



Junior Matthew Dunning checks the Human Rights bulletin board newly posted by Lisa Kaasik to recognize December as National Human Rights month. CORRINE MAHONEY PHOTO

## Advisories: Are They Worthwhile?

BY CORRINE MAHONEY  
AND MAXSYM MOROZ

It's a typical morning in school. Your classmates file into a room, attendance is taken, everyone chit-chats about current events, and then are on their way. Sound familiar? This is a description of a typical advisory. Have you ever wondered what the purpose of advisory really is though? What really goes on between 8:00 and 8:15am? And, are advisories really necessary?

"There would be no time to get last minute homework assignments done."

MORGAN MCCARTHY

Mr. Theinert sees advisory as a time "to set the tone for the day, welcome the students, and to give teachers the opportunity to know the students better." Many students agree that the social time offered during advisory is a plus. Advisory also offers students a gentle way to start their days. Mr. Theinert joked that without advisories, "in the first three periods students would suffer, trying to wake

ADVISORIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Study Halls: The Lost Elective

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN AND CONNOR RICE

This year when students received their schedules, there was one thing noticeably missing: study halls. This change came as a surprise to many. After approaching Mr. Palios, the school guidance counselor, for some insights, he suggested that the decision to cancel study halls was a "combined decision" between guidance and administration. One reason for discontinuing study halls is that there were fewer instructors who could administer study halls. Another reason is school officials feel that students should "focus more on academics." Mr. Palios also suggested that having the study hall option took away from participation in other

academic classes.

Students have strong opinions about the missing study halls. Freshman Peter Kropf shared, "study halls are important because you can do some extra studying and get homework done." With students taking more academic classes, time to complete assignments would be "helpful and productive," Peter added. Myles Clark thinks, "for students who play sports, study halls are invaluable because they give students an opportunity to do work during the day, when they might otherwise not be able to do homework until late at night." Nobody knows what the schedule will be next year, but it seems many would like to see study halls incorporated back in the school day.

Time to complete assignments would be "helpful and productive."

PETER KROPF

### Exciting stories we're working on:

- Number #3 pencils : Who knew?
- Ask Connie:  
The lady with all the answers
- Is cursive dead?
- Where are they now?
- The curse of autocorrect





Mr. Jim Bocca

LISA KAAISK PHOTO



Mr. Michael Cox

KELLY COLLIGAN PHOTO

# Fresh Faces

BY LISA KAAISK AND JILL CALABRO

**Y**ou may recognize a strapping young man from your trips to the Elementary hallway, but how much do you really know about Mr. Michael Cox? Here are the basics. He teaches math and science to the third and fourth graders. He grew up in Sayville, not too far from here, a town very similar to Shelter Island.

In high school, Mr. Cox considered himself an “average student grade wise” and an athlete. He wrestled on the Varsity level for five years, and then pursued it further in college. He attended SUNY Cortland for undergraduate studies and Dowling University for his teaching certification.

Mr. Cox wants to “provide students with something that I had, but not everybody did.” Mr. Bocca went into teaching because he wants “to share [his] enthusiasm for literature with his students.”

Mr. Cox went into teaching for “the challenge.” He wants to “provide students with something that I had, but not everybody did.” Reflecting on his early education, Mr. Cox notes that he “knows what the kids need” and “wants to be a part of that.” In his free time, Mr. Cox enjoys photography, surfing, and playing the guitar.

Another fresh face is Mr. Jim Bocca,

who teaches middle school English, and grew up in West Babylon. Had you passed him in the hallways back then he would have been the kid rocking long hair and metal band t-shirts. Mr. Bocca went on to graduate from St. Joseph’s University, which he still attends while completing his master’s degree. Mr. Bocca went into teaching for his love of reading and

writing and because he wants “to share [his] enthusiasm for literature with students.” In his free time, Mr. Bocca likes, unsurprisingly, to read and write, as well as to spend time with his family and girlfriend.

These young new teachers were emphatically enthusiastic in discussing our lovely island. Mr. Bocca noticed that our community is “filled with kind, supportive people” who want to see him succeed. When discussing his current residence on Shelter Island, Mr. Cox commented on “that feeling in your gut when you’re in a place you want to be.” Both men lauded the beauty and the peacefulness our quiet island is graced with. So, if you’re ever in the elementary wing or the middle school, stop in and say hello to Mr. Cox and Mr. Bocca.

We would love to hear from you!  
If you would like to contact The Inlet, call 631-749-0302 x144.  
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The Inlet is a publication by Shelter Island High School Journalism participants with the support of Dr. Michael Hynes and the Board of Education. A special thank you from The Inlet goes to Peter Boody, former editor of The Shelter Island Reporter, for guiding us every step of the way. In addition, a special thanks to Barb Pfan of The Shelter Island Reporter for her assistance in layout and design.

# Student Profiles

BY MACKLIN LANG & KELLY COLLIGAN

**Andrei Oraseanu** is a senior at Shelter Island High School. He works at Piccozzi's Gas Station. Andrei was born in Romania, but moved here at the age of three. His favorite color is green. Here's what else he had to say:

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: "I was born in Bucharest, Romania, but I grew up on Shelter Island."

Q: What do you like best about Shelter Island?

A: "I like that it's a small community and that it's surrounded by water."

Q: What do you dislike about Shelter Island?

A: "Gossip spreads quickly."

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: "I enjoy hanging out with my friends and playing video games."

Q: What animal describes you?

A: "A hawk."

Q: What is your dream job?

A: "I would love to become a Physicist."



Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: "I'm athletic."

Q: What type of music do you listen to?

A: "A little bit of everything."

Q: What is something no one knows about you?

A: "My favorite video game is 'Zelda'."

**Alexis Perlaki** is a freshman at Shelter Island High School. Alexis moved here when she was 7 and then left to live in Hungary for about 10 years. She moved back to Shelter Island this year. She loves horses and her favorite color is red. Here's some more about Alexis:

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: "In a small Hungarian village, Pazmandfalu."

Q: What do you like best about Shelter Island?

A: "The people are very friendly."

Q: What do you dislike about Shelter Island?

A: "Nothing yet, but I miss my friends in Hungary."

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: "I ride my horse, Vanous. I also play soccer and volleyball."

Q: What animal describes you?

A: "A spider, because I am sneaky and crafty."

Q: What is your dream job?

A: "I've always wanted to be a horse veterinarian."



Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: "I am artistic and in Hungary I can drive."

Q: What type of music do you listen to?

A: "I like Hungarian music and Katy Perry."

Q: What is something no one knows about you?

A: "I can be very mean. I also have broken my ribs, back, shoulder, and knee. Oh, and I love to eat ketchup."

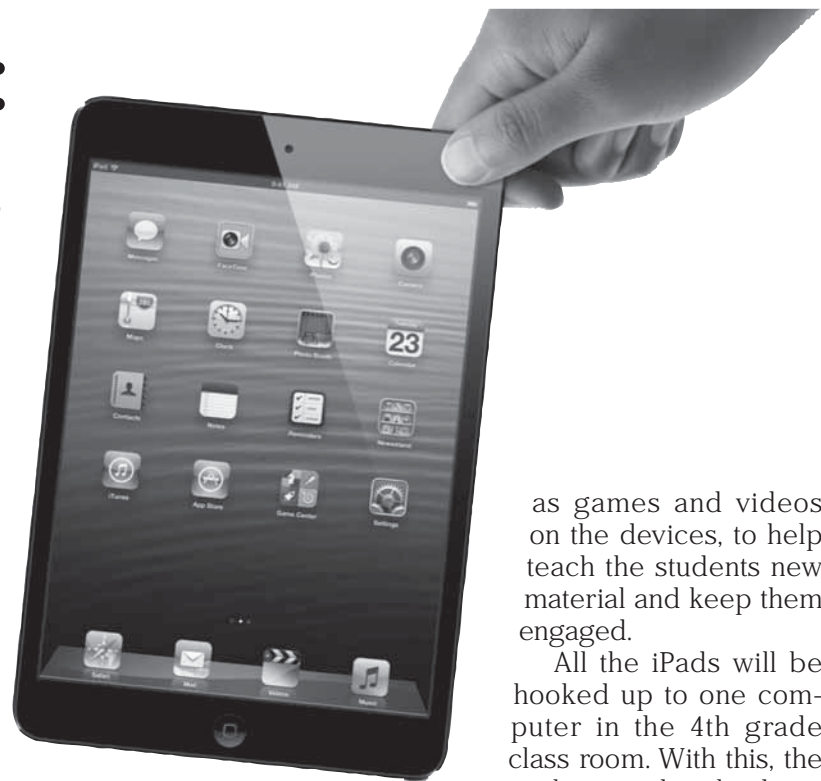
## iPads: The latest in educational technology

BY SAWYER CLARK AND SAM DEPOTO

This year the 4th grade and kindergarten has been privileged enough to be able to use iPads. According to Mr. Brigham, there were even some things he needed to learn before distributing the iPads. He said, "It took a little time to learn the management of all the IPADS, but we've got it now." Before handing out iPads, Mr. Brigham had to ensure they were safe and appropriate tools for elementary students to use independently. This meant that security locks were put in place to block anything that might prove distracting to students. Mr. Brigham further

commented, that "the iPads will be used to help individualize lessons to student needs." This will be a helpful tool for teachers struggling to reach students at different learning levels.

Mr. Cox is the 4th grade math and science teacher. He is eager to begin incorporating iPads into his class curriculum. According to Mr. Cox, "The kids love iPads," and he plans to use apps, such



as games and videos on the devices, to help teach the students new material and keep them engaged.

All the iPads will be hooked up to one computer in the 4th grade class room. With this, the teacher can download material onto all of the iPads with the touch of a button. This new technology is very exciting and may change the way our teachers are teaching and our students are learning.





CORRINE MAHONEY PHOTO

## Going Green

BY BRIANNA KIMMELMAN AND TARA STURGES

In an attempt to reduce the school's carbon footprint, Shelter Island School is "going green..." again. From club to club the responsibility of recycling has been passed and this year's overseer is the National Honor Society. Last year, the Student Council was in charge, and the year before that, it was the Science Club. The peculiar trend of extracurricular activities being responsible for the school's recycling program has sparked some controversy.

Superintendent Dr. Hynes believes that an extracurricular club "shouldn't be responsible." He continued, "the responsibility belongs to the school as a whole. We are all responsible." That being said, here at Shelter Island School, someone needs to take the helm on recycling,

Someone needs to take the helm on recycling.

and that someone seems to be shifting year to year with little consistency. When asked what "going green" means to him, Dr. Hynes replied "not leaving a carbon footprint, but don't ask me what that means." The complex definition of carbon footprint aside, Lisa Kaasik, President of NHS, believes recycling should be a priority

for Shelter Island School students, staff, and faculty. In the absence of any other cohesive plan, Lisa and the NHS are heading this year's recycling operation. There are now recycling bins placed all around the school for bottles and cans. There are also two large bins for papers, but it is unclear why recycling bins for paper are not placed in each classroom, as was done in years past. This may be an initiative underway. The hope for this year is that our new recycling plan will make our school more "green." The dream is that the school can stay this way.

## EDITORIALS

### Literally: The New Like

BY JILLIAN CALABRO

As independent and original as we may strive to be, we are all heavily influenced by our surroundings. Styles and trends change, and more often than not, these changes sneak up on us so subtly that we don't even register them.

For the last few years, cafeteria conversation would sound something like this, "Earth science was like awful today, I could barely like, keep my eyes open." As many of the adults around us cringed, we like didn't care, because it seemed "like" was the perfect combination of space-filler and qualifier.

Although overuse of the word "like" is certainly not dead, it is, "so three years ago," in terms of linguistic trends here at school. There is a new buzzword

In short, "literally" is the new "like."

being tossed around the halls these days. It seems to literally have appeared out of nowhere, for literally no reason. In short, "literally" is the new "like."

Webster defines literally as, "actually; without exaggeration or inaccuracy." This definition could not be more ironic. Since conversations lately sound like this, "I literally cannot read another page of Charlotte Perkins Gilman. I am literally done with feminist literature." "Literally" is now being used as a point of emphasis, as an indicator of how grave and serious we are. Of course, the irony here is literally has traditionally meant the opposite of figuratively or metaphorically, and here we were turning the meaning of literally on its head. Yes, we can actually read another page of our reading assignment, but we don't want to, and, yes we are momentarily tired of feminist literature, but we are not done, so we toss in a "literally" for emphasis. The root of this new trend remains a mystery, but if you listen for it, you will hear "literally" infused more liberally in daily conversations than ever before. Linguistic trends are curious, and as is the nature of trends, this one too will fade at some point, but until then, I literally can't wait to hear what comes next.

### At long last: A school newspaper

BY LISA KAASIK

This is the first issue of our school newspaper, "The Inlet." We have worked very hard on making this issue the best it can be.

We have decided on topics and discussed issues we feel are relevant and interesting. In future issues, we hope to continue this trend of truth and importance. This issue is a culmination of effort from the students in our two journalism classes and our faculty.

In future issues, we hope to continue this trend of truth and importance.

Everyone involved has put a lot of work into our first issue and we look forward to printing more issues in the remainder of this school year.



## SPORTS

## Indians Girls' and Boys' Basketball Season Start Up

BY PETER KROPPF

It's starting to get cold outside, but it's beginning to get hot in the gym. Junior varsity and varsity boys' and girls' basketball teams are starting their first practices. All the teams are coming out sharp and ready to play.

Last year, under Coach Brian Doelger, the junior varsity girls' basketball team had a superb record of 8-4, and was one of the best teams in the league. This year, though, JV will be combined with varsity because there are simply not enough girls. The coach would have been Ian Kanarvogel, but now he will share the job with Peter Miedema, who coached varsity last year. Coach

"K" says that some goals for the year are "improvement" and "leadership." He wants the team to do conditioning, focus on fundamentals and get better, and he also will be looking for someone to emerge as a team

leader. Coach Kanarvogel calls the unit "strong" and "close"---advantages to playing in a small school. According to Coach K, his team has certain positives and negatives. Positives are that his team's "players know how to play defense" and "how to play it well." He did say, however, that he wants his team to "work better as a unit."

The varsity girls' basketball team had a spectacular record of 10-2 under the coaching of Peter Miedema last year. This season, Coach Miedema wants his team to be "competitive," "hard-working," and "enthusiastic." He feels his team is undergoing a "transitional phase" with "new faces," but thinks that could also be a positive. The girls' strengths, according to Miedema, are

**Coach Miedema feels the girls basketball team is undergoing a "transitional phase" but thinks that could be a positive.**

defense and their commitment to hard work. The number one goal of Coach Miedema's is to beat Southold because it is "always a rival" and has a "good team." He will be counting on his team to improve their outside shooting in the upcoming season.

The boys' junior varsity basketball team record was 3-9 last year. Coach Jay Card feels very optimistic about his current squad and hopes to "make the players better" by "working on ball-handling." Coach Card believes in the mantra, "never be satisfied," because that is how he thinks the team will improve.

The boys' varsity basketball team was 4-13 last year, but the record does

not tell it all. Many match-ups were close and the team left it all on the court in nearly every game. Coach Michael Mundy's goal for this season is "to be competitive and be 'in' every game." He says that he is "excited

"about his current team, which has "a great attitude and a good work ethic." Coach Mundy thinks his team is "well-rounded," but needs to "bring the defense to the next level." Discussing the upcoming season, junior Matthew BeltCappellino said he has made his goal for the team: "to make playoffs." BeltCappellino understands that Stony Brook "is a strong team," and will most likely be their stiffest competition. However, "the [SI Varsity] team works well together" and BeltCappellino refuses to allow the small size of SI School to "be an excuse for poor performance."

With squads combining, fresh faces, and intensity and commitment on their sides, we may see big things from this year's SI school basketball teams.



Senior Myles Clark takes a shot during a recent varsity basketball practice.

CORRINE MAHONEY PHOTO

### TENNIS

## Defeated in record, not in spirit

BY ERIN COLLIGAN

With the tennis season wrapping up, there is much to look back on. In its first year as a varsity squad, the team of twelve faced some tough competition. Despite their losing season, the more challenging matches forced the team to "grow together," according to player Brianna Kimmelman.

This year's captain and strongest all-around player was Lisa Kaasik. In a season highlight, Lisa and her sister Serina received All-League honors.

It is still in question whether or not next year's team will be varsity or junior varsity, but either way, Coach Sue Warner was happy with the work of her team this year, saying, "We really had a fun season."

### SOCCER

## Solo soccer

BY ATERAHME LAWRENCE

Charlie Binder spent his fall season playing soccer in Greenport with the Porters. Binder was the only Shelter Island student on the team this year. This did not deter him however, as he is a dedicated soccer player and has been since he was five years old. Charlie is versatile on the soccer field and plays left wing, as an offensive or defensive player.

"The best part of the season was when

we had our annual [Shelter] Island game, instead of playing in Greenport. Lots of my friends and family can come to cheer me on, making the game even better."

Charlie says, this season, the players "bonded like brothers" finishing their season with a 6-4 record. They made it to the playoffs, but unfortunately, they lost. Despite a disappointing last game, Charlie enjoyed his season, and has plans to play again next year.



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The Shelter Island volleyball team at the annual 2012 Dig Pink Fund-raiser at Shelter Island High School. Back row, from left: Coach Cindy Belt, Morgan McCarthy, Saverina Chicka, Alexis Gibbs, Tearza Lawrence and Erin Colligan; front row, Katy Binder, Melissa Ames, Jayme Clark, Tara Sturges and Aterahme Lawrence. • DANIEL DE MATO PHOTO

## Shelter Island digs volleyball

BY ERIN COLLIGAN

The Shelter Island Girls Volleyball team had a successful 2012 season. Both the junior varsity and varsity teams finished undefeated. The year was marked by a variety of talent and personalities, which contributed to enjoyable play for all.

Early in the season, varsity coach Cindy Belt reflected, "to see everyone just dig in and be determined to play better, and win, was awesome!" Coach Belt also noticed a greater feeling of equality and acceptance amongst members of the team. "Despite the difference in skills," Coach Belt stated, "members of the JV and varsity were all able to get along well."

Belt, however, does not rest on past successes and is always looking toward future team opportunities. "In fall, 2013, we will have lost seven seniors, the most ever. I look forward to melding a team out of younger players and the more seasoned athletes." She believes the current freshman class will have a big impact on SI volleyball for several years, and looks forward to getting a few of the younger players up to varsity "to supplement the class of 2014." Coach Belt's big wish for next year: "I am planning to get past those Haldane Blue Devils in 2013's regionals."

Varsity captains Katy Binder and Alexis Gibbs also hold fond memories of their final season. Katy's highlight was "when we shut down Greenport and claimed the title of league champs once

again." Katy believes that next year's team has to "want it" from day one. She advises them to stay focused and work as a "well-oiled machine." Alexis Gibbs was proud that "we were undefeated without losing a single set." She noted that last year, the team lost "two great seniors," and because of that, some people doubted how far the team could go. She was glad to be able to prove the doubters wrong by doing the same thing the team did last year, but better.

The junior varsity team had a stand-out year, as well. Coach Karen Gibbs' highlight of the season was being undefeated in league play. She thought everyone worked well together despite losing one, then gaining two new players. Freshman Kelly Colligan echoes this sentiment, commenting, "one of my favorite memories this season was bonding with my team, on and off the court. We had fun singing on the bus and playing hard on the court." In the midst of all

of the fun, "the team stayed focused," Coach Gibbs said. "Having low numbers of players and still being able to win games was impressive." Coach Gibbs looks forward to "progression and how much better kids get with each new year." She also likes to see, "new kids coming in, ready to learn and grow."

Next year's team will face the loss of seniors Katy Binder, Alexis Gibbs, Jayme Clark, Morgan McCarthy, Saverina Chicka, Tara Sturges, and Melissa Ames. These losses will certainly pose fresh challenges for the team, but if Coaches Belt and Gibbs have their way, the teams will go on to yet another undefeated season.

"Having low numbers of players and still being able to win games was impressive."

JV COACH KAREN GIBBS

## An elementary wing or DMV?

BY CHRIS DOYLE AND CAMERON CLARK

Last summer, renovations were done in the Shelter Island School's elementary wing and first floor hallways. Since the first day of school, students have been heard asking, who is responsible for these changes and why they were done? It seems reactions to the renovation are mixed. Senior Alexis Gibbs comments, "the elementary wing looks so clinical. Almost like a hospital. I wish it were more colorful for the little kids."

According to Superintendent Dr. Michael Hynes, "there were three main reasons for the renovation: safety, maintenance, and hygiene." The rugs in the wing had become a hygiene issue, plumbing up-

Although the wing is now cleaned up, the lack of design is still bothersome to some.

grades were imperative, and upgrades to the electrical structures were long overdue. Dr. Hynes further explained that the school has a five year "Building Condition Survey" under which the elementary wing had to be "brought up to speed."

Although the wing is now cleaned up, the

lack of design is still bothersome to some. Shelter Island School Graduate Eric Clark recently visited the building and came out surprised by the changes. "That place looked like the DMV or a minimum security stockade," Eric said. Dr. Hynes was simply seeking, "a more uniform look for the school."

Another noticeable change this fall was the absence of the undersea murals once outside of the teacher's lounge. These murals were painted a few years ago by Shelter Island School students. As for the absence of the murals, Dr. Hynes said, "there were two reasons for that: legacy and pests." "The murals were done by classes that had left the school," Hynes said. Interestingly, many current students refute that assertion. Corrine Mahoney vividly remembers, "painting starfish on the ceiling pipes, hoping they would be there when she returned for her 20th reunion." The question of legacy aside, the presence of termites precipitated action and the walls were replaced. Dr. Hynes hopes to have students design and paint new murals in the near future.



The newly remodeled elementary wing.



## ENTERTAINMENT

## One twihard reflects

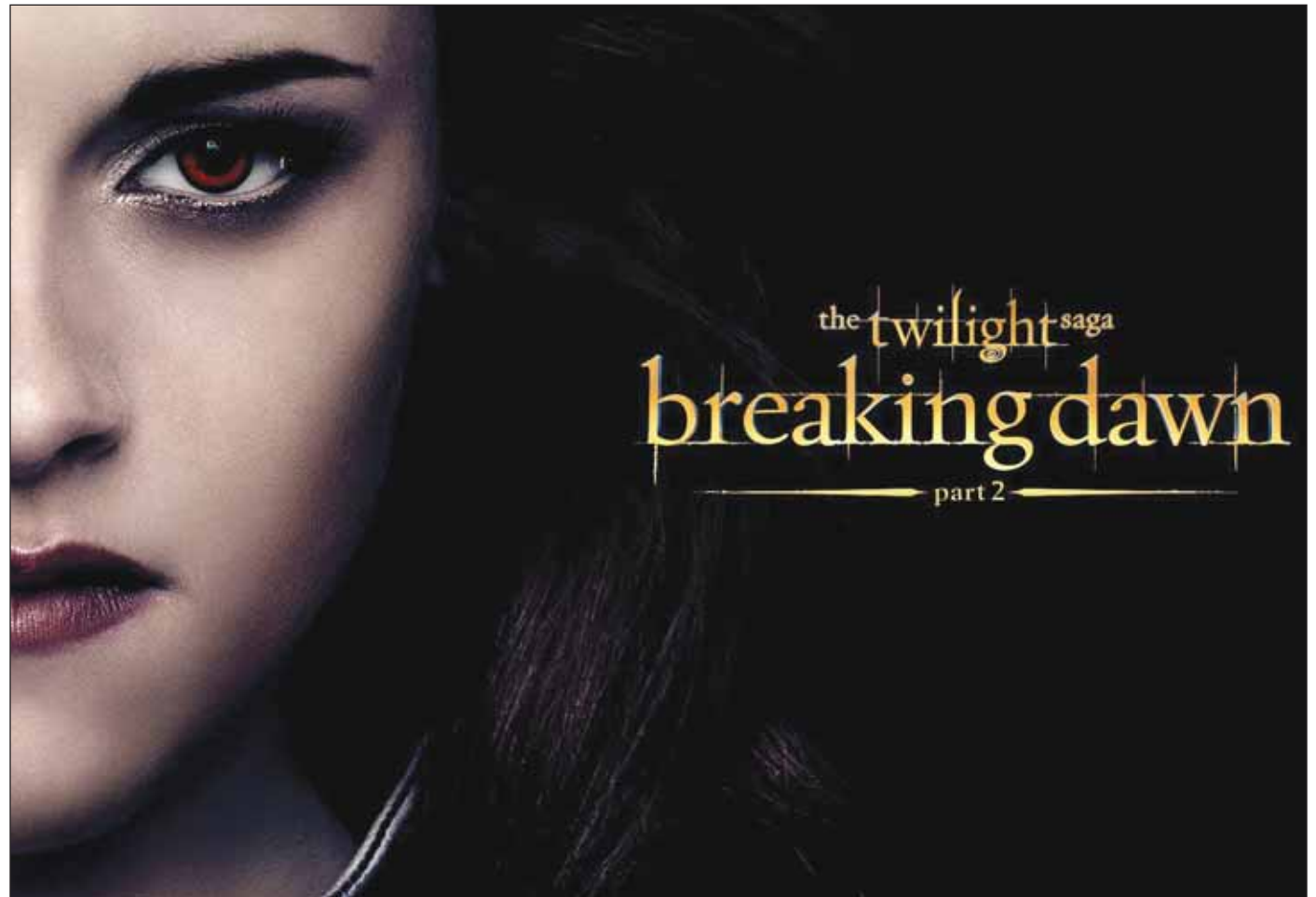
BY ATERAHME LAWRENCE

The last and final “Twilight Saga” movie, “Breaking Dawn Part 2” was officially released in theatres November 16, 2012. The first book in this series, Twilight, was published in 2005, and the last, Breaking Dawn, was published in 2008. Soon after the Breaking Dawn book was published, Summit Entertainment released the first movie of the series. Each year since 2008, a “Twilight Saga” movie has come out. The “Twilight Saga” has been a huge success in both

I honestly can't choose whether the book was better than the movie.

book and box office sales. Dedicated fans, known as “Twiards,” span the globe.

As a Twihard, I was in line to see “Breaking Dawn, Part 2” the weekend it came out. There is no doubt that the movie was different than the book. Before I actually got to see the movie, I saw the live premiere about the movie on TV. All of the actors were there, as well as Stephanie Meyer (author of the Twilight series) and the director Bill Condon. They all emphasized that there is a “little twist” at the ending of the new film. This “little twist” was more like a large swerve. It had me on the edge of my seat and in tears. My friends and I were in shock from what we saw, we knew the movie was going



to be a little different but this ending was crazy. It had the entire theatre yelling. Aside from the ending and a few cut out scenes (which will be in the extras on the movie disc) the new film followed closely along with the novel. I honestly can't choose whether the book was better than the movie. The book was very detailed and you got hooked in on the first page, and the movie I felt did an amazing job on getting as much of the book inside of it. I thought that the charac-

ters in the book were very carefully selected for the movie, and I feel that the casting directors did a good job at casting those crucial roles. So I really cannot choose.

I recommend this movie and book series for all. The series has a large female readership, but I think they can appeal to boys as well. They are a mesh of Romance, Action, Fantasy, and Thriller. I heard about Twilight when I saw a whole bunch of girls at the local youth center talking about

Robert Pattinson, and he was a total babe. So once I got home I decided to look twilight up. I found out about the movie and I immediately went to watch it, I was instantly hooked. After the second movie New Moon came out I finally decided to read the books. Ever since then Twilight is all I think about. Personally, the series changed my life. I eat, breath, and sleep TWILIGHT, and I strongly suggest that you watch the movies and reading the books.

## ADVISORIES

CONTINUED FROM 1

up.” Senior Chandler Olinkiewicz adds that without advisories, “kids might be late to school more often” and there would be “no time for breakfast.” Also, “there would be no time to get last minute homework assignments done,” according to Morgan McCarthy.

So, are advisories a fifteen minute mini-period in which students chat, eat, and finish off homework? More importantly, is this a valuable use of time? The answer is no, according to guidance counselor Mr. Palios. Mr. Palios shared, “If we are going to expect students to be on time and make efficient use of their time, their time needs to be respected by giving them a meaningful start to their day.” This “meaningful start” means something other than advisories for Mr. Palios.

There has been talk over the

“If we are going to expect students to be on time, their time needs to be respected by giving them a meaningful start to their day.”

MR. PALIOS, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

years about cutting advisories out of the schedule altogether. So, what would be a more useful way to spend that time in the morning? “By getting right to class,” shared Mrs. Leever. Whether or not we will be “getting right to class next year” is yet to be determined. Until then, enjoy your breakfast burritos and get that Spanish homework done before first period.

## CLUB CORNER

## Fall 2012

BY NICOLE POLESHUK

## SELECT CHOIR AND JAZZ BAND

It's time for the annual Winter Concert at Shelter Island and Mr. Brace and Ms. Bosak have spent the fall preparing. Mr. Brace is working on a program with “holiday favorites” for Jazz Band. Jazz Band has 18-20 members this year and following the success of the holiday concert, band members hope to learn some challenging pieces for the spring concert.

Ms. Bosak is working with members of Select Choir to prepare for the concert that will be held on December 12th. Select Choir is also getting ready to sing to senior citizens locally. They hope to do more things like this for the community in the future.

## SCIENCE CLUB

The Science Club is currently working on getting better equipment for testing water. A few weeks ago they were planning to begin some exciting research, but unfortunately the storm interfered with their plans. The 12-15 students involved in science club are hoping to freeze proteins in the summer and to hopefully see some new faces.

## YEARBOOK

Yearbook is just getting off of the ground. In the staff's first few meetings they are concentrating on “meeting deadlines, getting all of the work done, and producing the best yearbook ever,” according to co-editor Tara Sturges.

# Snapchat : Harmless fun or dangerous “Sexting” tool?

In our technology-oriented society, smartphones have become as “essential” to us as the air we breathe. Although past generations have proven that life could go on without them, to us, a life without our iPhone (or android) in our back pocket would seem nothing short of incomplete. The apps we all have on our phones sometimes entertain us, sometimes help us calculate tips, sometimes give us directions to unfamiliar places.

I’m always on the lookout for new apps, so when I was told about “Snapchat” a couple of months ago, I was intrigued. After checking it out though, I wondered, is this new phenomenon harmless entertainment or an invitation for irresponsible behavior?

“Snapchat” allows its user to send photos to friends with a viewing time limit of 10 seconds or less. The app is photo, not text driven, and is used by many innocently to send silly or entertaining pictures to friends for a good laugh.

The appeal of the app is that the picture can only be viewed for a very short window of time before it is “locked” and cannot be viewed



Many “Snapchat” users naively assume that the sent picture will only be seen for a few seconds and then disappear forever

again. However, after attending many assemblies over the years about the dangers of sexting, I couldn’t help but think about the possibilities of using “Snapchat” irresponsibly.

Many “Snapchat” users naively assume that the sent picture will only be seen for a few seconds and then disappear forever. Thus, there are undoubtedly teens using this app for inappropriate, scandalous pictures, and they think they are safe because the picture is only viewed for a fraction of a minute. Unfortunately, nothing on the internet disappears forever. And, it is very simple to take a screenshot of a “Snapchat” and save it on your phone, even in the course of a few seconds. Then, that embarrassing shot is preserved for any malicious person to pass along to others.

So, “Snapchat” users, take heed, do not consider your “snapchats” momentary, fleeting images. Do not use this new app to send any pictures you wouldn’t want as someone’s new wallpaper on their phone. Simply stick to using this app to send atrocious “chin shots” of yourself to your “besties,” just like I do.



## New Year’s Resolutions

BY TARA STURGES

On December 31, 2012, were you able to say that you fulfilled your New Year’s Resolution for the year? Or, was it just another year to watch an impossible dream slip by that you made for yourself one year before?

I’ve been thinking about New Year’s resolutions and how many people actually make and stick to them. Around the halls, I started asking and the responses were certainly varied. “Meeting One Direction,” said sophomore

This year I’m starting a new New Year’s tradition.

Taylor Rando. The always funny Sam dePoto wants to “do better in gym.” Mr. Osmer, take note. Katy Binder wants to “want to write a good senior thesis,” in attempt to beat out her brother’s grade a few years back. Mr. Miedema wants “to be more positive and

have a better outlook on life, and to have high standards for his students.” Senior Melissa Ames stated that she doesn’t make New Year’s Resolutions because she believes that you should change yourself more than once a year.

New Year’s resolutions are something that most people make, but very few stick to. The most common ones are about losing weight or bettering oneself.

I’ve decided that after years of failed New Year’s Resolutions, I’m not making one. Why? I tend to make resolutions that are so unrealistic that they will never happen. So, this year I’m starting a new New Year’s tradition. I have decided to get a jar and every time something good happens to me, I will write it down and put it in the jar.

On December 31, 2013, I plan to read about all the good things that happened to me over the course of the past year. This will be much more uplifting than looking back on a yet another year when I failed to fulfill my resolution.





# A rankled account on seeking a higher education

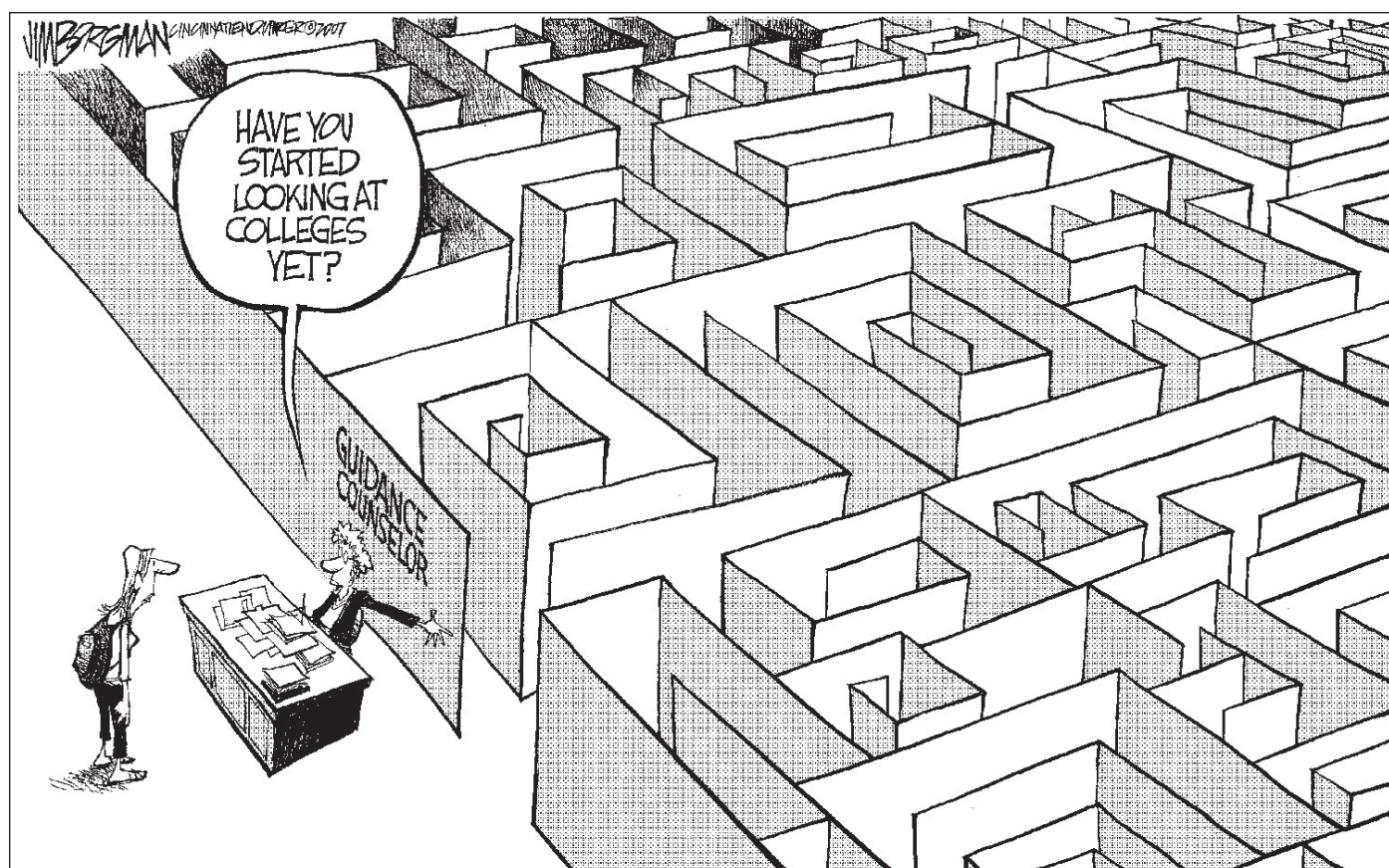
BY LISA KAASIK

College applications, much like the Wednesday you actually have to run the mile on, just suck. They are truly and seemingly unnecessarily miserable, not to mention stressful and if you're anything like me, they have the adverse effect that instead of exciting you for college, they make you want to join a circus where no one will care what your GPA is or what you got on a completely fascist standardized test. (I mean you, SAT).

So starts the process with the standardized tests. Half a year of an SAT prep course and you think you're golden. Then you get your scores and realize they're more bronze, or revisiting the schools you wanted to attend, more like the participation certificate. Then, after trying your hardest to raise your score (clicking refresh and praying for a 2200), you'll begrudgingly pay to send your scores away.

Then, you'll probably start with the résumé, at which point you'll realize you didn't do anything significant during the last three years and those science club meetings you attended bimonthly don't look nearly as impressive as you had hoped. Yet, somehow you will come up with enough to fill three pages, find out it should only be two, format it eight times, and discover that no matter how small you make the margins, you still can't squeeze it into two pages.

After bungling your way through that, you will move onto the infamous



JIM BORGMAN CARTOON

essay, 500 words, how hard could it be? Three sleepless nights, four essays, and 11 drafts later, you'll throw in the literal towel you've been using to mop up your blood, sweat, and tears and attach it to the common app even though you've extricated any joy you originally set out to inspire out of the unassuming page and a half.

your life expectancy.

Then, just when you think you're done, you find out there are forms nobody told you about, and won't, until it's almost too late. They're relatively simple, but you'll have to print them out at least four times because your zip code will decide it doesn't need the second 1 or your "Partici-

copying the college's address wrong, mixing up my social security number with my debit card number, forgetting a sibling, saying I live in Shelter Island, Nevada, and misspelling my first, middle, and last name. But rest easy; these mistakes will more than likely only cost you your entire future.

Applying to colleges, despite how I've made it seem, is not entirely bad. You get to spend money there is no way you could have spent elsewhere. You get to balance work you don't want to do, with even more work you don't want to do. And of course, there is that feeling you get when you receive a letter from one of the schools you applied to and you open it, excitement palpable, to discover it's a reminder to submit all the financial aid forms. However, it's all too easy to be cynical when only experiencing the less awesome parts of college applications, and that's why I like to comfort myself with the reason we suffer through all this; so we can spend the rest of our lives neck deep in student loans.

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Now here comes the easy part, clicking "submit." Right? Wrong. Like everything else about the application process, the common app is designed to make this intrinsically stressful process more difficult, and if possible, more nerve-racking. Consequently, upon signing your name and clicking "submit," you've cemented all the information (and hypothetical mistakes) in it for all the succeeding schools and successfully chopped five years off of

participation in Government" decides simply one "government" isn't enough. Eventually, though, you'll get it right and hand it in.

The next two days, even though you're "technically" finished, continue to test your tolerance for anxiety because that is when all the "what if's?" sink in. Here are some of mine: picking teachers who secretly have it out for me for recommendations, misplacing commas in the essay,

## Need Advice?

Have a problem, and you're just not sure where to turn? Ask Connie, she's your girl.

Questions can be submitted to the ballot box found in Mrs. Treharne's room. Be sure to stay tuned for our next issue, as Connie answers any appropriate question you submit. That's right, she is making her pasta and fixing your problems.

Connie: The woman with all the answers and a mean marinara...

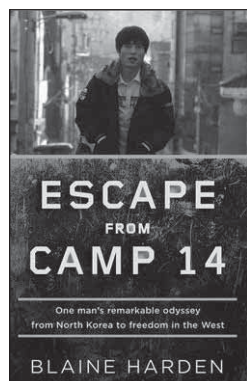




## HOT BOOKS

## Some books on our radar

## NON-FICTION/MEMOIR

**Escape from Camp 14**  
by Blaine Harden

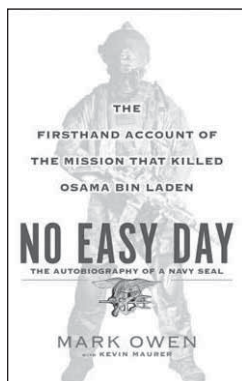
Did you know that today an estimated 150,000-200,000 people are imprisoned in North Korean forced labor camps? These camps have been in existence twelve times as long as Nazi concentration camps, yet we know hardly anything about them. The camps are

readily visible on satellites, yet the North Korean government denies they exist.

This book tells the harrowing tale of Shin Dong-Hyuk, born in 1982, inside a North Korean political prison camp. He is the only known person to have been born into one of these mysterious and brutal camps to have escaped.

Shin's tale of isolation, torture, hunger, deprivation, and bravery is unbelievable. It is almost like the old tale of the child raised by wolves, when Shin narrowly escapes and makes his way to the "outside," he lacks a fundamental understanding of human nature. Simple concepts such as sharing, love, manners, these are things Shin has never learned, never seen.

This is book you won't want to put down, but when you do, you will be thinking about it for days.

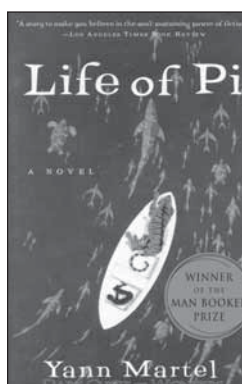
**No Easy Day**

by Mark Owen and Kevin Maurer

This non-fiction work recounts the planning and execution of the Osama Bin Laden raid that resulted in Bin Laden's death. Told in the first person by Owen, a Navy Seal member of Seal Team Six, the novel is tense and fascinat-

ing. Particulars of the mission never before made public unravel in seemingly real-time minute by minute detail. This gripping work is an essential text in America's modern history.

## FICTION

**Life of Pi**

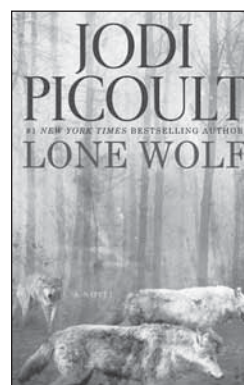
by Yann Martel

Whether you've seen the movie or not, this book is a must-read. Although it was published in 2002, Life of Pi is back in the spotlight due to the recently released film version praised for its incredible use of CGI technology.

To sum up this book is difficult: it is fiction, adventure, a bit of fantasy, and philosophy all rolled

into one. The protagonist is a man named Pi, who narrates his tale in three sections. In the bulk of the novel, Pi tells the harrowing tale of his incredible survival after being shipwrecked and stranded in a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean. He and his family had been crossing the ocean on a freighter, along with a menagerie of animals that had once been a part of his parents' zoo. Pi's parents have died and he is left in a lifeboat with a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a ferocious tiger named Richard Parker.

Pi's tale is an incredible one and the ending will leave you crying and shaking your head in disbelief at a twist you will never expect.

**Lone Wolf**

by Jodi Picoult

In each of her novel's Jodi Picoult explores a different ethical dilemma amidst fast paced plots and well-crafted characters. In Lone Wolf, the ethical dilemma at hand centers on medical science and right to die issues. Edward has been estranged from his father for some

time, so when his father is in a tragic accident that leaves him comatose, he is forced back into the family fold. Along with his sister, Edward must decide when and if it is time for his father to die, if his sacrifice can save others, and whose decision that really is. The novel is emotional and thought-provoking and fans of Picoult's will not be disappointed.

## HOT APPS:

## What's rad on our iPads...

We asked students and faculty what apps they recently downloaded. Here's what's trending at SIHS:



Katy Binder- SIHS Senior:

**LogYourRun**

LogYourRun keeps track of your running stats while you can listen to your favorite songs.

**Fooducate**

Fooducate can scan the barcodes of food and rate it based on its nutritional value.



Mr. Theinert- SIHS Math Teacher:

**NYC Subway Map**

NYC Subway Map shows the routes of New York City's subway tracks in all five boroughs.



Aidan Mysliborski- SIHS Freshman:

**Snapchat**

Snapchat allows users to send pictures to friends on a timed basis with limited text messaging capabilities.

Mr. Palios- Guidance Counselor:

**Geico Brostache**

Geico Brostache gives you the opportunity to see what you would look like with a true mustache. Mr. Palios said, "I use brostache at my buddy's house to give myself a sweet stache."



Mrs. Lang- Faculty:

**Instagram**

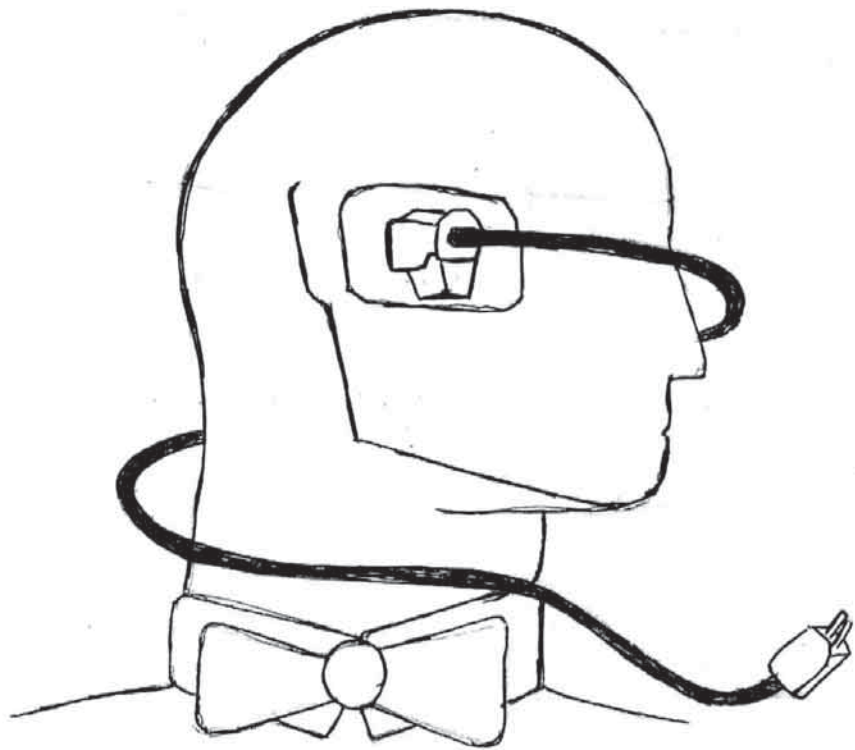
Instagram allows you to share "pics" and follow friends.

Mr. Becker- Gym teacher:

**Extreme Road Trip**

Extreme Road Trip is an entertaining car driving game that Mr. Becker enjoys playing, while he endures the long ferry ride to work.





# THE OUTLET

By Lyle Michos and Sam de Poto



Colibri Lopez

Grade 9

## Head Over Heels

How could you end it?  
I thought we were all right.  
Why did we do that,  
if you were going to end it tonight?  
My first squeezes tighter,  
nail marks in my palm.  
I f-ing hate you,  
yet you expect me to stay calm.  
We shared something special,  
that's what you said.  
If I see you again  
you will be dead.  
You broke my heart  
and moved on so quick.  
I'm alone without you,  
it makes me sick.  
I thought we were perfect.  
I hope someone is watching from above  
so we will be back together,  
in heaven my love.

By Chandler Olinkiewicz

## My Sacrifice

I lean into your every word,  
once so tender  
stirring my emotions within,  
They churn inside,  
Curling the toes on my swollen feet.  
"How?"

You make me weak  
with every whispered lie  
Slithering from your inviting grin  
"Wicked."

Your intoxicating gaze,  
Deliberately murders my morality.  
But I know,

I see the truth behind your deception.

My subconscious screams,  
Her fists full of hair,  
Pulling against her veined head.  
"Angry?"

My body is submerged  
In a pool of your lies  
I need to escape,  
to be free

From this torturous nightmare.

"Goodbye"  
The venom seeps from my lips  
I smile.  
I stare

into the eyes  
that once held my heart  
But now are  
filled only with despair.  
I'm free

By Sav Chicka







Melissa Almes  
Grade 12



Golibri Lopez  
Grade 9



Kelly Colligan  
Grade 9



Sawyer Clark  
Grade 10