



Want to learn more about the newest additions to Shelter Island Schools student body? Turn to **PAGE 3** to get to know them!



SHELTER ISLAND CAFETERIA 2.0

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PERFECT FALL DAY ON SHELTER ISLAND

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THE INLET

Vol. 13, No. 1

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2024

PHOTO BY JACKSON ROHRER THE JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM HUDDLED UP AFTER A HOME GAME 5-3 VICTORY.

Back On the Field

By Betzaida Campos

As summer fades and the fall season begins, excitement for the second season of the junior varsity soccer team has risen. With a roster filled with returning players and newcomers under Coach Conrardy's guidance, the familiar sounds of whistles and cheering have filled Fiske Field again.

The early matches tested the resolve of the Islanders. In their season opener against Pierson on September 4th, the team faced tough competition, resulting in a loss. However, this setback only fueled their determination. The players remained committed to improving their skills and showing everyone else what makes Shelter Island unique. Senior captain Jaxson Rylott says his favorite part is, "The team aspect. I love practicing with my team, watching my team develop, going to games, grinding out a hard-fought victory, and celebrating after we win." Their resilience is truly inspiring.

Despite the uneasy start, the Islanders have started to find their rhythm as the season progresses. Now with an 8-game winning streak (at press time), an improvement compared to last year's season. There have been remarkable moments like senior captain Harrison Weslek's hat trick (when a player scores three goals in one game) against Mattituck in the first 3 minutes of the game which ignited team spirits and led to another thrilling win. A comeback from their first

loss against Pierson, beating them 5-3 at home was yet another victory. Jaxson Rylott also scored a hat trick in that game. Such moments have demonstrated the players' immense dedication, teamwork, and athleticism.

As the season continues, the Shelter Island Junior Varsity team eagerly anticipates their final game on Monday, October 21st, away at Greenport, with a current record of 9 out of 11 games won. The players are determined to build on their successes. Coach Conrardy remains confident, saying, "I'm proud of the group and proud of our winning culture and our high competition level." With the excitement and sadness of the season-ending, the team is ready to take it on, fueled by their passion for soccer.

Captains Harrison Weslek and Jaxson Rylott give a big shout-out to sophomore Evan Weslek and junior Harry Clark for their incredible goalkeeping. The soccer season is not only about the games, but also about the teamwork and shared love for the sport all the players share. The team has also been actively involved in community events, such as soccer intramurals, fostering a strong bond with the local community. "Fútbol is life," as the team says and they will cherish the experiences they make this season and for all the ones to come.

VOLLEYBALL 2024:

TEAMS PERSEVERE THROUGH A CHALLENGING SEASON

By Natalie Mamisashvili

This season's JV volleyball team is coached by Physical Education teacher Mrs. Sweeney. She acknowledges that the team faced some challenging competition this season, but says, "The season has been very exciting and full of growth! With a small roster of 9, I have been so proud of the commitment and work ethic the team has shown."

In a recent game against Greenport, Shelter Island took the win. After losing the first set, team captain Juliana Medina stepped up to serve. Scoring with eight consecutive serves, the Islanders' enthusiasm on the court came out in full force. Shelter Island took the second set and pushed the match to a tiebreaker. The final set was a one for one on the scoreboard with each point answered by the opposing team. Then, it was freshman Kylie Kuhr's turn to serve. One after another, the score went up. After getting 12 serves in a row, Kylie pushed the score to 24 to 15. Shelter Island won the game in no time after that. Coach Sweeney attributed the win to communication and serving. After the game, Kylie, who had been asking Coach Sweeney to try a jump serve in the games, earned the right to try it out in the next matchup. Juliana Medina was also all smiles, saying, "Volleyball this year has been a really fun experience, I think the JV team has a really strong bond."

The varsity team has also faced a tough season, but Coach Cindy Belt is taking it all in stride. About the sport she loves, she says, "I played volleyball in high school, college, and even still play some today. My favorite part of the sport is that it is a true team game. No one person can dominate, everyone contributes to the game." Varsity's best showing this season was against Pierson. It was a very close game, with the Islanders just missing taking home the win. During the first set, junior Mae Brigham scored with 11 serves in a row, which helped the team win the set 25-17. The second set was a narrow loss at 25-22. In the third set, junior Mandy Marcello had some excellent hits and nice team passes and blocks kept the game competitive. In the end, the Islanders lost the match, but the game showcased some impressive skills on the court. Coach Cindy Belt appreciates all aspects of coaching and for her it isn't just about winning. She says, "My favorite part about being a coach is seeing the skills and confidence of each player improve throughout the season. I love seeing the pride as the team completes good plays or when a player finally gets that serve over in a game. Hard work does pay off!"

Both JV and varsity volleyball saw tough, competitive seasons this year, but also a lot of player growth. Congratulations to all the players.



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(PRINTED) PRINT MEDIA: IT MUST BE SAVED

BY JACKSON ROHRER

With the introduction of the internet, printed newspapers have been on a slow decline. The rise of digital platforms have changed how we consume news, as people began to prefer quick, clickable content, over in-depth, print journalism. Digital media is faster, more convenient, and advertisers have shifted their funds accordingly. For many years, local papers have been getting smaller in size. The Shelter Island Reporter is no exception. But even in the face of these challenges, printed newspapers—especially those like the Reporter's physical print—remain important and impactful, perhaps even more so in small communities like ours.

The relevance of printed media may have diminished on a global scale, but for Shelter Island, the Reporter is a lifeline. Our small, tight-knit community relies on the paper not just for news, but for a sense of solidarity. In a world where most information is consumed through scrolling screens and rapid updates, the printed Reporter offers something different—a grounded, thoughtful account of the events that shape our town. Whether it's a recent town hall meeting, a school event, or a feelgood story, the Reporter is telling the narrative of our everyday lives, documenting everything that matters to the Shelter Island community. Even in an era of misinformation, the Reporter stands as a reliable source of truth. As Ambrose Clancy, the editor of the Reporter, put it, "We're living through a period where truth is something people argue about, and misinformation is spread by bad actors trying to achieve political victories. Newspapers – legitimate newspapers - can keep communities informed by telling the truth, and allow readers to make up their own minds, backed by solid facts."

The Reporter, like other print media companies, has been losing a battle against

digital media for quite some time. While the Reporter, which now offers a physical print and a digital print, has been slowly declining in readership, the lack of readers isn't the biggest problem they are facing. It's advertisement. Digital advertisement can be targeted to viewers that are more likely to be interested in a product. Digital advertising has a greater success rate and digital platforms provide advertisers with statistics, as data explains how many people clicked on the ad, how many people bought the item they are selling, etc. Digital advertising has its advantages, but results in smaller profit margins for newspapers, causing a funding gap.

This past summer, the Reporter announced it would soon cease print, due to lack of funding. The Shelter Island community, fearing their beloved local paper wouldn't exist any longer, responded accordingly. Increased advertisement from local businesses, new subscribers, and word of mouth around the island brought the paper back to its feet. The Reporter recently announced its continuation to print through 2025, which is a testament to the fact that even in this age where digital media is dominating, small, local newspapers still have an influence. Whether you buy the Reporter every Thursday, or just read it occasionally, there's something nostalgic when reading the physical printespecially when it's focused on your life.

Moreover, print offers the ability to focus and connect with content more than you can with digital content. In our hyper-distracting digital world, reading online means constant interruptions—whether by ads, notifications, or the urge to click from one thing to the next. Picking up a printed newspaper offers something different. It's a chance to slow down and really engage with a story. There's a rewarding feeling you get when reading on paper. No distractions,

no skimming headlines, and you're more likely to fully read the article. You're not just skimming through headlines; you're processing the ideas. That kind of thoughtful reading experience creates a lasting impact that digital media struggles to match.

In this day and age, especially in our small community, investigative journalism is a crucial part of our society. However, with digital platforms, the impact lengthy articles leave can be minimal. Informative, in-depth investigations require the kind of platform that only printed journalism can provide. While digital news is quick and efficient, it leans towards short content that skips over the deeper analysis needed to truly understand complex issues. Print journalism, though, allows for the kind of detailed narratives that can lead to real change. Without the presence of printed newspapers, we risk losing that thoroughness and accountability we need in our society.

With all of that being said, there's no doubt that the news industry has been changing with every new generation. With the introduction of the internet, news articles can be found anytime, right from a computer. In my generation, social media is the newest host of news publications that continues to threaten the livelihood of printed media. Social media is easily integrated into journalism, as most major news companies have some form of social media, where they release content that is often targeted at youth. However, I see all over the Shelter Island School building, students reading articles from the Reporter, which discusses a sports team they are a part of, or an article from the school's newspaper, about a new classmate or another student's opinion. While it's hard for today's youth to maintain an interest in global news, reading about an issue that affects their daily lives is of great interest.

It still means something to a kid to be able to cut an article and picture about their athletic or academic accomplishment out of the newspaper and put it on their fridge.

For 16 years now, The Inlet has been consistently publishing a physical print, which allows students to write on important school events, express their opinions, and leave a legacy that can be re-read after their high school careers. In a time when everything is moving to the digital world, it's amazing to see students still interested in writing for a newspaper. This year, the school's journalism program has enrolled 20 students, more than a third of the entire high school, who are all excited to write for the paper. Each issue produced represents the hard work and creativity of each student who contributes. I speak from experience when saying, it's rewarding to hold a physical print in my hands, knowing that I contributed to it. As a bonus, it will be delivered to 1,800 post office boxes around the island, making it even more impactful and rewarding to produce.

In the end, both the Shelter Island Reporter and The Inlet prove that even though the way we consume news has been changing for years, and will continue to change, print media's impact remains strong and should not die. Whether it's keeping our community informed, documenting local history, or offering a space for deeper reflection, printed newspapers still play a vital role in our society. As we prepare for another year of publishing at The Inlet, I'm excited to be part of the ongoing legacy this newspaper has. The Inlet isn't just a school newspaper—it's a testament to the fact that digital media hasn't taken over, and today's youth can make a meaningful impact in traditional ways.



SENIORS FIRST DAY

Photo by Mrs. Erin Baskin

Seniors smile on their last first day! From top left: Advisor Erin Baskin, then seniors: Charlie Murray, Robert Beckwith, Harrison Weslek, Jaxson Rylott, and Nathan Cronin. From bottom left: Paulina Nava, Dariana Dura Alvarado, Betzaida Campos, and Johanna Kaasik.

We would love to hear from from you!

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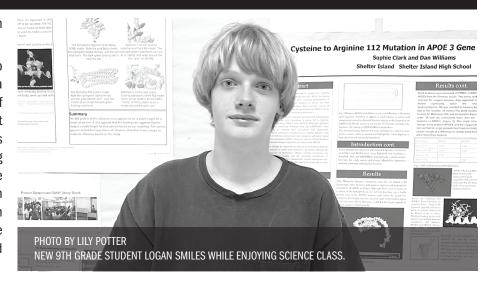
WELCOME LOGAN!

BY LILY POTTER

In fall of September 2024, Logan Porzio joined Shelter Island School from Springs. Though Logan had visited Shelter Island before, he has only recently moved here full time. Logan states that the biggest change from his old school to Shelter Island is the size. When asked about his thoughts on Shelter Island School, he shares "My first impression was that it would be pretty welcoming and it was." Logan's reasons for joining Shelter Island School are simple, Springs cuts off at 8th grade, so he moved here and made the switch from Springs. Logan is happy to be here, and has some goals in mind for his first year of high school:

he wants to enjoy science, do well this year in it, and play one or two sports.

If you haven't gotten the chance to get to know Logan yet, he was willing to share a bit about himself. Logan is the youngest of two kids and has an older sister. He doesn't have pets, but is a huge cat person and is hoping to get one soon. Logan loves fishing at Orient Point and playing video games. He also enjoys the board game Monopoly! When it comes to books, Logan would rather watch the movie. If you see Logan in the halls, be sure to welcome him to the Shelter Island School community!



NEW TO SCHOOL, NOT NEW TO THE ISLAND: MAEVE SPRINGER BY JULIANA MEDINA



Fourteen year old Maeve Springer recently joined Shelter Island School's class of 2028. Although Maeve has been a lifelong resident of Shelter Island, she attended Our Lady of the Hamptons Catholic school in Southampton. Moving to Shelter Island High School has definitely been an adjustment for Maeve. She shares, "especially on the first day because I was still figuring everything out," but so far she is enjoying her time being a part of our community. Unlike her previous school, Shelter Island allows her to go off campus during her lunch period and socialize with peers, which she is very thankful for. Maeve says that her favorite thing about Shelter Island School is that "you're never stuck in one place." She says this because at her previous school she was only able to walk around for a very brief period of time since her classes were very close together. Maeve also appreciates the freedom that she is privileged to have, especially because she used to be required to wear a uniform at her

former school, which she was not too fond of. Currently her favorite subjects are Global History with Mr. Brennan and Spanish with Ms. Kotula.

After school Maeve enjoys being a part of the junior varsity girls volleyball team. She also plays for the Shelter Island varsity golf team and plans to join the junior varsity girls basketball team in the winter. Outside of school, Maeve also enjoys dancing during her free time and was part of a dance team for 8 years. She even participated in many out of state competitions. Although she does not dance competitively at the moment, she continues to dance as a hobby. Maeve's goals for the rest of the year are to "have a high average and get onto high honor roll." She also hopes to keep honing athletic abilities in order to become the best athlete she can be. Overall, Maeve is "happy" to be part of the Shelter Island High School and the class of 2028 is happy to have her.

A WARM WELCOME: ACXEL OCHOA LOPEZ JOINS THE FRESHMAN CLASS BY JACKSON ROHRER

A few weeks into the school year, Acxel Ochoa Lopez joined the freshman class. Originally from Guatemala, Acxel moved to Shelter Island to pursue a better education and have more opportunities. Reflecting on the change, he said, "I used to attend Faith and Excitement #48 in Guatemala. Shelter Island is much smaller than my old school, which had 200 kids." Despite this, Acxel is happy with his new school environment, describing it as "calm, and I like that a lot." His favorite subjects so far are Math, Spanish, and Art.

Outside of school, Acxel enjoys drawing, focusing on various shading techniques. "I love to draw, especially different shading pieces," he explained. Alongside his interest in art, Acxel enjoys listening to music and spending time with friends at different beaches on the island. "My favorites are Wades Beach and Sunset Beach," he mentioned.

Looking forward, Acxel hopes to join the junior varsity soccer team next year and plans to practice throughout the year to prepare for the next year's season. Be sure to give Acxel a warm welcome if you see him around school!



STUDENT COUNCIL 2024

BY MAKAYLA CRONIN

As some of you may know, the Student Council has recently been voted in by the student body of Shelter Island High School. This includes a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The students voted into Student Council this year are Harrison Weslek as President, Lio Napoles as Vice President, Johanna Kaasik as Treasurer, and

Juliana Medina as Secretary.

The Student Council advisors this year are Mr. Sean Brennan and Mr. Jimbo Theinert. Mr. Brennan believes the Student Council is "meant to represent the student body to the superintendent and school board." While Mr. Theinert says, "I think it's to provide a voice to students. For things they want to see

happen, for things they want to see changed, and giving them some sort of an outlet. In elementary school, they will be on the PTSA where the parents do a lot, the teachers have their teachers union, students have Student Council."

Harrison Welsek is excited to start off the school year as President for the 2nd year in a row. I asked Harrison what he was most excited for this school year and he said, "Working with Mr. Theinert and Mr. Brennan, and brainstorming new ideas and how to push new and exciting activities." The student body looks forward to seeing what the Student Council accomplishes this year!

MS. CALLAHAN ON TEACHING, SHELTER ISLAND, AND REALIZING HER CHILDHOOD DREAM

BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

Meet the newest member of the science department, Ms. Morgan Callahan. Originally from East Northport, Ms. Callahan explains she found out about Shelter Island School with the help of someone familiar to our school. She shares, "I came here last year to help out at the science fair and that's when I learned about the school, and I really liked the atmosphere here. I also knew Ms. Pfenning from one of my Ecology classes at Stony Brook." Although Ms. Callahan was initially offered a job teaching in the city, she declined, stating, "I was hired by a school in the city originally, but I am not a city girl." As of now what Ms. Callahan likes most about our school is, "The students." She adds, "You're all very kind and respectful." When asked how she likes Shelter Island itself, she says, "I love Shelter Island. It is full of so many kind people and you really get to know each other and build important relationships."



A little bit of backstory on Ms.Callahan: She received an undergraduate degree from Farmingdale State College, then a graduate degree from Stony Brook University. She studied Bioscience at Farmingdale and then pursued a Masters of Arts in teaching biology from Stony Brook. Teaching has always been Ms.Callahan's dream. When asked if that was always the plan, she shares, "ever since I was very little I always wanted to be a teacher." Her favorite class to teach is the sixth grade and when asked why, she says, "The kids haven't been introduced much to science and it gives me the opportunity to show them how cool it can be." Outside of school Ms. Callahan enjoys multiple outdoor activities like hiking. "I like being in nature and practicing meditation," she says. We are excited to welcome Ms. Callahan into the school, if you get a chance, so say hello.

TRANSPORTATION AND POWER WITH MR. CONRARDY BY ROSIE HANLEY

This year we have several new electives in the curriculum, and one that has been brought back to Shelter Island: Transportation and Power taught by Mr. Conrardy. Mr. Conrardy says he brought back this class to teach kids to "repair and understand small engines, as well as show the kids all the different types of transportation" so they can use that valuable information later in life. He hopes that this class will allow kids to at least

have a basic knowledge of the machines we all use everyday, which will hopefully keep them, their friends, and family from spending unnecessary money on simple fixes that they can easily do at home for free!

Like most of Mr. Conrardys classes, the work is almost exclusively working on big projects. When asked, Mr. Conrardy describes the class work as "hands on work with a variety of different hand tools and mechanics" and says that the only homework that he expects students to do is to help themselves and others out with what they learn in class. The in-class projects range from small engineering projects to rebuilding and revamping a small motor vehicle built in class. Mr. Conrardy says that he will also take project requests from students who are interested in certain fields in engineering

to help them further their studies. However, not all of these projects have to be typical school projects, for example, Mr. Conrardy says, "if the students want we can modify their vehicles." Overall, this class is most well suited for students who are interested in technical or automotive engineering and may want to continue this class into college, as well as those who just want to explore their more hands-on side!

NEW COURSE ALERT: "THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE FICTION" WITH MS. PFENNING BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI

This school year we have a new class called "The Science of Science Fiction." This class is for tenth through twelfth grades, ninth period everyday. This class will teach students how physics, astronomy, and chemistry are portrayed in books, movies, and tv shows. If you like sci-fi books or films, this is definitely a class you should consider taking, because in the class you can get into the science in sci-fi movies you love.

Ms. Pfenning explains, "We have different units that are based on these themes of science fiction in this course. For example, our first unit is all about superheroes, what could be real, if superman could fly, where he might get his powers. How do planes actually fly? What's the physics of flying? Every time

we bring up a scene in science fiction, or a character that seems unrealistic, we'll talk about how science works around it. For example, in our superhero unit, the students gave a presentation about their favorite superhero and then talked about the science behind it." She explained that the students got into deep detail about their superheroes and it was a lot of fun.

The second unit of the year will cover aliens and space travel. In that unit, students may watch "Anything from 'Star Wars,' to 'Star Trek,' to 'The Martian,'" Ms. Pfenning explained. She went on, "We will talk about is it possible: Could aliens exist? Where can they exist? Why is Earth minimal to life? How did we get here? How can life evolve? Is it

possible for aliens to exist based on all of that? Then we will have a space exploration unit and discuss what it would take to colonize Mars. The students are going to create a project where they create a strategy for how they would colonize Mars, then compare it to the current NASA strategy. NASA is with the Artemis program, they are planning to go to Mars, first to the moon, then to Mars. So, we will create our own strategy then compare it to NASA."

Students will also work on research topics and present their findings to classmates. Games like "Terraforming Mars" will also be a class favorite. What does she anticipate will ber her favorite part of the new class? Ms. Pfenning answered, "I'm a huge sci-fi

nerd. I feel like I get to actually talk about what I go home and watch, I just finished "The Mandalorian" and now we are going to have a "Star Wars" unit. I get to bring in some of my favorite shows and movies and talk about science. Being a science teacher I always have this lens when I watch a show, like I'm always looking for science or happen to notice if something is realistic or not. I want students to approach movies and books the same way and think about if the physics of something will work or not, or if a planet could be real. I want students to walk away from this course with the same lens I look at the world through, of what's real."

I ENDORSE KAMALA HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT

RV MAE RRIGHAM



Kamala Harris would get my vote this November if I were of voting age. She addresses issues of importance to me and does not dodge them. She plans on adopting Biden's plans to relieve student debt and loans. She has spoken about attempting to make it a more thorough process to obtain a gun permit. However, at the same time she isn't banning guns or disregarding the 2nd amendment. She is focused on trying to provide a safer environment for all Americans. Harris also stated that the climate crisis would be a "top national security priority." When she originally ran in 2019 for President, Harris proposed a \$10 million dollar plan dedicated to holding corporations and polluters accountable for the damage they cause, as well as the threat they pose to our country. I feel hopeful that her plans will contribute towards combating climate change and make a difference for me and future generations.

Those who argue that Harris is unqualified frustrate me. She has been on one of the most progressive presidential tickets in U.S. history, making historic strides policy wise. The Biden & Harris administration established the office of gun violence prevention, as well as implemented the Inflation Reduction Act. They invested \$240 million in cancer research, as well as \$1.2 trillion dollars to rebuild infrastructure, which means bridges, airports, waterways, roads, etc. This administration also invested significantly in labor unions. They put money where they knew it would benefit the working class. Madame Vice President has years of experience as a Senator and Attorney General. She is a prosecutor convicting felons. While her opponent is a 32 time convicted felon. As a result, I see Harris as the obvious choice to run a safe America over the Trump administration.

The main reason why Kamala Harris is the candidate I endorse is her support of women's rights. As a young woman, I believe I should have autonomous control of my uterus and body. In general, I don't know and can't even fathom how this is brought up for debate in the first place. The fact that control of one's body, a natural born right, is even up for debate in 2024 is absurd to me. This right for women is stripped away and controlled by legislation made by men without the exact thing they are regulating. I see Harris being vocal about her beliefs that abortion rights are human rights. That's the one area in which I agree with her completely and utterly. Her stance on this is the driving force behind my support for her as a Presidential candidate. I see her as a possibility to move forward in this area instead of going backward, like the overturning of Roe v. Wade, which happened under the Trump administration.

TRUMP 2024

RV I FXI IFRNICK

Former President Donald Trump would get my vote in the Presidential election of 2024. He is an honest person and will express his opinions and values and wants what is best for the American people. With regards to inflation and the economy, he has a set plan in place. As someone who is coming of age and driving, it is not affordable to pay for 3-5 dollars just for one gallon of gas while working a minimum wage job. Trump plans to reopen and finish the Keystone XL pipeline that President Biden shut down. He also has a plan to open up more federal land to do more drilling so as a country we can be fuel energy independent, instead of relying on other countries. With that, it should bring gas prices down to what they used to be between \$1-2 dollars a gallon. Donald Trump originally came up with the plan to have no more taxes on tips. He also has stated that he wants no tax on overtime, which shows the American people that hard work pays off. Robert F Kennedy Jr (a long time Democrat whose entire family have been Democrats has also endorsed president Trump) claimed that this generation (us) is going to be the first generation to grow up poorer than our parents if the economy keeps going the way it is. There is also the issue of interest rates. I plan to own my own house one day. Interest rates are

somewhere between 6-7%, when pre-Biden they were around 2%. No young adult is realistically going to be able to afford that one day. As fuel prices drop, interest rates would come down, which would lead to a decrease in inflation and make our country's financial living standards better overall.

Another thing Donald Trump is very passionate about is his opinions on abortion. In particular, he opposes late term pregnancy abortion. He sees and understands certain situations, such as a mother's life is at risk, or perhaps a mother who has been raped. And, fertility treatments are something that President Trump strongly supports. The cost of IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) has increased considerably over the years. After hearing that they might not be able to have children, many women immediately consider IVF treatment. As a result, families end up in deep debt for the rest of their lives just to achieve parenthood. Trump's plan is to make fertility treatment as a whole cheaper/covered by insurance. As he has stated, he wants "more babies" for America. Trump's plans for IVF coverage will benefit future generations financially and give women a better chance of becoming mothers. Several times the former President has stated he will never support restricting birth control in any way for women, making that always an option to help prevent pregnancy. With this plan in the future, I see it giving women more options with the end goal of not being in as much financial debt and having a happily ever after with a family.

While some arguments are made that Trump isn't fit for the job because he is 78 years old and/or he is "only" a businessman without enough experience in politics, I completely disagree. Trump has enough experience in the real world to know what is best for the people. I see him as the best option for our country to be successful within the next 4 years. Harris is saying she will do all these things if she is elected. But what about right now? She has been VP for four years. Why hasn't she influenced more change? President Trump does everything in his power to protect basic human rights, he has no intentions of going against the second amendment rights, and he has said "give me one day" and he will do everything in his power to stop the active wars that are now underway in Ukraine/Russia and Israel/Palestine. Trump is also focused on bringing back jobs to the U.S. This election



determines a lot about my future. I'll turn 18 in two years. This election determines if I will be able to buy a car, will be able to look ahead to buy my own house, and not be in debt for the rest of my life. Hence, I am confident that President Trump will run the country more effectively than Vice President Harris could.

ELECTION 2024

BY DANIEL HERNANDEZ

NO ENDORSEMENT

In my opinion, though I am not of voting age, if I were in November, I would struggle to cast a vote for either Trump or Harris. For me, there are a few key issues. The first being gun control. I am a teenager in school. School shootings and school safety are issues that need attention, however, I don't feel that either candidate has the answer I need. Trump certainly doesn't. He has made clear he is funded by the NRA and won't do anything to limit access to AR-15s or other guns in the name of the 1st amendment. The Biden-Harris Administration has reportedly "invested more resources in school safety and taken significant steps to keep firearms out of school." Yet, though this may be true, since 2024 began in the United States, there have been 29 school shootings with 24 fatalities and 66 injuries. In four years, Harris (along with Biden) has not made the impact on gun control I would like to see, so how can I trust she would in another four?

Another key issue for me is immigration. Coming from an immigrant family, it is a big concern for me. I do not believe in an open border, but I also don't believe that we should conduct mass deportations. I don't believe that Latinos should be punished and sent back to potential danger if they are making a decent living and helping the economy by working the jobs of everyday Americans and have not been in trouble with the law. In a CNN article that follows Trump's promises in his election campaign, it is reported he will attempt to enact the "Alien Enemies Act." This act would "effectively" remove known or suspected gang members, drug dealers, and cartel members. If Trump does this, then I agree with this plan. Trump also wants to give automatic green cards to immigrants who graduate college. This is amazing because it opens so many opportunities to immigrants to be successful. For me, this gives Trump points. The problem I have with Harris is once again the fact that she has been in office for four years and the immigration issue is still a mess. To me, Harris doesn't seem to be a strong vote on this issue. Her plans that address

the border are valid, but dance around the topic. Since her 2019-2020 presidential campaign run she seems to have gotten more conservative about the border, which speaks to the fact that she knows there is an issue. In particular, Harris has mentioned more closely examining asylum claims. This is a positive. Harris also states she is working with Central American diplomats to problem solve economic and safety issues in their own countries. This is another good strategy and could improve conditions in immigrants' home countries. I still wonder though, why hasn't more changed to address the mess at our country's border in four years with Harris/Biden?

Finally, my biggest concern out of everything for my future is being able to afford a house. This is one major issue that America is struggling with. Harris's plan for housing includes building 3 million new homes and rentals. Along with that, she will provide up to \$25,000 in downpayment support for first time buyers and \$10,000 dollars in tax credits for first time buyers. This is great

and if Harris wins, new homebuyers would get support that could make a big difference in their lives and the 66% of Gen Z who thinks they might never be able to own a home might have some hope. Trump's plan on housing is much less clear to me. It seems he wants to make super low cost housing, but how he would do this is left undefined. Trump also pins the problem of housing costs on immigration, so he wants to rid as many immigrants as possible to lower housing costs. Ouch, not a good look. I favor Harris on this issue.

In my opinion, both candidates have good aspects of their presidential plans and also are problematic in other areas. This election will determine how so many of our country's problems find solutions and questions get answers (or don't), therefore, it is important to make your own "right choice." So, do you research and cast a vote!

CROSS COUNTRY TEAM SEES YOUNG RUNNERS SHINE

BY ELI GREEN

At the close of last year's season, the fate of cross country for the 2024 season was unknown because there were only 2 runners on the team last season and the spring track and field team had no participants. Yet, the team is up and running (literally) and starting off strong. The team is small with just three boys and 2 girls, and runners are showing nothing but improvement in meets. Boys cross country runners include sophomore Henry Springer and freshmen Eli Green and Nathaniel Overstreet. The female runners are both freshmen: Lily Potter and Danielle Rassmussen.

To kick off the season, the Islanders won their meets in a landslide. The boys took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. This first race introduced the 5K distance runners would get familiar with this season. As the season progressed, runners shaved significant time off of their finishes. At the 2.5 mile run at Southold on

the 28th of September, the teams improved an absurd amount with boys shaving 2-4 minutes off of their 5K times, running between 14:28 and 16:59 for the 2.5. Girls shaved off about 3 minutes from their times running 21:57 and 22:40. The team has consistently improved after every meet.

The team is currently preparing for the state qualifiers in late October for the state championships on the 16th of November. Runners are not stopping, no matter the weather conditions, with some adding extra mileage before school in the morning. Coach Green said, "We aren't going to taper training for meets, we are running through them." Coach Green believes that the team can get to states if they really want to. We wish the best of luck to the runners in their bid for states.



VARSITY GOLF 2024: LEARNING THE GAME

BY LILY BRIGHAM

This fall, the Shelter Island golf team is young, but ready to plan and learn to hone their games. Although the roster has had some changes, there are returning players and new players ready for this season. The team is 7 players strong. Returning players include junior Mae Brigham, sophomore Jackson Rohrer, freshmen Liam Sobejana and Lily Brigham, and eighth grader William Marshall. New team members this year are freshman Maeve Springer and eighth grader Elizabeth Weslek. The golf schedule includes 10 contests this year.

I caught up with Maeve Springer and asked her what she hopes for the team this season. She stated, "I have high hopes we are going to win a match." It's her very first year on the team and she is set to be a great player. Team captain for a second year Jackson Rohrer spends a lot of time on the golf course. He reports his favorite part of the sport is "the competitive side of it." Coach Bob Destefano admits, "The Shelter Island golf team is a younger team this year" and his ultimate goal includes "trying to make golfers out of them." The team members this season all grew in their skills and a congratulations to Maeve Springer and Jackson Rohrer for winning individual games.



SOCCER INTRAMURALS LAUNCHES

BY RYAN SANWALD

This year's soccer intramural team is ready to go and learn new things. Their coach Peter Miedema came into the season excited. Coach Miedema's hope for the soccer program is to give the kids new opportunities and get them ready to play JV soccer. He strongly suggests every student should come give it a try so they can learn something new. This team is boys and girls mixed, mainly the 6th grade students currently because 7th and 8th grade have other sports as well. The average soccer practice starts with warm ups and stretching, then they move on to basic touches and dribbling. For the last half of practice, players like to scrimmage and practice real game situations. Coach Miedema says that it is very important for them to be able to play under pressure and be able handle stressful situations easily.

The team practices from 3-4 everyday

after school by the tennis courts. When the JV soccer team is not using their field, sometimes they will use the big field. Mr. Miedema's favorite sport he coaches may be basketball, but he finds a lot of similarities between basketball and soccer, for example, moving without the ball and playing as a team.

The soccer season may be coming to an end, but these intramural athletes will keep at it all year round with basketball and other sports. If you did not get a chance to play this year, check it out in the fall. There is a sign up, but if other sports or conflicts come up, it is ok if players miss practices here and there. Miedema is just trying to provide a good environment and opportunity for the kids to learn from and prepare them for high school sports.



SHELTER ISLAND YOUTH GROUP IS BACK BY JOHANNA KAASIK

Exciting news for students looking for new fun activities! The Shelter Island Youth Group is coming back in full swing. This year, our Mr. Knipfing has picked the torch back up. In the past, the group had monthly meetings, but this year he wants to keep the focus on service and recreational trips both on and off the island. When asked, Mr. Knipfing described his goal

is to "allow young people to get to know themselves a little bit better, who they are, and what they want to be." He wants the Youth Group to serve as an open setting where students of any religious affiliation feel welcomed to interact with the people they know in a new context. The Youth Group is open to any students in grades 7-12 wanting to do more community

service, have fun with their classmates, or just get off the island. Sign up for their first trip to The Clubhouse in East Hampton is opening up soon, so be sure to reach out on their website siyouthgroup.weebly.com, @si_yg on instagram, or reach out to their email shelterislandyg@gmail.com and check your PO Boxes for more information on the way!



Ms. Prior joins the Guidance



BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI

Ms. Prior is our new guidance counselor at Shelter Island School. This is her first job in a school aside from subbing at Shelter Island last year. Previously, she worked with a professional pet transporting company. This meant that if your company was moving you for work, their job was to move your pets for you. "I move household pets, so like cats, dogs, I do move horses, ferrets, stuff like that, fish, anything you have as a household pet," Ms. Prior explained. She first worked in New York, then later was able to work from home and has been for over 10 years. Ms. Prior attended Long Island University and has a Master's degree in Mental Health and School Counseling. She says that her goal working at Shelter Island School is to be the best she can be. "This is what I went to school for, but I haven't done this in a very long time. This is something I always wanted to do and my dream for when I had kids was to work in a school and be a guidance counselor," Ms. Prior mentions. When she was

younger she had a strong bond and relationship with her guidance counselor, which resulted in her wanting to become one. "I have three children, so my hobbies have been set to the side, but before I had kids I was really into ceramics and throwing, I used to have my own studio. Now there is not a lot of time for me, but hopefully someday I can get back to that," Ms. Prior explains. She has three young kids, which is a handful, but outside of school she enjoys getting her nails done and working out. Growing up, her favorite subjects were psychology and mental health, which also played a part in her wanting to become a guidance counselor. Ms Prior said,

At home, you can catch Ms. Prior hanging out with her family, her dog, and watching movies. She says, "I have a dog, he is a Barbet which is a french water dog. I got him when my husband and I were getting married." As for movies, she adds, "My favorite movies are probably 'Home Alone" and 'Big Daddy." If you haven't met Ms Prior, make sure to stop in to talk to her. She is always ready to help.



Congratulations to ENL teacher Mrs. a honeymoon trip to Europe next year, where mostly family, at the scenic Swan Lake Golf Club in Manorville, the weather was "perfect and everything went smoothly," according to Mrs. Baskin. The ceremony was officiated by Mrs. Baskin's cousin and her 102-yearold grandmother was there to watch it all happen, which made the day even more special. Although later mentioning her only regret was not DJing the wedding herself, she said her day was full of joy and memorable moments. Mrs. and Mr. Baskin are planning

Baskin (formally Ms. Mulrain) on her amazing they aim to attend Premier League Soccer wedding! Celebrating with 140 guests, matches. If you see Mrs. Baskin, don't call her Ms. Mulrain (and say congratulations, too)!At home, you can catch Ms. Prior hanging out with her family, her dog, and watching movies. She says, "I have a dog, he is a Barbet which is a french water dog. I got him when my husband and I were getting married." As for movies, she adds, "My favorite movies are probably 'Home Alone"' and 'Big Daddy.'" If you haven't met Ms Prior, make sure to stop in to talk to her. She is always ready to help.



Congratulations to School Psychologist Mrs. Spears and Mr. Bruno on their beautiful summer wedding which took place in the Caribbean on the island of Saint Lucia. With a small wedding ceremony of 20 guests, the happy couple celebrated on a cliff top overlooking the sea. One of the notable highlights of the day was a catamaran ride

to the reception, adding a memorable touch to their celebration. Mrs. Spears has decided to keep her last name, as she has always liked it. Looking ahead, Mrs. Spears and her husband are planning an exciting honeymoon trip to Greece and Italy where they plan to explore stunning countries. If you see Mrs. Spears, don't forget to congratulate her!

HANDS ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES: EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM RETURNS

BY JACKSON ROHRER

The SI School externship program is rapidly evolving, with its first year marked by significant milestones and community partnerships. Jimbo Theinert, the programs coordinator, sat down with us to reflect on his highlights from year one and share his vision for this year's program.

The idea of the externship program came up in a tenth grade Algebra II class. Mr Theinert, alongside alumni Leonardo Dougherty and the class of 2024, were throwing around the idea of a school program that would give students opportunities to get hands-on experience in specialized fields during school days. A year later, "during their junior year, Leonardo hopped on board as a teacher's assistant, to help me plan the program, and externship officially started at the start of the 2023/2024 school year," Mr. Theinert recalled.

With only one year of the program in existence, the externship program has accomplished a lot. By establishing nearly 10 partnerships with local businesses/non-profit organizations, students were exposed to a wide array of careers, from public service, hospitality, and specialized trades, to everything in between.

However, a few programs stood out, "the Strongpoint Theinert Ranch Externship, was definitely one of my favorites," Mr. Theinert said. Students spent multiple weeks in the classroom, and a week in New Mexico, learning about the ins and outs of running a non profit organization. "It was so meaningful to be able to bring students out to the ranch," Mr. Theinert added. Besides Strongpoint, the Binder Pools and Coecles Harbor externships stood out, because of their collaboration with SI School Alumni. For example, "Katie Binder, who attended SI School when I first started teaching here, is now helping her family's business [Binder Pools] run smoothly. It was amazing to bring students to learn about their operations and business management, from an alumni," Mr. Theinert explained.

While last year's programs were impactful to students and community partners, each program came with its logistical challenges. Mr. Theinert's dedicated time for externship coordinationbetween 1:00 and 2:30 pm daily-meant that taking students off campus regularly was nearly impossible. Instead, individual programs were carefully scheduled to maximize their impact. Additionally, students who join an externship program miss their last two classes of the school day. Students are required to get permission from their teachers to miss class time, and make up for their missed work out of school. While this might sound like a complicated process, the experience students are exposed to are "worth the while," Mr. Theinert said.

Last year's program was oriented at taking

students off campus, but this year will shine a light on the opportunities available closer to home. "Programs this year will require time in the classroom before a site visit, and time afterwards to debrief the experience the students were provided with. While the program will see more on campus learning, the goal is still to take students off campus for real world experiences." Mr. Theinert said.

As the externship program grows, so does its role in preparing students for life beyond high school. While externships don't offer college credits, Mr. Theinert highlighted their value for students interested in both college and other career pathways. He explained that externships give students the chance to explore multiple careers, potentially creating interests students hadn't considered. "For students who are college-bound, externships can help them figure out what they want to major in, and what career path they could be geared towards," he said. "It's great for students to gain exposure to different careers before they commit to anything specific," Mr. Theinert added.

This year's externship program is intentionally designed to be a "living and breathing" program, influenced by student input and community opportunities. This year, the program will release a monthly calendar. "Having a calendar helps students plan ahead, gives teachers time to

identify relevant programs for their students, and shows community members how they can get involved," he said. However, the calendar will remain flexible, released on a monthly basis, allowing the program to respond to new opportunities as they arise.

Students interested in participating in an externship can fill out an application outside of Mr. Theinert's classroom.

For businesses interested in partnering with the externship program, please use the QR code below or visit https://sites.google.com/shelterisland.k12.ny.us/externship to express your interest.



SHELTER ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL PLAY SEASON IS ALMOST HERE: WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? BY LILY POTTER

With the elementary play on its way, and the high school play just around the corner, people have started wondering what the high school will perform! So, I decided to ask what people would like to see on stage this year!

Sadie Green-Clark, grade 10 : "I picked Grease because it has a lot of opinions for the character, and it's the original teen beach movie."

Makayla Cronin, grade 9: "Teen Beach, because well, Teen Beach."

Nathan Croin, grade 12: "Sweeney Todd, because the music and the plot is very entertaining, but we won't because there is too much gore."

Lexi Bartilucci, grade 9: "I want the high school play to be Anastasia, because that was my favorite childhood movie and I know all the songs."

Alice Potter, grade 7: "You should do Sweeney Todd, because I think it would be a good challenge!"

Ms. Kotula, teacher: "Phantom of the Opera, because I want to see how our set design people come up with a way for the chandelier scene and I think that the set would be visually stunning and there are plenty of roles for the cast to shine vocally."

Elizabeth Weslek, grade 8: "High School Musical, because I feel like it would be a really good musical to do."

Daniel Hernadaz Rivera, grade 11: "Aladdin, because it would be so cool to see a floating carpet."

Henry Springer, grade 10: "Sweeney Todd, cause Sweeney Todd was a fun musical to watch."

Lucas Reiter, grade 8: "High School Musical, because it would be a good one."

Sloane Katta, grade 5: "I would pick High School Musical, because it is high school and it's a musical!"

Colton Clark, grade 5 : "Titanic because I want to see the big ship on stage."

Larkin Morehead, grade 6 : "The Jungle Book, because it has cool characters!"

WELCOMING THE NEW CAFETERIA STAFF

BY KYLIE KUHR

partnered with a new food company for lunch. With new and improved menus and options, faculty and students are excited. Mrs. Davidson, one of the new cafeteria employees, says about her new position, "I love it so much, I enjoy being with the kids." For Pam, another member of the cafeteria staff, "cooking and working with

This school year, Shelter Island School has a ton of new foods" is a highlight. Both women agreed when Pam said that "pizza is our most popular item by far." Pam is also excited to "try the chicken caesar wrap." Mrs. Davidson has "worked for the town, for an engineer, and an attorney," she explains, but "took this job because I've always wanted to work in the school." Pam, on the other hand, joins the

staff with restaurant experience. "I worked at Salt as their kitchen manager for 4 years," she shared. Both women are home cooks and Pam admits, "nothing on our menu is really hard" to prepare. When not at work, Mrs. Davidson enjoys "spending my free time with my kids," while Pam says she mainly spends time with her dogs when she has downtime.

Pam and Mrs. Davidson are great additions to our school staff. They are friendly and always willing to chat. If you have not yet tried the new cafeteria food, give it a shot. So far, sales are already up ten times what they were last year, so there has to be something to that!

SHELTER ISLAND CAFETERIA 2.0

BY MAE BRIGHAM

This school year Shelter Island has boarded Aramark to bring us a fresh and improved cafeteria and dining experience. Aramark is a global food and facilities management company. S.I. Cafeteria 2.0 now includes three additional staff members: Kate, Pam, and Luis. All three are Shelter Island locals and have spoken about how they love their new "family" in the cafeteria and seeing kids smile. The cafeteria is open for breakfast, lunch, and ice cream for dessert but closes at 1:12. The updated and improved menu has the whole student body excited. Sales in the cafeteria have already increased 4 times compared to last year according to cafeteria staff. I decided to give you the real scoop on the cafeteria's newest additions, so check out my cafeteria food rankings below.

RATINGS: 5 cookies = absolutely delectable and worth my money | 4 cookies = yummilicious | 3 cookies = On par for school lunch | 2 cookies = I can suck it up if I'm hungry | 1 cookie = puke

PIZZA

The pizza is soft and perfectly cheesy. You can see them take it fresh out of the oven, still nice and hot. I eat this most days and it never gets old. They also sometimes have pepperoni or barbecue options, which are great.

PRESENTATION

00 00 00 00 00







PRESENTATION

CEREAL

with some milk









BAGEL



The bagels aren't bad, but they do taste store bought, Slap

on that cream cheese or butter and you're good to go.

SANDWICH/DELI BAR

The cafeteria is required to give each sandwich purchaser a certain amount of meat, and in my opinion, it is an overwhelming amount. That might be personal preference, however. Overwhelming cold cut portion aside, the deli bar is fresh and always ready to go at lunch.

PRESENTATION



TASTE

FRUIT

It's not amazing, but it's fruit. Nothing to complain or rave about. The apples are sometimes amazing when cold and crisp, but that is rare.

PRESENTATION





CHICKEN NACHOS

The chicken was amazing. I will admit it looked a little scary at first with the red peppers and all, but the nachos ended up being very yummy.

The cereal serving size is small and sometimes the cereal

turns out to be stale, but overall a good morning snack

PRESENTATION TASTE

SMOOTHIES

Personally, I am not a fan of these new smoothies. They look and taste more like yogurt and have you seen those tiny cups? My favorite thing used to be our frozen smoothies with granola and these just don't check that box.

PRESENTATION

EGG SANDWICH

They are back, though a little different. The egg sandwiches are made fresh every morning and are made with quality ingredients. However, I would say they do need salt and pepper to be a 5/5.

PRESENTATION TASTE

SUMMER TRAVELS BY MIRANDA MARCELLO

Summer may seem like a long time ago, but for some of our Shelter Island students and faculty, the summer had some exciting travel plans. Read on to find out travel highlights some of our favorite Islanders shared.



HARRISON WESLEK (SENIOR) & EVAN WESLEK (SOPHOMORE): Harrison's and Evan's summer travels took them to Milan, Monterosso, and Florence, Italy for 12 days. They went with their mom, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandma, and his two cousins. Both Evan and Harrison called seeing Travis Scott in Milan a highlight of the trip. Harrison also enjoyed "going to an old dusty gym under the boardwalk at the beach with a friend he met" and experiencing the Florence nightlife. Harrison would love to travel to Portugal next. Evan loved taking a pasta making class and cliff jumping while in Italy. For Evan, he'd love to head to Barcelona on his next adventure.

JUHANNA KAASIK (SENIOR): Johanna's summer travels were to Estonia, Brussels, and Paris for a month. Johanna went on this trip with her mom and aunt. One of Johanna's highlights was going to the Olympics, she mentioned they were amazing to see. Johanna also enjoyed seeing the rest of her family and friends in Estonia. Overall, she said she had an incredible time and she would love to travel to Italy next.

PETER MIEDEMA (HISTORY TEACHER): Mr. Miedema's summer trip was to Milan, Italy for 12 days. Mr. Miedema went on this trip with his girlfriend Stefanie. One of Mr. Miedema's highlights was seeing the Duomo in Milan. He also mentioned the food everywhere in Tuscany was delicious. Another great part of Mr. Miedema's trip was swimming in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Sardinia. Mr. Miedema's favorite moment though was seeing Palio Di Siena, Italy's most famous horse race and show. Mr. Miedema had an amazing time and he would love to travel to Berlin next if he gets the

LYNNE COLLIGAN (ENGLISH TEACHER): Ms. Colligan's summer travel was to Dorset, England for two weeks (on the south coast of London). Ms. Colligan went with her two sisters and she said it was a lot of fun to be with them. While she was in Dorset, England, she said she stayed in a cottages from the 500 hundreds. She has previously studied abroad in London in college, but never had traveled to Dorset at that time. Ms. Colligan loved Dorset's beautiful beaches with cliffs and little villages surrounding them. On Ms. Colligan's travel bucket list is Cornwall, England and Portugal.

SARAH PFENNING (SCIENCE TEACHER): Ms. Pfenning traveled to Scotland and England for 2 weeks this summer. Ms. Pfenning went with her boyfriend, and she said it was an amazing trip. One of Ms. Pfenning's highlights was hiking around England and Scotland and seeing beautiful views. She also got to see the Harry Potter water bridge, which was exciting for her. Overall, she said she had an incredible time and would like to travel to Germany next.

MARY KANARVOGEL (NURSE MARY): Nurse Mary's summer travel was to Scotland for two weeks. Nurse Mary went with her twin sister. Nurse Mary mentioned she was staying on a ship while she was on this trip. One of Nurse Mary's highlights while traveling was going through the lochs and stopping and visiting all different locations by boat. Nurse Mary mentioned that she had an amazing time. Nurse Mary's next trip is to Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons, Wyoming.

FALL FISHING TIPS

BY RYAN SANWALD

If you know me at all, you know fishing is one of my favorite things to do. For me fishing is not just a summer activity, fall is some of the best fishing in our waters. If you are interested in fall fishing, check out my tips and be prepared to reel 'em in!

GENERAL:

IMITATE THE BAIT FISH: Normally in the fall, fish start to chase bait all over so you should use a lure that looks like the bait fish they are chasing.

WEATHER AND WINDS: Make sure to pay attention to weather and wind speeds in the fall. Weather can vary with the seasons and depends on where you fish.

BAIT: When you use bait, make sure it is fresh and is the right selection for what you are fishing for. If you're unsure what to use, visit your local



BOATING:

BOAT BASICS: When you are on a boat there are many tools you can use, like fish finders. Use these to your advantage so you can locate a perfect spot. Also, be sure to check Coast Guard regulations to be sure you have all required equipment on board (life vests, throwable flotation devices, etc.)

BEAWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS:

When you are fishing on a boat it can be tight, so make sure you know you have plenty of space around you so no one gets hurt.

DRIVING THE BOAT: When you are fishing on a boat, you should be very careful and always have a designated driver. If fishing at night, be sure you have proper lights and look out for buoys.



ON LAND:

CASTING: When you are casting off land, it can be hard to reach the fish depending on the depth of the water, so I suggest using heavier lures and quality gear.

GEAR: Fishing off land can be far more challenging then on the boat, so getting a strong extended casting pole and some nice braided line can really help and is a good investment.

LOCATIONS: Looking for the right location is important, you should look for a spot with lots of beach to be able to cast far and lots of structure in the water like rocks and buoys because fish like to hide under and around them.





PERFECT FALL DAY ON SHELTER ISLAND

BY SADIE CLARK

What is the perfect fall day? Autumn is one of the best seasons because it is neither too hot, nor too cold, nor too rainy. It is a perfect balance of all three seasons. Even if fall isn't your favorite season, everybody has their own idea of a perfect fall day. If you aren't sure how you would spend yours, try my itinerary to enjoy fall to the fullest.

My perfect vision of my fall day lands on a Saturday. Let's be up by 9am. This is an ideal

time because it isn't too early, but you don't feel like the day is wasted when you get up. On the menu for breakfast is waffles with raspberries, topped with maple syrup. In our mugs is hot apple cider, obviously. Let's go outside on the porch to eat and take in the crisp autumn air. While we digest, let's either watch a show or listen to music, but either way we are wrapped up in a pumpkin blanket. After a little while, let's get moving and take my dog for a walk through town. The weather I am dialing up here is cloudy and brisk, because it feels more like fall that way. Let's make a pit stop on our walk to get an apple cinnamon latte. As we sip, we'll continue to walk as we take in the beautiful colors of the

Now, it's time for an adventure. Off island we go to Harbes Farm in Mattituck to pumpkin pick. I would feed some animals, and maybe even apple pick for a while. Ultimate fall activities. After all of the outdoor fun, when we get back home my blanket, the couch, and my dog will be waiting for us to start up a fall movie marathon. "Hocus Pocus 1 and 2," "Halloween Town," and the childhood classic "Spookley the Square Pumpkin" are in the lineup. When we need to stretch, we'll bake some cookies and eat them warm with vanilla almond milk. After our snack and a couple of movies, we'd say goodbye to the perfect fall day and I would cozy up in my bed, happy that I checked all of my favorites off of my fall bucket list.

SPOOKY SEASON MUST-SEES

BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

The weather has turned cooler and spooky season is upon us! Grab a cozy blanket and a friend and check out these classic fall movies.

THE ADDAMS FAMILY:

COMEDY/ HORROR, PG-15 (FAMILY MOVIE)

The Addams Family is an amusing and eerie film about an abnormal family including Morticia Addams played by Anjelica Huston, Gomez played by Raul Julia, Wednesday played by Christina Ricci, and Pugsley played by Jimmy Workman. The movie follows this eccentric family's day to day life as they work their way through numerous challenges and adventures while maintaining a powerful family bond. So, if you enjoy chilling adventures and dark comedy, then this movie is for you.

5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

CORALINE:

FAMILY/ HORROR, PG (FAMILY MOVIE)

Coraline is an animated film which follows the protagonist, Coraline Jones, as she gets trapped in a parallel universe. In the film, Coraline finds a hidden door which traps her in a parallel world that at first seemed perfectly normal, but as things take a turn for the worse, Coraline soon realizes something is very off. If you're into eerie adventure films, I recommend you watch Coraline.

4/5 STARS ★★★☆

HORROR/ MYSTERY, R (OLDER TEENS AND ADULT MOVIE)

Scream is a suspenseful horror mystery film about an unknown masked killer referred to as Ghostface, traumatizing a small town called Woodsboro that will leave you on the edge of your seat waiting to see what happens next. In the film, we follow Sidney Prescott who is Ghostface's main target through the movie because Prescott's mother was a victim of the killings. While Ghostface preys on Sidney, she and her friends attempt to figure out his identity to put an end to his killings. Overall, this film is a must watch if you enjoy suspense and mystery

5/5 STARS $\star\star\star\star$

AMERICAN PSYCHO HORROR/COMEDY, R (OLDER TEENS AND ADULT MOVIE)

American Psycho is a frightening film about a New York banker referred to as Patrick Bateman, who has a dark secret. In the film, we see Bateman live his day to day life while masking the fact that he is a serial killer from his friends. We watch as Bateman slowly becomes more and more

psychotic and gives in to his gruesome thoughts. If you're looking for a chilling horror movie, American Psycho is a must watch.

4/5 STARS ★★★☆

COMEDY/ HORROR, PG (FAMILY MOVIE)

Beetlejuice is a comedic, spooky film about a recently deceased couple whose spirits haunt their recently purchased house. In the film we see the couple struggle to navigate through the afterlife with the help of Beetlejuice, but trouble breaks through when a new couple moves in and completely remodels the house, angering the spirits. If you typically enjoy a spooky comedy I highly recommend this movie.

4/5 STARS ★★★☆

HALLOWEEN

HORROR, RATED R (OLDER TEENS AND ADULT MOVIE)

Halloween is a spine-chilling horror movie about a masked killer known as Michael Myers, who has escaped a mental asylum and makes his way to terrorize a small town called Haddonfield. In the film we see the killer target babysitters to traumatize and murder every Halloween night. The film follows Laurie Strode who manages to survive Michael's attacks as she tries to put an end to his murders. If you like suspenseful horrors, then this movie is a must watch.

3/5 STARS ★★☆☆

Rosie Reads THE SECRET HISTORY BY DONNA TARTT



INTEREST: 9/10 | CHARACTER AUTHENTICITY: 10/10 | READING DIFFICULTY: 7/10 | SATISFYING ENDING: 9/10

The Secret History by Donna Tartt is a book unlike any I have read before. It centers around the college experience of Richard Pipen, a 20 year old boy raised in California who, after a fight with his parents, made the decision to reach for the stars and attempt to get into a small college in Vermont called Hampden College. After being there for only a short time, he decides to join their highly selective Greek major that only has 5 students. All of the classes they attend in the Greek program are mostly taught by the same teacher, leaving them incredibly isolated from not only their families, but their peers. Due to the

isolation, the students slowly fall into madness. Without giving anything away, I can say that the descent is a gradual one to the point you don't even realize how bad it has gotten until you pick your head up and think about it, and even then you will still find yourself questioning what was really going on.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a long read that will at some point give you a headache from thinking about it too hard. Tartt's use of Richard as an unreliable narrator enhances the story an incredible amount because when he learns something that

shifts his worldview, it will feel as though yours is shifting with him. All of the characters, including Richard, feel real and while you don't really connect to them, you feel like Richred does, like you are an imposter in a group of people you don't belong to. They start off seeming almost God-like then slowly you see that none of them are what they seem, but they are somehow just as hard to wrap your brain around. Unfortunately, there are some parts of the book that feel like they are dragging on, but they are important in the long run and are not that unpleasant to get through.

The only warning I would give you is that there are some, not incredibly graphic, but still very much there, descriptions of violence and other uncomfortable topics sprinkled throughout the book. The ending of this book is incredibly complex, but also so simple in the way that it solves what feels like hundreds of problems at once and will leave you either sobbing, or cheering, whether you are in public, or alone in your room.

THE SHELTER ISLAND LIBRARY: WHAT IS GOING ON THERE?

The Shelter Island Public Library has been serving the public for about 140 years. The size of the library has been the same for decades. With the constantly growing collection of books and records the library was taking in, as well as how popular the library has become for kids to spend time in, our library has simply run out of space. So, the library is getting a makeover which will add 5,000 square feet to the building and include a new children's section, as well as an expanded adult section. The moving process into trailers began in the last week of June 2024. While the original start date was set for the project to begin in the middle of August 2024, construction has not started as of this month. The estimated time for construction, start to finish, is 18 months.

Although the library is now situated in the large trailer in the library's old parking lot, the same services are still available. So, go ahead and visit to check out books, movies, or update your passport. If the library doesn't have what you need, just visit the Circulation Desk to order books from other Long Island libraries which will be delivered to the island for you. Also, despite waiting on construction, the library still has a

complete calendar of activities including, but not limited to, book clubs, poetry readings, youth programs, and more. So, while we patiently (or impatiently) wait for the new and improved library, don't forget to visit the familiar faces, still making our alternate library location a great place.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

BY JOHANNA KAASIK

As the school year comes into full swing, the elementary

schoolers have been up to some exciting things! First, we welcome the newest members of our school in Pre-K 3. They have done a great job adjusting to the classroom, building friendships,



PRE-K 3 STUDENTS LEARNING WHICH PRIMARY COLORS MAKE GREEN.

and have started learning about letters and colors. The Pre-K 4 just concluded a two-week study on birds. They got their hands investigating how birds with various claws and beaks gather food differently. Using multiple tools to test their hypotheses, they

observed how shape and size affect the ability to pick up certain foods. They ended their study by going on a bird walk to see their observations in practice.

A couple of doors down, the kindergarten has been studying the Sun. They learned how it warms the earth and built ice cube shelters to observe this effect. The first grade has taught the importance of initiative, collaboration, and perseverance. To demonstrate these habits, they completed various class challenges. In one challenge, they worked together to see who could construct the tallest cup tower, and in another, they used kitchen utensils to flip over math counters.

The 2nd and 3rd graders are continuing their unique curriculum, which connects the two grades as they learn through the overarching



question of "What is school, and why is school important?" The 2nd graders begin studying schools and building their literacy and citizenship skills, which continue into 3rd grade, where they have been learning about all the ways children in different countries access books. The connection between these grade levels has strengthened the curriculum and allowed the students to build a deeper understanding of the value of education.

Hard work in the 4th grade has been paying off as they work through their new ELA and Math curriculums. In ELA, they are coming close to publishing their first poetry pieces of the year, which will be displayed in the elementary hallway for everyone to enjoy! Additionally, they are very excited to be reaching their goal of 100 100%s on their iReady lessons, which they will get to celebrate through a party or other fun activity of their choosing.

Finally, the 5th graders have reached their final year of elementary school and are preparing skills to carry with them into secondary school. In ELA, they are reading Esperanza Rising and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to study human rights, while in science, they are exploring apparent motion through the effect Earth's rotation has on shadows.

The elementary school has had a very strong start to the year, and we cannot wait to see what other fun things they will get up to!





Around the Halls What's your snap score?

BY SADIE GREEN CLARK

For our first Around the Halls of the year, we asked students to share their snap scores. What are snap scores, you ask? It is a number that indicates how active a user is on Snapchat and gives an indication of just how much they might be "snapping" (sending pictures/messages to) their friends.



Eliza McCarthy Snapscore: 145,255 Time on Snapchat: 30 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Tiktok



Elizabeth Weslek **Snapscore:** 123,000 Time on Snapchat: 2 hours/day Preferred social media platform: Tiktok

Liam Sobejana **Snapscore:** 17,000 Time on Snapchat: 44 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Instagram

Kylie Kuhr Snapscore: 93,772 Time on Snapchat: 30 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Tiktok





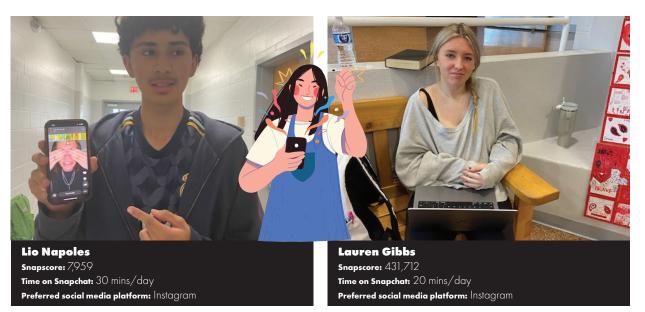
Time on Snapchat: 45 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Instagram



Snapscore: 116,581 Time on Snapchat: 45 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Instagram



Mandy Marcello Snapscore: 55,071 Time on Snapchat: 45 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Tiktok





Snapscore: 313,000 Time on Snapchat: 20 mins/day Preferred social media platform: Instagram

