

# Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale • Upper Saddle River • Ho-Ho-Kus • Saddle River • January 2015

298 Hillside Avenue • Allendale, NJ 07401 • [www.northernhighlands.org](http://www.northernhighlands.org)



## Highlands Boasts National Merit Semi-Finalists and Commended Students

Northern Highlands is proud to announce that four of our students have been named as Semifinalists in the National Merit Program. Our students are commended and recognized for their high scores on the 2013 PSAT/NMSQT taken in the fall of their junior year. Semifinalists will advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarships.



**Warmest congratulations to Semifinalists:  
Jacob Shulman, Amanda Weiss, Thomas Hart, and  
Augustine Kang.**

And congratulations to our students who have earned the recognition of the National Merit Program as Commended Scholars for their achievement on the 2013 PSAT/NMSQT in junior year:

**Matthew Bough  
Amanda Davis  
Devon DeMarco  
Joline Hartheimer  
Ely Hsu  
Kelly Kim  
Theodore Kluge  
Alexandra Lesnik  
Tyler Levin  
Caroline Lovisolo**

**Sarah Pak  
Samantha Pappas  
Sarah Perrin  
Brent Reissman  
David Tong  
Joseph Treimanis  
Juan Valencia  
Stella Wang  
Thomas Wei  
Spencer Yan**

## First STEM Competition Honors Injured Vets

Northern Highlands students were among the 50 who participated in the first day of learning and competition for the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) League. The League was founded by Northern Highlands teacher, Al Mugno, and other applied technology teachers in our area. Northern Highlands sent two teams to compete with eight other teams for the day-long event at Waldwick High School. Because it was Veteran's Day, the students had the honor of meeting retired Staff Sgt. David Crouse, who had lost his hand in the line of duty. In honor of the veterans, students were assigned the task of constructing a working hand prosthesis from Lego blocks and motors. They had about 5 hours to take the Lego blocks and a robotics motor and turn it into a device that could be strapped to a limb and used to pick up and put down a cup. Of our two teams, one earned 1st place overall, and the other won Best Presentation. The STEM league is planning a future competition to be hosted by Northern Highlands at the end of this school year.

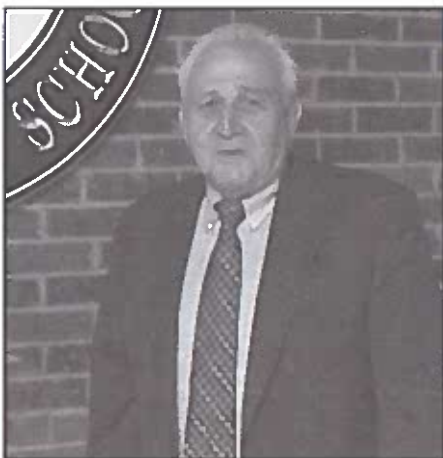
This years team members are: Chris Gasparis, Chris Lagana, Marc Mazza, Elizabeth Menten (alternate), Sophia Pereira (alternate), Medha Potluri, Aram Rashduni, Dave Rimland, Patrick Shea, Alec Stewart and George Suehnholz.



## From the Interim Superintendent

Dear Parents and  
Members of the  
Community,

On July 1, 2014, I began my appointment as the Interim Superintendent of the Northern Highlands Regional High School District.



Living and working locally, I have been aware of the excellent reputation of Northern Highlands, but in the last few months I have come to truly appreciate the excellence of our academic and co-curricular programs and the high level of achievement of our students. The Board of Education, Administration and teachers are dedicated and committed to providing our students with the best possible education anywhere in the State of New Jersey.

Our school district has been heralded in the local news media for successes in athletics such as girls soccer, boys soccer, field hockey, cross country, tennis, volleyball, and football. In addition to outstanding sports teams, the Highlands Regiment marching band continues to excel, as do the a cappella groups, Belles and Voices. The fall play was *Twelfth Night*, a challenging production for any age group regardless of the level of experience and our students performed exceptionally as they brought Elizabethan theater to life in Allendale, NJ.

As each day passes, I find out more and more about Highlands that impresses me. I am impressed with the concern about those that are less fortunate than others as demonstrated by the students' and teachers' charity work. I am impressed by the efforts of our entire school community to address the demands and stressors that are a matter of concern to the health and well-being of our students and staff. I am impressed by the sense that Highlands is a community of commonality and caring, as students from four elementary school districts come together to form the spirit of Northern Highlands Regional High School.

It is a pleasure for me to serve as the Interim Superintendent and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Board of Education, teachers, staff, students, parents, and community to maintain the level of excellence in all areas that is the hallmark of Northern Highlands Regional High School. Most of all, I am proud to be a "Highlander".

Sincerely yours,  
John J. Petrelli

## From the Board of Education

Dear Parents and Members of the Community,

We would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

Mr. John Petrelli, our Interim Superintendent, is bringing his leadership and extensive experience to the school. He has been invaluable to the Board and has accomplished a tremendous amount in the short time that he has been at Northern Highlands. He has worked closely with the Board and the administration to establish our District Goals and Objectives, which can be found under Our District on the Northern Highlands website. This year, we are giving a special emphasis to student wellness, and to the expansion in the use of technology.

In accordance with New Jersey Pension regulations, a retired superintendent, such as Mr. Petrelli, can work up to but not exceed two years in any district. The Board is currently searching for a new, permanent superintendent. Community Forums took place earlier in the fall where parents, interested residents, and staff gave their input about the characteristics they feel are important in a new Superintendent at Northern Highlands. The Forums were well attended and The Board is appreciative of this input. Applications for Superintendent have been collected and interviews will begin shortly.

We would like to remind you that the Board of Education holds its public meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month at 8 PM in the library at the school. We invite you to attend our meetings and we value your thoughts and concerns. Our Board agenda is posted on the school website prior to every meeting, as well as our email addresses.

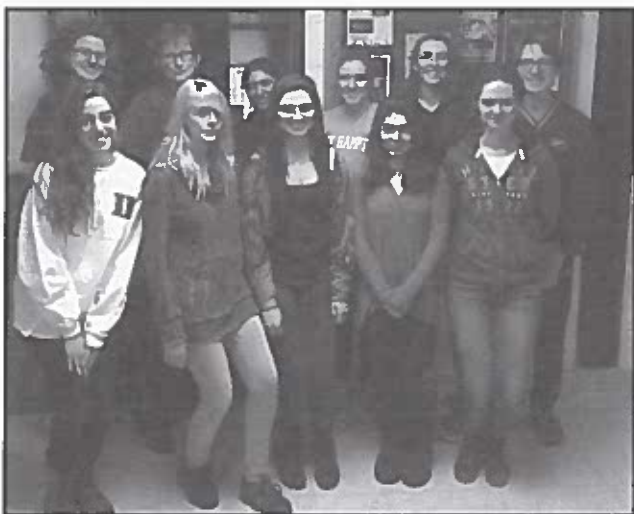
Sincerely,  
The Northern Highlands Regional High School Board of Education



The Northern Highlands Theater Company presented *Twelfth Night* to appreciative audiences in November. The cast and crew are pictured above. The spring musical, *Anything Goes*, will be performed March 5-8.

## Literary and Art Magazine Wins National Recognition

The 2013-2014 Northern Highlands Literary and Art magazine, *The Loch and Quay*, received the rating of All-American from the National Scholastic Press Association. The issue, called Almost Blue, received the highest possible score and also received "Marks of Distinction" in all five possible areas: Content; Writing and Editing; Photography, Art, Graphics, and Typography; Layout; and Concept. This was the second consecutive year that *The Loch and Quay* won this prestigious award. The following current students were directly involved in the making of the magazine: Executive Editors, Samantha Pappas and Sarah Perrin, Editors, Alexandra Berndt and Erin Minck, Layout Editor Brian Kang, and Assistant Editors Aurora Abzug, Giulianna Nasta, and Norma Stobbe.



## Highlands Cares Hosts 3rd Annual Relay For Life

Each year, more than 4 million people in over 20 countries raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer through the Relay for Life movement. Highlands Cares will host their 3rd Relay for Life on May 30th. Approximately \$40,000 was raised in each of the last two years. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the American Cancer Society.



## Congratulations to our 130 students from the classes of 2014 and 2015 who have been designated as AP Scholars.

**AP Scholar** - Fifty-two students scored a three or higher on three or more Advanced Placement exams.

**AP Scholar with Honors** - Thirty-one students scored a three or higher on four or more AP exams, and averaged a 3.25 on all AP exams taken.

**AP Scholar with Distinction** - Forty-two students scored a three or higher on five or more exams, and averaged a 3.5 on all exams taken.

**National AP Scholar** - Five students scored a four or higher on eight or more exams, and averaged at least a four on all exams taken.

## DECA Happenings

DECA prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, management, hospitality and tourism. DECA members participate in competitions that may involve role-playing, written tests, and/or research projects. There are five DECA Chapter Projects this year. Below is a description of each one.

**Creative Marketing Project:** Elyse Moore and Chris Perez have undertaken a marketing research study about the new shopping mall that will be situated where DePiero's farm is currently located. They have completed 200 surveys and are in the process of analyzing the data for a presentation to the Montvale Chamber of Commerce.

**Financial Literacy Project:** Ely Hsu and Andrew Boyadjian have a two-prong Financial Literacy Project that involves DECA members and middle-school students. Ely and Andrew will be joined by DECA members who have participated in the H&R Block Challenge at the local middle schools where they will engage students in educationally fun activities that teach financial literacy.

**Community Service Project:** The recipient of Northern Highlands DECA's Community Service Project is Gilda's Club, located in Hackensack. Chairpersons, Philip Perricelli and Lexi Kelly, have been working with Gilda's Club since the summer. DECA members have supported Gilda's Club in fundraising events at Comedy Night, Saks Fifth Avenue and Chico's, as well as decorating the center for Halloween and collecting supplies for art and Thanksgiving. Throughout the coming months, there will be other activities based on Gilda's needs.

**Public Relations Project:** DECA's theme for this year's Public Relations Campaign is "Sign into Life," which focuses on the excessive use of social media in our everyday lives. Tyler Yaccarino, Kayla Corbett, and Caroline Dyrsten are the chairpersons for this project.

**Learn & Earn Project:** This year's Learn & Earn Project is a Senior Prom Fashion Show, which is being held on January 15th in the Northern Highlands auditorium.

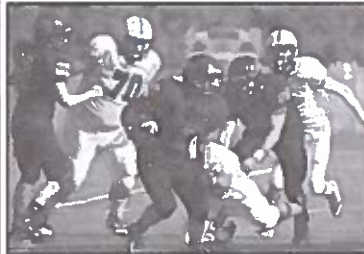
# Congratulations Highlanders On a Great Fall Season



For the 4th year in a row the Girls Soccer was Big North Freedom Divisional Champions, State Sectional Champions and Group 3 State Champions. Their overall record the past 4 seasons is 93-1-1.



Girls Cross Country ran to Big North Freedom Divisional and State Sectional Championships



Congratulations to The Record's Athlete of the Season for their sport:  
 Catherine Pagano (cross country),  
 Jordan Paton (field hockey),  
 Alec Lam (boys soccer),  
 Hana Kerner (girls soccer)

Congratulations to The Record's Athlete of the Week recipients:  
 Catherine Pagano,  
 Jordan Paton,  
 Hana Kerner and  
 Maddie Wolf



On September 9, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) awarded Northern Highlands the ShopRite Cup for having the most successful Group 3 athletic program in all of New Jersey.



Girls Tennis was Big North Freedom Divisional Champions, State Sectional Champions and The Record's Team of the Year



Back to back championships for Girls Field Hockey - Northeast Field Hockey Divisional and State Sectional Champions



The Boys Soccer team once again earned the Big North Freedom Division Championship and advanced to the Bergen County championship game. They are also the BCCA's Team of the Year.

## HSPA Scores Continue To Climb

Northern Highlands students have continued to score extremely well on the HSPA (High School Proficiency Assessment). The total proficiency scores for all 11th grade students was remarkably high: 95% in mathematics and 99% in English/language arts. While meeting proficiency is the primary goal for this assessment, we look at advanced proficiency scores, as well. In 2014, approximately 60% of students scored in the advanced proficiency range.

## Highlands Is Ready For PARCC

Northern Highlands students in grades 9, 10, 11 will take the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) test this year. This test replaces the HSPA in 2014-15, and it evaluates students' performance in meeting the Common Core State Standards. All NJ public school students are required by law take this test. The PARCC exam includes two administrations for each grade level in English/language arts and mathematics and will be given in March and May, 2015.

The PARCC test will be taken on computers and emphasizes performance-based problems involving critical thinking and integration of multiple concepts and skills in each subject. The test will incorporate fewer multiple choice items in favor of extended responses evaluating conceptual understanding. At Northern Highlands, administrators and teachers have been preparing students for PARCC with greater focus on modeling classroom assignments and assessments to incorporate PARCC-assessed skills.

## Highlands Community Helps Out

The Tomorrows Children's Fund holiday drive is an activity the Northern Highlands community participates in every year. Tomorrow Children's Fund provides the names and wish lists for many families of children



currently in treatment for cancer. Under the direction of the Student Government, multiple clubs and

departments each agree every year to adopt one of these families, by purchasing all of the items on their wish list and wrapping them. The student government delivers the gifts to the hospital where they are distributed to the children during their annual event. The generosity of the Northern Highlands community is truly astounding every year.

## BOE Announces Facilities Improvements

The Administration and the Board of Education are pleased to inform you of the significant improvements to our facilities that have been completed this summer. Many of these projects were partially subsidized by state grants for up to 40 percent of the cost. We are extremely proud of these improvements, which we've been able to accomplish while staying within the 2% tax levy cap.

1. Installation of an additional 30 internal security cameras.
2. Major improvements in drainage around the school.
3. Complete resurfacing of the tennis courts.
4. Installation of new lighting controls to conserve electricity.
5. Installation of water valves to improve efficiency and facilitate any required repairs.
6. Renovation and upgrading of the female coaches' facilities.
8. Renovation of bathrooms.

**Thank you, voters, for approving the referendum on the roof in 2013.**

This past summer, the first of a two-part project to replace the roof on the original two school buildings was completed. The front building was done this summer, including the auditorium, offices, main gymnasium and classrooms. Next summer, the roof on the second building will be replaced.

## COME SUPPORT THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION!

Pasta Mania, on January 29th beginning at 4 pm, is an annual Northern Highlands Sports Association fundraiser which supports the entire athletic program. Your ticket includes an all you can eat pasta dinner, salad, desserts, as well as, entry into four basketball games and a wrestling match. There will also be an auction that will include four parking spaces for Juniors!

The Sports Association will also run its Annual Golf and Tennis Outing on May 18th. A cocktail hour, dinner and silent auction will follow.

## Race To Nowhere

"Race to Nowhere" is a thought provoking documentary that examines the current culture of education in the United States. The film features moving stories of students who have been pushed to the edge by over-scheduling, over-testing and the relentless pressure to achieve.

The screening of the film, and the panel discussion that followed, were a full house event at Northern Highlands in the fall.

The film will be rescreened on January 13th at 5:30. The screening will be followed by small group discussions amongst attendees. Look for details on the school website.

Thank you to HASA for funding this very important program.



The Highlands Regiment Marching Band won their third-in-a-row USSBA Group 4A National Championship in November, with caption awards for best music, best visual and best overall effect. They also won the US Army Award for Loyalty, Duty, Selfless Service, Discipline, Team, Honor and Respect.

## Upcoming Events

- January 8th, 7 PM Guidance Department Meeting on Financial Aid
- January 13th, 5:30 PM Race to Nowhere
- January 15th, 7 PM DECA Fashion Show
- January 24th, 7 PM A Cappella Mid-Atlantic Championship
- January 29th, 4 PM Pasta Mania
- February 5th, 7 PM HASA – Academic Overview – Meet the Supervisors
- February 12th, 7 PM “Unguarded,” A Lesson in Substance Abuse
- March 5-7th, 7 PM & March 8th, 2 PM Spring Musical, “Anything Goes”
- May 15th, 6:30 PM Incoming 9th Grade Orientation
- May 18th, Sports Association Golf & Tennis Outing
- May 30th, Relay for Life
- June 19th, Graduation



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