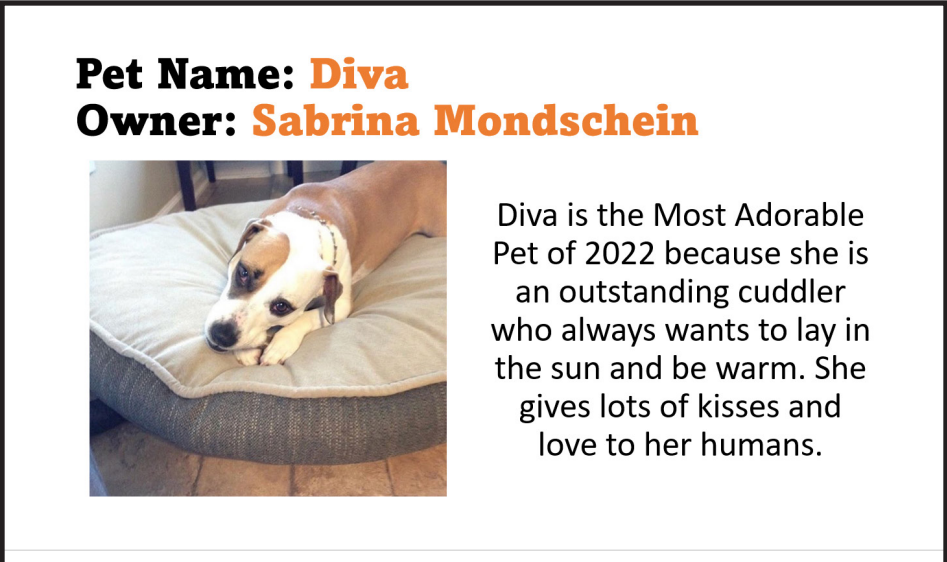
Pet Name: Pablo
Owner: Jack Reidy

Pablo should be voted Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because he the sweetest dog ever. He likes to snuggle when it's snuggle time but he has an enormous amount of energy when it's time to play. He also has the cutest face ever!



Pet Name: Phoenix
Owner Name: Mr. Vitiello

Phoenix is the cutest pet because she loves cuddles, belly rubs, and loves to eat treats all the time. She is a rescue from Texas, and she is loving her new home!



Pet Name: Diva
Owner: Sabrina Mondschein

Diva is the Most Adorable Pet of 2022 because she is an outstanding cuddler who always wants to lay in the sun and be warm. She gives lots of kisses and love to her humans.

Book Review: “Lock the Doors” by Vincent Ralph

ISBN #1728231892

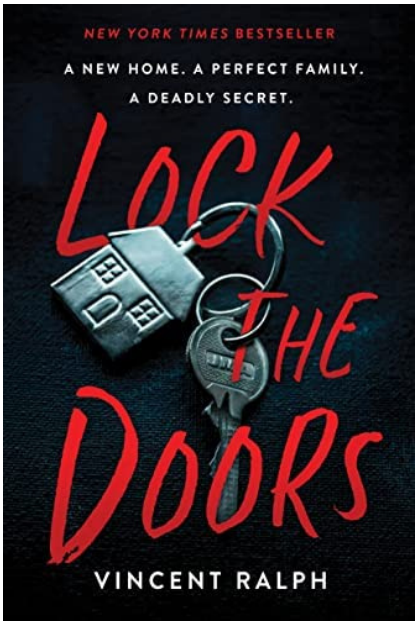
Reviewed by Rachel Dellis

“Lock the Doors” is a mystery/thriller novel written by Vincent Ralph. The novel was published by Sourcebooks Fire and is 400 pages long. “Lock the Doors” consists of three parts and in each part you are put into a different character’s perspective.

In this book, the main character Tom and his mother are no strangers to abuse. His mother has gone from man to man trying to find one that will treat her correctly. The book begins with Tom moving into a new house not far from his old one. Everything is going fine except for the fact that the old owners left many mysteries for Tom and his family. Tom tries to figure out the secrets to his new house, but he is misunderstood by his family, so Tom now must figure it out with his new classmate Amy. This book provides the perfect mix of love and hardship.

Vincent Ralph as per usual shows fantastic growth in all his characters. Whether it was characters growing apart or coming together, he does a great job of describing how the characters work together and how they work with themselves.

“Lock the Doors” is a book that will keep you turning the page. The suspense and plot twists are unbelievably shocking and will keep you reading. I guarantee that after you read this book your perspective on life will be different, you will find yourself observing everything further and investigating things that don’t



need investigating.

This book is perfect for people ages 12 and above and for those who love a good mystery story. It is also perfect for anyone who likes to feel like they are one of the characters.

This is one of the greatest books of all time. With all the plot twists and character connections this book definitely deserves a 5/5.

If you are looking for a book that makes you think twice, “Lock the Doors” is the book for you.

Arizona Travel Review

Explore the Beauty of Arizona

By: Brandon Archer

Arizona, otherwise known as the “The Grand Canyon State,” is a beautiful state with one of the best national parks in the country. Besides national parks, Arizona has beautiful tourist destinations like Phoenix, Glendale, Tucson and more. If you plan on going to Arizona, sports abound. The state has three major sports teams: the Arizona Cardinals, the Phoenix Suns, and the Arizona Diamondbacks. I spent a week in Arizona, and it was one of the best travel experiences I ever had; from the city life in Phoenix to the beauty of the Grand Canyon, Arizona offers a great time.

The Grand Canyon was different from what I expected. As someone from New York, I was not prepared for how cold and windy it was. Even though the weather was not fun, the curves of the canyon and the colors of the sky were beautiful. Outdoor activities in the canyon include rafting in the river or hiking in the canyon. For cool souvenirs, you can stop at one of the many canyon gift shops.

Arizona has some of the best hotels, and my group stayed at three of



them: The Fairfield Inn & Suites Phoenix Midtown, the Yavapai Lodge in the Grand Canyon, and Marriott’s Canyon Villa. All three hotels were excellent. The Midtown Suite was perfectly situation for touring the city, while the Yavapai Lodge is in up-state Arizona, next to the Grand Canyon. If you want to learn about Native American history in Arizona, there are several Native American reservations and museums to visit. Perhaps the best hotel we visited was the Canyon Villa, a grand hotel is on the outskirts of downtown Phoenix. Once you have rested well in one of the comfortable hotel rooms, you can swim in the pool, golf, or play ping pong.

My Arizona experience rated a 10/10.

Skate on Down to the New Ice Rink in Ridge Hill, Yonkers

By Gaby Maldonado

While those chilly temperatures are just settling in, Westchester has already started gearing up for the upcoming winter with a new ice rink in Yonkers.

On Nov. 20, the Ridge Hill outdoor mall will celebrate the grand opening of a new ice-skating rink called Ridge Hill on Ice.

Located near The Cheesecake Factory on the Town Square Lawn, this 2,000-square-foot rink will create a magical place for the public. While walk-ins are welcome, Ridge Hill recommends that guests make ice skating reservations in advance through their website in order to secure a time slot.

In addition to the new rink, Ridge Hill will host several holiday activities, including a professional ice-skating performance at 4 p.m. to officially open the rink. Don’t want to ice skate? No problem! You can still enjoy the holiday performances,



the festive tunes, and the magical lighting of the Christmas tree for free.

Once the rink opens its doors, you can glide around and enjoy the fun. Skates are included in general admission tickets. Children 12 and under can purchase tickets for \$14 and adults for \$18. After the opening event, ice skating will be available on Mondays through Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Whether you want to spin around or carefully glide on the ice with your friends and family, the new skating rink welcomes skaters of all ages and skills!

Movie Review: The School for Good and Evil Delights

By Amber Lau

Featuring actresses Sophia Anna Caruso and Sofia Wylie, “The School for Good and Evil” is a recent addition to Netflix’s fantasy category. Based on its novel, “The School for Good and Evil” movie portrays various messages about good, evil, truth, lies, love, and friendship through a complex plot and adventurous characters. This is an enjoyable movie for young teens who find a fascination with fantasy and fairytales. The action packed story keeps its audience on the edge of their seats when viewing, while also allowing them to connect with the compelling characters. If you are open to watching a bizarre but enchanting journey full of action, this recent film is for you.

“The School for Good and Evil” starts off in the village of Gavaldon, where two girls, Sophie and Agatha, become best friends. Sophie is obsessed with becoming a princess like she observes in fairytales, while Agatha is often bullied by her peers and seen as the town’s witch. One day, they are taken from their town and brought to the School for Good and Evil where gifted students are trained to protect the balance between heroes and villains. However, the spirits unexpectedly place Sophie in the School for Evil despite her wishes and her best friend in the opposing school. While exploring this new setting, both characters are determined to be released from their

“Smile” Will Leave Your Frown Turned Upside Down

By Gaby Maldonado

Parker Finn’s feature directorial debut “Smile” is a psychological horror film that embodies a perfect mix of serious trauma horror and jumpy popcorn entertainment. Based on the 2020 short film “Laura Hasn’t Slept”, “Smile” is about a therapist (Sosie Bacon) who begins to experience bizarre and unsettling events in the aftermath of witnessing a patient’s gruesome death. As things continue to worsen, she must decide whether the cause is the mental health problems that run in her family or a dark supernatural force.

“Smile” includes many elements that you have seen on screen multiple times before like being stuck in a nightmare of sinister situations, being aware of your own death, and not knowing who to trust. That being said, there is a distinctive layer to this movie on top of all these common elements. It tackles themes of mental health and the weight of trauma in an impressive way. Molding these subjects into the movie’s horror world made the film much scar-

ier than expected.

Although “Smile” was a frightful film, it is no secret that it drew inspiration from many films, especially from David Robert Mitchell’s “It Follows.” Both films have similar cinematography, and both feature a specific individual being pursued by an evil that cannot be reasoned with. There is also a similarity with Jeffrey Clark Wadlow’s “Truth or Dare” with both films including humans making eerie smiles.

Bacon’s performance was remarkable, and she perfectly portrayed the progression from suspicion to lunacy without making it cringeworthy. Jessie T. Usher, Kyle Gallner, Caitlin Stasey, Kal Penn, and Rob Morgan also starred in the film and delivered great performances as well.

There were many jump scares along with impressive camera angles to add emphasis to the story. Overall, “Smile” was a decent horror movie that is worth watching if you want a good scare and it is a compelling addition to the horror genre.

Movie Review: Black Adam

By Danielle Mitchell

If you have been looking for a good antihero movie, this is the one for you. “Black Adam” came out October 21, 2022. It was directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, who also directed “Jungle Cruise,” “Unknown,” and “The Shallows.”

“Black Adam” starts with a king who wants to find a crown that would make him invincible. He has slaves digging for the crown and living in fear, but a kid (“Saving Christmas” actor Jalon Christian) speaks out against the king’s followers. After speaking out against the king, he is going to be killed but disappears before being caught.

No one knows what happened to him until later a champion arrives to get rid of the king. The champion is never heard from again and a statue is made in his honor. He will come back if the people are ever in trouble like that again.

Thousands of years later we meet a boy named Amon (DC’s “Legends of Tomorrow” actor: Bodhi Sabongui) who speaks out against the soldiers who are oppressing them. Meanwhile, peoples’ car are being checked and Amer (“American-ish” actor Mohammed Amer) is trying to hide an outlaw, his sister Isis (“The Death” and “Return of Superman” actress Sarah Shahi).



Isis tries to find the crown to get it away from the terrorists, but once she finds it, the terrorists are already there and are going to kill her. So, she calls on supernatural help from the champion’s tomb.

The champion is reawakened. More superheroes? Fate changed? A misunderstood story? Maybe a twist in the ending? Watch the movie to see what happens.

This film has a sense of humor and some of it deals with real world problems. The fight scenes are well done. If you love anti-hero movies, you will love this one. It is complex but a good movie. Go grab your snacks and enjoy the movie.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Key Club

By Alisa Shargorodsky

The fall months have been a busy and productive time for the Key Club. The club has hosted a myriad of events to encourage positivity and community, and overall, better the school community as a whole. The events include, "Say Hi Day," "Positive Post-it Day," and "Thanksgiving in a Box."

"Say Hi Day" was organized with a goal to encourage community, new friendships, and positivity among White Plains High School students. Key Club members carried bags of lollipops and smiley-face stickers and distributed them to students around the school. Key Club members were encouraged to "say hi" to new faces or peers that they have not previously conversed with. The smiley-face stickers were used as indicators of participation in the event.

"Positive Post-its Day" was hosted to further encourage positivity and community in the school. Key Club members created and organized post-its with messages of positivity or gratitude for teachers, administration, staff, and for the general student population, to be hung around the school. During the October "Tiger Community Time," Key Club members distributed the post-its across the school and set up a table for students to have a chance to write a positive message.

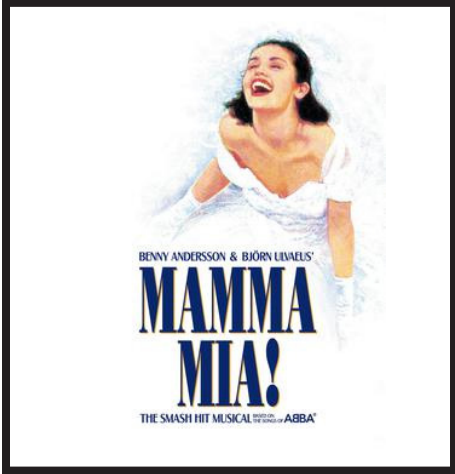
Finally, Key Club organized "Thanksgiving in a Box," a donation event to aid families in obtaining enough food for Thanksgiving dinner. Key Club encouraged students and staff to make donations of Thanksgiving food, drinks, dessert, and gift cards, and the members organized the items into bagged bundles. The Key Club was able to help about 50 students at the White Plains High School in making a fulfilling Thanksgiving dinner possible. The Key Club also received donations from a myriad of outside sources to purchase the items necessary to fill up the bags.

With a great start to the school year, Key Club has various events planned for the remainder of the year and upcoming holiday season. The Key Club seeks to continue to encourage positivity and provide opportunities for students to better the community inside and outside of school.

Theater Unlimited

By Andrea Arteaga

"Mamma Mia" will be hitting the stage this February at our very own school. This musical is based on the songs of ABBA. Performances are on February 3, 4, and 5. It will be a show you will surely not want to miss. In other news our school will be creating a production of the play "The Flying Dutchman." Note that this will be performed earlier than "Mamma Mia." But it will also be an enjoyable time. So, make sure to show your support for the Theatre Unlimited club. We will be extremely glad that you came to show your support. Another thing to note is that there will be one more play after "Mamma Mia" and "The Flying Dutchman." Ask Mrs. Cepler for more details on the spring play.



Class of 2024

The Junior Class has been busy working on fundraisers and collaborations so far this year. We have been doing "Mocha Mondays" each week, where we have an iced coffee cart for teachers. Students are welcome to help out if they have lunch fifth period. Additionally, we hope to be delivering hot cocoa kits this holiday season for students and teachers. Sets will include a hot chocolate bomb, candy cane, and marshmallows with a personalized message to be delivered by the officers, so be sure to fill out the pre-order form if you want to give someone a holiday treat!

The fundraising committee had their first meeting recently and are still looking for more students to get involved. They hope to be doing a sale for DUBSET pajama pants soon, so keep an eye out if you are looking for some new spiritwear!

Lastly, the junior class government will be having a stand at the Holiday Bazaar on December 22nd, which will feature a fun, holiday-themed Photo Booth and some free snacks. On the same day after school, all juniors are welcome to a general meeting in the auditorium. We will be selling some snacks and getting student's input and support for current projects. The officers will be running these open meetings on the last Thursday of every month.

Junior Prom is approaching quickly. The date is set for this March, so we to begin preparations. Any students who want to be a part of planning for the Junior prom (theme, decorations, food, etc.) should make sure to attend our general meetings and get in touch with the advisors Mrs. Feeney and Mrs. Tom.

Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 has been busy as usual fundraising for both the sophomore class and for the family of a member of our WPHS community who sadly passed away this school year. We sold TIGER PRIDE holiday ornaments at the PTA craft fair and have sold over 200 fuzzy desk pets. We plan to sell birthday balloons throughout the year as well as other fun stuff for the holiday and Valentine's Day bazaars. Be sure to stop by and visit our table! Our class meetings are every Thursday in room C126 for those who would like to help. Happy holidays!

Muslim Student Association

By Alisha Ahmed & Mila Hossain

The Muslim Student Association was formed last year to foster an environment that is welcoming and supportive of Muslim students. The objective of the MSA is to educate non-Muslims on the false stereotypes and stigma that are directed toward Islam and to give Muslim students the confidence to present their religion and be unapologetically Muslim. This is especially important in light of the widespread hatred and misrepresentation of Muslims in the media. The group enables students to feel at ease when they express their ideas about various events and activities that could create a better atmosphere for Muslims.

The Muslim Student Association's plans for the 2022-2023 academic year are to collect donations for the White Plains Mosque, inform our WPHS peers about Ramadan and Eid, and volunteer at the mosque to assist those in need. The MSA hosted a bake sale on November 17 after school intending to raise money for the White Plains Mosque. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the mosque.

The MSA plans to hold a fundraising henna event at the Holiday Bazaar on December 22nd. Several of the club members will apply henna for five dollars per hand.

Meetings are held every Thursday after school in room A121 from 2:30-3:00. The remind code is @dbk79b4. Everyone is welcome!

National Art Honor Society

The National Art Honor Society held the latest Paint Night on Thursday Dec 1st, seniors Kat Peller and Nicole Camacuari instructed painters from all ages on how to paint this adorable snowman! Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase art supplies for our NAHS students.

Want to paint? The next Paint Night will be on **Thursday, February 9th!** See upcoming posters in the hallways of WPHS or the art departments Instagram @wphs.art for more information!



Songwriter's Showcase

By Gaby Maldonado

On October 28th and 29th, the Songwriter's Club returned to the stage for its 23rd year of music in the Little Theater. Their first show of the year featured 21 songs from various genres. Whether you're into hard rock, love songs, or feel-good dance music, these showcases are sure to entertain and fascinate you.

The Songwriter's Club is a collaborative group of high-spirited musicians at White Plains High School. At the showcase, the unmistakable sense of community was evident. After each group performed, students in the audience ran up to them to applaud them for their performance. By cheering them on and shouting "That was fire!", it was clear that the members of the Songwriter's Club have an amazing bond with one another.

Among the great performances was Mallory Moreno's rendition of Bruno Mars' "Put on a Smile" with Emanuel Orozco, Milla Telesmanic, and Matt Welling playing instruments. Mallory's sweet-sounding voice, amazing high notes, and classy outfit made her shine on stage. Deftones' "My Own Summer" was performed by Zoey Tutein, Saul Leon, Charis Choi, Ollie Verdi, and Christian

Sese. It was one of the most breathtaking performances of the night and lead vocalist Zoey executed the emotion of the song in such a striking way that it left the audience wonderstruck.

Laura Hibbert, Jose Rosas Tomas, Evan Schwartz, Frankie Flora, and Christian Sese hit the stage with "Poison" by Bell Div Devoe. It was the combination of the incredible bass line, the rattling rhythm, the vocal harmony, and the catchy melodies that made the performance stand out. Known for wearing his signature beanies, Gabe Korin took his hat off and let his hair down for the final act of the night. He performed Kendrick Lamar's "Count Me Out" with Nathan Dasilva and Matt Welling. Every performer got up to dance and hype up his performance which created a fun atmosphere in the theater.

The showcase would not have been possible without the 21 acts of talented students. Mr. Polanco, the Songwriter's Club Advisor, was immensely proud of all the groups. "I'd say 98% of the people on the stage today are playing for their first time at the High School post-pandemic. This is a new experience for them, it's like an epiphany. It's beautiful," he stated. Their next showcase is in January, where we will get to see them play their original songs.



SPORTS



NYSPHSAA State Swimming Championship Welcomes Four Swimmers from WPHS

By Olivia Tuzel

To wear the title as a States qualifier is something that many high school swimmers strive to accomplish, but achieving this goal is far from easy. For months, swimmers muster up motivation to work tirelessly through cold water knowing that improvement awaits, even if not visible straight away.

When it was announced that four of White Plains High School’s talented swimmers qualified to attend and compete at the NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championships, it was no surprise. Led by Coach Gilmartin (WPHS Swim and Dive head coach), Taryn Beccera, Saskia Aikman, Grace Hricay, and Kara Ha were all sent off to the Webster Aquatic Center in November to swim against other swimmers from all over NY State. Naturally, this was very thrilling for the team.

“I was extremely happy that the girls made it to States; it is a challenging thing to achieve. We were all very excited to be there,” Coach Gil said. “I was, and still am, extremely proud of them.”

“Making states was probably one of the most exciting moments of my swim career,” Taryn, a senior, said. “We had been working so hard and finally got the times that we needed. Going into it, I was very excited to travel and meet swimmers from other schools.”

The four swimmers rippled through the waters with dedication radiating off each stroke. Coach Gil stood with them through thick and thin, constantly offering words of encouragement. Many people at the competition would acknowledge the four passionate young

women that represented their school. As a result, the girls returned home with much success.

In the 200 free relay, the team placed 24th with the time of 1:41:81. Saskia Aikman swam a 50 free, and she stood on the podium for 3rd place at 23:61 seconds. Saskia also swam in the 100 free, getting 8th place at 52:94 seconds. Grace Hricay placed 28th in the 100 fly with a time of 1:00:06. In the end, Coach Gil and the girls agree that States was the best gift that they could have received for the holiday season.

“The experience was a lot of fun, but I was also nervous leading up to my events,” Saskia said. “Yet, I’m super happy that I had the opportunity to go.”

“My overall experience from States was amazing and definitely something I will not forget,” Taryn began. “No matter how our swims went, we were all there for each other and continued to motivate each other to do better. Since it was my last swim, it was an emotional trip but ended in smiles from memories made in States and swimming in general.”

“It was fun getting to know other swimmers within Section 1 while creating long lasting memories,” Kara said. “States was a great experience.”

The girls recognize that their performance has made them role models for many rising swimmers residing in White Plains. It is not every day that such potential shines from such young individuals. “The Orange” applauds and congratulates them all for achieving this major accomplishment and wishes them the best of luck with their swimming careers!

World Cup Fever Grips White Plains High School

However, allegations of worker mistreatment cast a shadow over the event

By Peri Kahn

For the past month, the World Cup has captivated the world and has certainly entranced the White Plains High School community. Every game day, students walk the halls listening to cheers and groans as games are broadcasted from the Ben Q boards in classrooms from Coach Galligani’s Team Sports class to Ms. Simmons’s room during lunch periods.

Much like the Olympics, the World Cup brings countries from all over the world together to appreciate a common passion, allowing them to put aside grievances for the duration of the tournament. It makes people happy. Supporting the team from their home country gives people a sense of pride and national identity.

This year, the World Cup is taking place in Qatar, a small middle eastern country whose economy relies primarily on natural gas. With its fortune, Qatar built eight stadiums where the soccer matches were held. The Qatari elites wanted this World Cup to be the most extravagant World Cup ever in order to try and restore their country’s reputation.

Unfortunately, the way the extravagance was achieved was nowhere near humane. Instead of paying their blue-collar workers a reasonable minimum wage and providing safe working conditions, Qatar developed the entirety of their infrastructure using a modern-day slave system.

The men in the labor system all came from other underdeveloped countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and many others in and around central Asia. They tried to escape the economic turmoil they faced at home, where some families make \$200 a year, for a place where they could make some sort of income to send back to their families.

Little did these men know they were entering a life where any basic human rights they had in their home country would be stripped away, and they would become stuck in a forced labor system that would only be escapable through death.

When these men arrived in Qatar, they were hired by whatever company was willing to take them and were essentially forced to start working immediately. There are certain laws that were passed to

Athlete Spotlight: Ella Utschig

By Peri Kahn

White Plains High School has a reputation for strong athletics, often sending their athletes to play their respective sport at a collegiate level. Even though the year is only a quarter over, there are already members of the senior class committed to play sports in college, one being Ella Utschig, a softball pitcher who will attend the University of Pennsylvania next fall.

Ella has played softball since she was 10 years and has been a pitcher since then as well. Growing up in White Plains Little League, everyone wanted to be a pitcher, but those who stuck with it are few and far between.

At 10 years old, Ella had no clue softball would take her in the direction of college, but as she got older, she realized how much she loved the game. She said, “I fell in love with how competitive it was when played in the south,” so she knew she wanted to keep playing for as long as time allowed. Five years after her little league debut, at the age of 15, Ella began her college search.

At first, her heart was set on Boston College. That was her dream school. But if there is one thing to know about the recruiting process it is that it is a journey filled with many unexpected twists and turns. Even though she loved Boston College, Ella could not just have one school on her list if she wanted to go to a strong Division One program, so she started to expand her options. As a part of growing her list, she contacted the coaches from UPenn. After a short time talking with them, Ella fell in love with their coaching staff and knew

Dubset Puck has a rough start to the Season

White Plains Varsity Hockey is hoping to turn their season around after a few rough games

By Ryan Conrad

The White Plains Varsity Hockey team is looking to turn the season around after going 1-5 in the past 6 games. They have faced some tough opponents, especially North Rockland, who has one of the best goalies in section 1 and New Rochelle who handed them 2 of the 4 losses.

The leading scorers through the first 5 games are Philip Shargorodsky (8), Mario DeMaria (7) and Harley Formica (7). I got a quote from starting goalie Derek Gould on the season so far and how he thinks the boys will do in the upcoming games “As the season is progressing and we lean towards the toughest team were looking to play, I actually feel very confident because of our practice yesterday. I



that it was where she wanted to go.

In the fall of her junior year, after working hard on and off the field, Ella committed to continuing her education and athletic career at UPenn.

Although Ella has her college selection set in stone, the path to where she is now has not been easy. Sports are supposed to be an outlet for support from both teammates and coaches; however, Ella experienced a severe lack of support from her one of her coaches. He told her that she did not have a chance to play in college. How could Ella be confident in herself if a coach did not believe in her? Not only was the lack of support an obstacle in Ella’s journey, she often struggled with severe migraines and missing school which added stress to her recruiting process.

Nonetheless, Ella has reached her goal and become a part of the 2% of high school athletes who go on to play in a Division One program, showing all the people that doubted her for her size and skill that they were wrong.



feel like Howie finally got us to pick It up as a team and I’m very hopeful for the season ahead”.

The next 5 games the boys should be able to hop back on track with a few wins. They will be playing Carmel, Fox Lane, Mahopac, and ETBE twice which are all different teams ranging from strong teams to not so strong teams. Home games will be Thursday at 5pm at Ebersole Ice Rink. Come out and support Dubset puck.

to answer any questions surrounding the living conditions or maltreatment of their workers. In addition, they tried to prevent any further exposure of their country’s inequities by not actually granting foreign journalists the freedom to tell the truth. Journalists who have gone to Qatar and have been granted journalistic freedom have been imprisoned because they had physical evidence concerning the truth about the country. They are not only put in prison, but all their video and photographic evidence is taken from them before they leave the country, ensuring nothing else gets released.

So, even though many of us enjoyed the World Cup matches, it’s disheartening to know that the ground

the players played on and the stands fans cheered from were built by innocent men who just wanted to make a life for themselves and their families but were stripped of that opportunity because of harsh monarchical rule.

Update: On Sunday, December 18th, Argentina, led by Lionel Messi’s 2 goals, won their third world cup, defeating France 3-3 in a shootout.