



PHOTO BY LINDA MCCARTHY

The Shelter Island Girls Varsity Volleyball team proudly stood for a victory photo after winning the Suffolk County Class D Championship.



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY CLARK

The state qualifiers smiled for a photo at SUNY Canton where they competed in the the NYSPHSAA Cross Country State Championships, even in thirty degree weather.

Triumphant times: volleyball and cross country dominate with post-season runs

BY PETER KROPP

Winning one Class D Championship is a great accomplishment. Winning five in a row is almost unheard of. How about 11 in a row? When you hit that number you have to start talking about a dynasty, and the Shelter Island varsity girls volleyball team has proven that it deserves that title.

The 2014-2015 season was an incredibly successful one for the varsity girls volleyball team, a year in which it continued a streak of 11 straight Class D titles. The squad, comprised of 11 players coached by Cindy Belt, was obviously thinking about the playoffs even before practices were underway, but did not forget to put its stamp on the regular season. The volleyballers went undefeated, going 12-0; a dominating statistic to say the least. They rode the momentum going into their first post-season contest, a Class D Championship match-up against the Stony Brook Bears on Suffolk County Community College's Brentwood campus. The Indians made sure to make this one quick, as they swept all three sets from the Bears (25-13, 25-14, and 25-21). Even though the Islanders were very excited about their win, they wanted more, and set their sights on the Southeastern New York Regional Final match against the Hal-

dane Blue Devils. This game had a different gravity because the winner would play at the state championships in Glens Falls. It was a close battle, but Haldane, a volleyball powerhouse from Cold Spring in Putnam County, came out on top, defeating the Indians in straight sets (26-24, 25-20, and 25-7). Although it was a hard loss, some girls on the Shelter Island team even went to the state championships to watch, in order to scout the competition and soak in the Glens Falls

The 2014-2015 season was an incredibly successful one for the varsity girls volleyball team.

experience. Captain Kelly Colligan was "impressed at how close we were to going to states during a rebuilding year." Yet again, the varsity girls volleyball program represented Shelter Island with pride and style.

Before this fall season, it had been eight years since Shelter Island last had a boys cross country team, and five since there had been a girls cross country team. Though this is the case, this year's squad, composed of eight boys and eight girls ranging from grades seven to twelve, performed as if the program had never lost a beat.

Coached by Brian Knipfing and Bryan Gallagher, the cross country team had a season that surpassed all expectations. The boys had a record of 4-2, while the girls finished 5-1, making for a solid regular season. The first playoff test for the Island runners was at the Suffolk County Section XI Division Cross Country Championships held at Sunken Meadow State Park, in Kings Park, New York, on October 21. The event included both Class C and D schools, making the competition even stiffer. The team did not shy away, though, with the girls finishing third in their division, and the boys ending up fifth in theirs. Ten days later, on Halloween, the Indians ran in the Section XI State Qualifiers, also at Sunken Meadow. Freshman Lindsey Gallagher stole the show by winning the Class D Championship for the Islanders. Impressively, half the team, four boys and four girls, made it to the

New York State Championships held in Canton, New York (right on the border of Canada). Junior runner on the boys side, Jack Kimmelman, sees "a lot of potential going forward" and is proud to say that "we went really far for our first year back." Coach Knipfing is "really proud" of that fact that eight of his runners made the state championships. He adds it was "exciting being part of the experience," and is "looking forward to next year."

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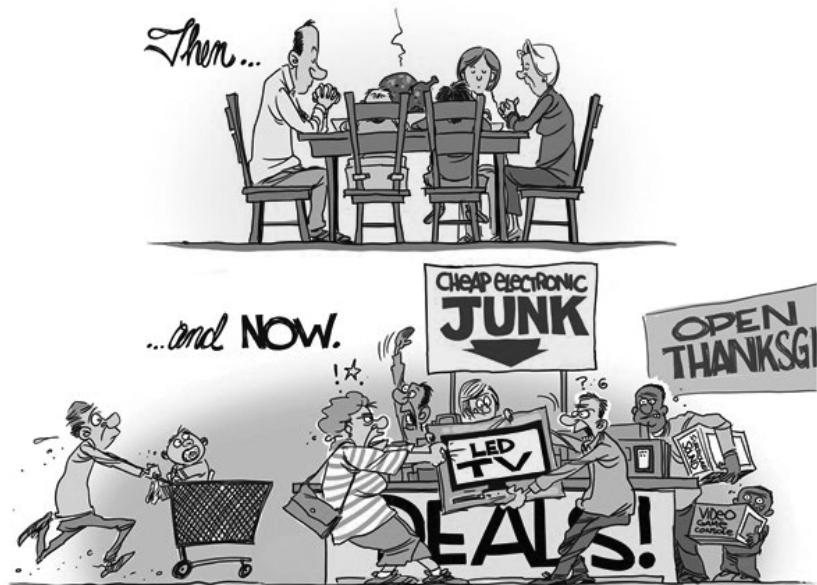
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EDITORIAL

Black Thursday—the not so thankful Thanksgiving

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

the Thanksgiving table



It is 2:38pm on Friday, November 28th. If I were in my right mind, I should be driving home from Riverhead, exhausted from spending the last dozen or more hours shopping, having spent my summer savings on “discounted” items. I completely missed my chance to get the best deals on the best shopping day of the year, Black Friday. If I were really smart, I would’ve skipped Thanksgiving dinner all together and left for shopping last night. That way, I’d be the first to get my hands on the best, cheapest items, before anyone else could. Sounds like a plan, right?

Let’s jump back November of 2013. Approximately 141 million Americans shopped during Black Friday, having spent a total of \$57.4 billion. At that time, the United States population was at a high of 341.1 million. This means for every three Americans, at least

one participated in Black Friday shopping. This is an incredible ratio, considering the very low income rates of many Americans. “Black Friday,” or the day after Thanksgiving, was put into place so that large businesses could sell mass amounts of items in a small amount of time, with the ability to lower prices because of such high demand. Stores were to open their doors at midnight and let the consumers do the rest. This, however, has changed immensely in the past four to five years.

One issue that has come up due to “Black Friday” is people’s change in priorities. Thanksgiving is meant to be a holiday during which families can come together, eat some delicious food, and consider what they have to be thankful for. It doesn’t take much to be thankful. Simply thanking others for what they have done for you and appreciating life a little more that day, makes Thanksgiving all the better. The only thing getting in the way of that? Black Friday, or should I say, Black Thursday.

A few years ago, corporate stores realized that people couldn’t wait to begin their Black Friday shopping. It was not uncommon for hundreds of people to camp outside stores like BestBuy and Walmart, just to enter the store first. Upon seeing this, countless stores did the unthinkable-- opened their doors on Thursday night, a time when people are supposed to be celebrating Thanksgiving with their friends and families. I would like to believe that families are outraged by this notion, and think that Black Friday shopping should hold off until

midnight, the time it was meant for. People are beginning to prioritize shopping over family time, and that’s just not right.

For some people, this shopping time is truly for the sake of a good bargain. But for most shoppers, real motives lies in the competition. People tend to jump on a bandwagon when they see others doing the same. Black Friday is a prime example of this. People want to come home with that \$99 flat screen, especially so they can say they did. We’ve all fallen prey to this at one time or another, but competing for material items is on the rise. Seven deaths and 96 injuries have been reported to have occurred during Black Friday. In 2008, 200 people were reported to have stampeded a Walmart worker to death. This incident is nothing short of repulsive. I’d like to think that our country is more civil than this.

By shopping for holiday gifts instead of spending time with those who are close to us, we are crushing the true meaning behind Thanksgiving. The worst part of this is how people justify their actions. “Well, I’m only leaving dinner early so that I can buy presents for the people I love. That’ll show how I appreciate them,” one may say. Only this statement is completely ironic. Greed and the lust for more and more material items are taking over the idea of giving thanks. Presents aren’t needed to show your loved ones that you appreciate them. Spending actual time with them is what will show them you are grateful for having them in your life. This is why Black Friday detracts from Thanksgiving. All people want is more, more, more. Do we ever stop to think that maybe less is more? We are all victims of greed and desire, but I think it is time we all stop and think before skipping out on turkey and pumpkin pie next year, just to save a few bucks. In the end, will that \$500 iPad be worth the time you missed laughing around the Thanksgiving table?

Mrs. Rylott: Defined

BY CAMERON CLARK

Have you ever wondered exactly what Ms. Rylott’s job is? She’s often seen either busily monitoring the halls, or making stops into classrooms. The truth is she has a plethora of important “behind the scenes” jobs and responsibilities in the Shelter Island School community. Some of her titles include: Head of Special Education, Academic Administrator, which includes overseeing the elementary school, Chief Information Officer, and Instructional Support Team Coordinator. “I have to make sure that on a daily basis I make lists and rewrite them from day to day” said Mrs. Rylott, due to her heavy (and quite varied) work schedule.

While being Head of Special Education is fairly straightforward to

define, (she’s in charge of overseeing that all the Special Education students’ needs are being met), her other positions are more challenging to comprehend. When questioned on the meaning of the title Chief Information Officer, Mrs. Rylott stated, “The school district is required to report certain information to the state: things such as Regents scores, state test scores, enrollment, Special Ed. and ESL students and their progress, and other data on each student. My job is to collect all this and send it in throughout the year.” This part of her job seems to be very data-driven. The designation of IST (Instructional Support Team) coordinator complements Mrs. Rylott’s job as Chief Information Officer and Head of Spe-

cial Ed. “I and a team of Shelter Island School staff look at all the data collected on each student and analyze it for different strengths and weaknesses. If needed, we tailor programs to fit the needs of the students.” This works as an extra support team for those students who need alternative learning environments or accommodations.

Mrs. Rylott also works in the guidance department with Mr. Palios, in terms of working on the schedules and course offerings for students. This added responsibility, along with her many other jobs within the building, make for a hectic



PHOTO BY DEVON TREHARNE

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We would love to hear from you!

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FEATURES

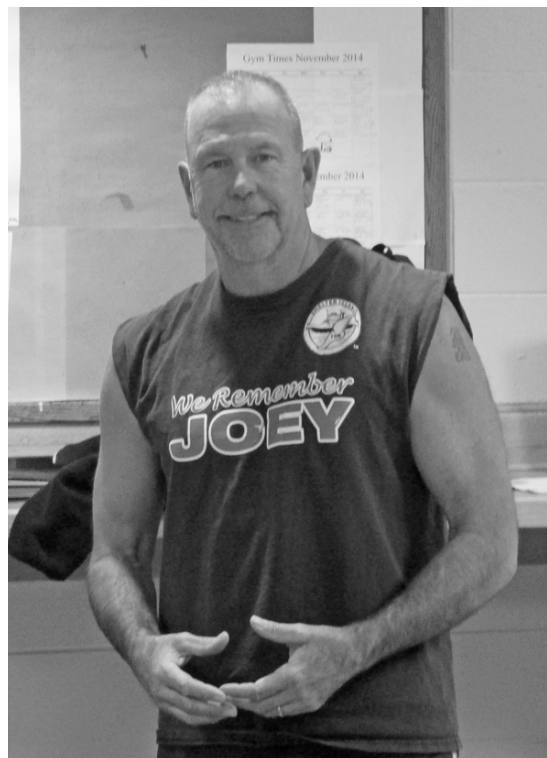
The man, the myth, the fitness legend: Mr. Osmer

BY PETER KROPF

Richard Osmer has been keeping the Shelter Island School student body fit for what seems like forever. Students from the elementary school up through the high school have been influenced by Mr. Osmer's love for athletics for the past 24 years. Everyone looks forward to a 40-minute class with "Coach," whether it's because they can't wait for an intense game of floor hockey, or it's their "A" (or "B") day and they don't have to sit through a double period of science.

Mr. Osmer believes in "teaching by example," and is proud to note that "what I teach is what I do." You can always catch him in the Fitness Center after school working out, backing up what he demands of students every day. Although the coach takes physical education seriously, he also knows how to incorporate laughter and fun into his gym classes. Mr. Osmer can't pinpoint one specific funny moment over the years here in the gym, but says there have been "lots of them."

As athletic director, Mr. Osmer has been making the athletic department run smoothly for 23 years. At first, it was a challenge for the coach "to learn the Athletic Director position," but he quickly adjusted and it has been second nature ever since. From communicating with other schools, to announcing game cancellations and making certain sports possible for students to play, even if Shelter Island didn't have them (like soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse in previous years), athletes should be thankful for Mr. Osmer's hard work.



Mr. Osmer in front of the sports information board that he updates daily. Photo by Peter Kropf

Let's get personal with the legendary coach. Mr. Osmer was born in Watertown, in upstate New York. When he was five he moved to Southold and spent all of his 13 precollege academic years there. His hobbies included "basketball, baseball, soccer, hunting, sailing, and waterskiing." The coach furthered his education at Lynchburg College in Virginia, where he majored in physical education. In his four years there, he had a record 38 shutouts, an achievement that earned him a spot in the school's soccer hall of fame. He would spend another 11 years in Virginia, 10 as a physical education instructor. The next 24 years (and counting) have been spent teaching here on the isle. Athletics and physical education are in the coach's blood. His father was the athletic director at Southold, and his brother currently teaches physical education. Mr. Osmer and his wife Jean have three children, two of whom have related careers. Erin, 31, is a fitness model, and Ryan, 26, is a P.E. teacher in Norfolk, Virginia. Quinn, 15, is too young to have decided what she will do, but if she does go into physical education, her dad will be able to give her plenty of advice.

Coaching athletics is something that Rick Osmer takes a lot of pride in. He began his coaching career down south with the women's soccer team at Sweet Briar College in Virginia. He also coached in Amherst (just outside Lynchburg, Virginia), where he guided athletes at the junior high/high school levels in soccer, basketball, football, and track and field. A highlight was directing an undefeated junior high girls basketball team. On Shelter Island, Mr. Osmer has coached soccer (when the sport used to be combined with Pierson) and basketball, he has coached the latter at almost "every level and gender." His greatest accomplishments include winning the league championships in soccer (1991-92) and basketball (1995). Mr. Osmer is pleased to note that most of his teams "have been very successful."

Coach Osmer loves "watching all sports," but doesn't align himself with any one team or player. He is satisfied, though, that he "knew Michael Jordan would be something different" while watching him play in the At-

OSMER CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

The man who keeps the school going

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

The success of a school depends heavily on the duties of the teachers, of course. They have to make sure the students are receiving a quality education and prepare them for their endeavours after high school, but, what about the people who work "behind the scenes," the people who work tirelessly to make improvements to the school building and grounds and make sure the students are provided with the best environment possible? One of the most important people behind Shelter Island School is maintenance crew chief, Mike Dunning, who thoroughly enjoys making the school a better place for all who enter the building.

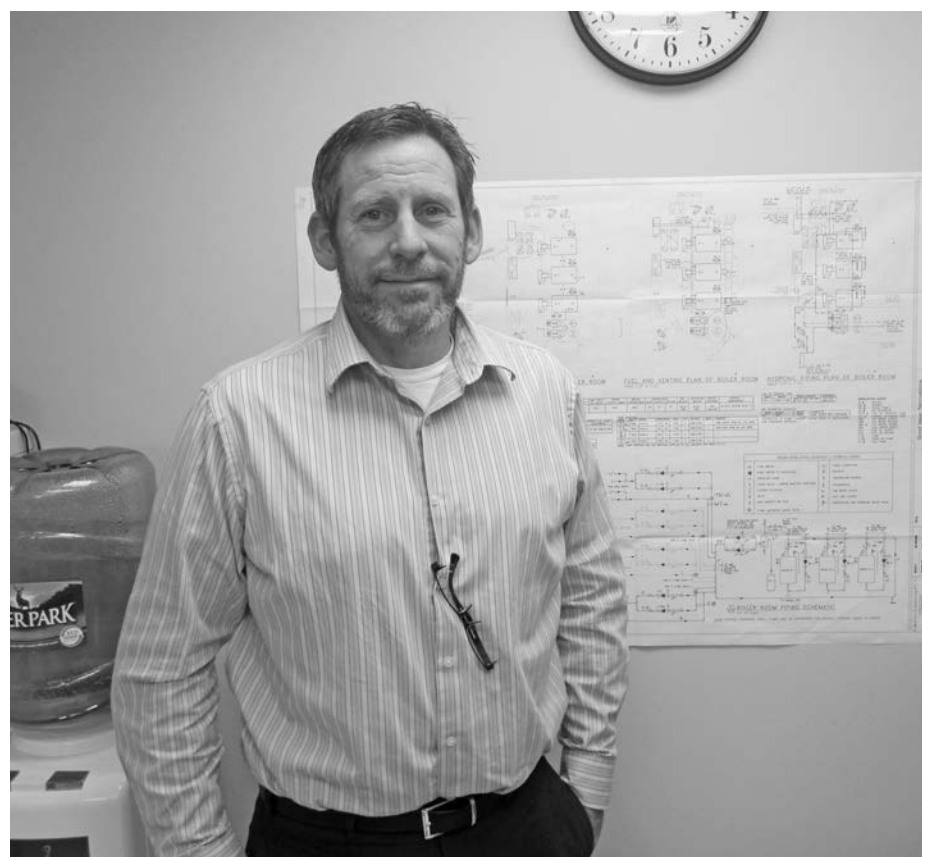
Mr. Dunning was raised in Seaford, New York, in Nassau County and attended Douglas McArthur High School. After his time in high school, he attended college for a period of time, but really found his niche while running his own business building and renovating homes. In 1996, Mr. Dunning moved to Shelter Island and later he found a home here in our school. Mr. Dunning has been Head Custodian at Shelter Island School for four and a half years now. Mr. Dunning, a family man, said one of his favorite parts of working in the school is being in the same building as his two sons, Lucas, who is 12, and Buzzy, who is 9. Another perk of his job is his great relationship with the other custodians in the school.

Mr. Dunning says it is a pleasure to work alongside the other custodians and the relationship amongst them is "very good."

Outside of school, Mr. Dunning is an avid sports fan, especially football, rooting for the Jets every Sunday. Some of his hobbies include boating and fishing, specifically on the bay with his kids, or far out in Plum Gut with his friends. He also loves to spending quality time with his wife, Patty. Although being married for only five years, the two have been together for a total of 32 years.

When asked if he has any secret or hidden talents, Mr. Dunning replied that he is "an open and honest man." "I pretty much lay it all out there. Not many secrets with me," said Mr. Dunning, chuckling. Life on Shelter Island offers his family a far different experience than his own upbringing in Nassau County. "The pace of life here is much different," he explained, and the "calm and quiet small town feel of Shelter Island" are what he enjoys most about his adopted hometown.

When the school is successful, it is because it is a total "team effort" between the teachers, custodians, administration, and everyone involved. Mike Dunning is an integral part of what makes our school the safe, happy hub it is for all of us here in the Shelter Island Community.



Mr. Dunning in front of the school blueprint in the custodian office. Photo by Tristan Wissemann

Too close for comfort?

BY PETER KROPP

The teenage years are not easy—for both child and parent. Some teenagers can't stand their parents at home, not even for five minutes. Then there are the kids here on Shelter Island whose parents work at the school and they have to see them both at school and at home, pretty much 24/7. Living in such a small town, these students have the blessing, or nightmare, depending on the situation, of seeing their parents on a daily basis in the same school they attend 180 days a year.

Kelly, who wishes “two-thirds of the time” that her mom “didn't work at the school, because she is my teacher.” Kelly explains the best part of having her mom in the school is that “she can sign me out when I need to go home,” but that the worst part is that “she is on my back all the time and constantly knows what I'm doing.” School “is never a topic of conversation” in the Colligan household, since “it feels like we are always at the school.” The junior feels “uncomfortable at times” because her mother teaches

“Oh yeah, totally.” Her mom's presence helps because if Elizabeth is sick at home, “she is there and can hand in assignments.” The 11th grader is happy her mother works in the school because “there are more pros than cons.” One such pro includes going down to her mom's office and “asking for food.” A con? “She always knows what is going on with my grades, which leads to more stress.” Elizabeth and her mother talk about school a lot at home, “since it is her job, and I go to school, so we are in the same environment.”

Junior Adrian Sulahian's father is Greg Sulahian, a maintenance crew member at the school. Adrian says it's “different” having a parent in the school. He never gets sick of seeing his dad in both places. The junior notes that his friends like his dad and are “entertained by him.” Adrian loves his dad's presence because “he reminds me to do things,” but hates it because “he reminds me to do things.”

Henry Lang, another junior, has his mother, Meghan Lang, working at the school in the guidance suite. He explains that having a parent in the school has “its ups and downs.” Henry complains that he endures “very awkward” and “embarrassing” moments “multiple times.” The 11th grader “hates how my mom talks to teachers, and then gets on me about stuff.” It's not all bad, though, because his mother “gets [him] lunch every now and then.” Sometimes, Henry's friends “ask [him] why [his] mom yells at them.” Despite this, Henry made sure to add that he “can never get sick of [his] mom.”

Sophomore Nicolette Frasco's mother is new permanent substitute teacher Jasmine Frasco. Nicolette says this “makes school a really comfortable environment.” She hasn't had her as a teacher yet, but knows “it wouldn't be awkward because we laugh a lot.” She appreciates how her mom “keeps [her] posted on schoolwork,” but doesn't love how she “tells embarrassing stories to teachers, and chats with my friends.” The 10th grader and her mother have many conversations about school because they are “always sharing stories about [their] day.” Nicolette “really enjoys” having her mom in the school, as she is “super-reliable and is never more than a few classrooms away.”

Do you see a trend above? Yeah, a lot of juniors have a parent working in the school—8 out of 19 students (42%) to be exact. This makes for an interesting situation for all, and we haven't even counted uncles, aunts, extended family, godparents, neighbors, and friends. This is part of what makes school life complicated for Shelter Island kids, but it's also the beauty of it.



Three of the eight juniors stand alongside their parents who work in the school. From left: Zach Renault and his mom Kathleen, Lynne Colligan and her daughter Kelly, and Meghan Lang with her son Henry. Photo by Emily Hyatt

Junior Kelly Colligan not only has to see her mother, high school English and SAT Preparation teacher Lynne Colligan each day at school, but also is taught by her. Kelly says this double-whammy makes for an “interesting” experience in school and in class, but adds that she “wants some space between home and school.” The 11th grader notes that her mom embarrasses her “on a daily basis,” and that her presence spurs some “tense and heated moments.” “It is awkward when she yells at my friends,” says

her friends, but does appreciate how she “sympathizes with students because of their busy schedules and extracurricular activities.” To sum it up, she states, “It's nothing against my mom, but every teenager needs their space.”

Junior Elizabeth Dunning's mother is Jacqueline Dunning, Shelter Island School's district clerk. Elizabeth reports there aren't many awkward moments because “it's not like she's in my classrooms.” When asked if her mom ever embarrasses her, she replied,

Double trouble

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

Have you seen Beth Swanstrom around town? Wait...maybe it was Lynne Colligan, no, then again, it could have been Beth. You see, lately there has been some confusion on the island about just who's who. In fact, both women have come to accept that they are regularly greeted by people they don't know, mistaking them for the other. It all began about a year ago (shortly after Beth moved to Shelter Island) that Lynne got a text from fellow Islander, Phil DiOrio: “You have a doppelganger,” the text read. Intrigued, Lynne laughed it off, until more and more people told her the same thing. Then, the sometimes awkward inquires about the bed and breakfast she didn't own, and the puppy she didn't have, began.

For Beth, it all began in the IGA, on one of her first shopping trips there. A woman approached Beth and launched right into conversation. After about a minute, the woman realized she wasn't speaking to Lynne, but to Beth, and proceeded, in astonishment, to call her friends over to check out the resemblance. “Wait, that isn't Lynne?!” Beth remembers one of the women saying as they walked away. Beth understood in that moment that there was a Lynne on Shelter Island she apparently resembled, but had no idea the extent to which she would be mistaken for her “doppelganger.” It all seemed to come together; Beth had thought people on the Island were mighty friendly, often

DOUBLE TROUBLE
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Lynne Colligan and Beth Swanstrom posing to show their similarities.

PHOTO BY KELLY COLLIGAN

A minute with Mrs. Gibbs and her famous sweater collection

BY KENNA MC CARTHY

Christmas is around the corner, so we decided to catch up with Mrs. Gibbs and find out more about her famous collection of sweaters. She showed me some of her favorite sweaters from each season and even her all-time favorite sweater. Everyone knows Mrs. Gibbs and how festive she is, so here are all the answers to your undying questions about her fabulous sweaters.

When did your collection start? Which sweater?

Somewhere in the past 30 years. The nutcracker Christmas sweater was my first and my son gave it to me.

Which are your favorites?

The Minnie and Mickey Mouse Christmas sweater I got in Disney last year has to be my favorite.

What time of the year do you bring out the sweaters?

I start to bring them out in October.

Where did you buy the sweaters?

Some are from Florida, Kmart, Disney, Macy's, and anywhere else I can find them. Some have been gifted to me, as well.

About how many holiday sweaters do you own?

About 30.

Have you bought any new ones lately, if so which ones? Are you still collecting?

The newest addition is the blue zip up sweater vest with snowmen on it that I got for blue and gray Fridays. I am always still collecting.

Do your students and/or teachers give you feedback on your sweaters? If so, what kind? Do you think they look forward to them?

I think that they keeps things interesting. It keeps people looking forward to the holidays.



Mrs. Gibbs showing off her new and old holiday sweaters.

PHOTO BY KENNA MCCARTHY

RYLOTT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

day. "In the morning I try to be outside to welcome the elementary students, then I help with the morning announcements, I also schedule and attend meetings with faculty, parents and students. Occasionally, I attend a conference to update myself on the state rules and regulations. It's a lot of paperwork and phone calls, as well." One question many students ask is what exactly Mrs. Rylott is observing when she periodically stops into various teachers' classrooms? On this she explained, "It's my way of seeing what is going on in the classroom, to see whether programs are running well, it's also a way to get familiar with students, especially new

ones," she continued, "I don't want to be stuck in the office. I want to be seen and work personally with the students and teachers."

Mrs. Jenn Rylott is an essential part of the Shelter Island School community. Her work behind the scenes makes a lot of the programs we have here possible. "I'm excited to have been a part of this community for as long as I have been, it's nice to see how the district has evolved over time," she reflected. So, next time you see Mrs. Rylott walking through the halls, or popping into your classroom to check in, greet her with a big smile and remember that her aim every day is to make our lives, as students, more enjoyable.

Is bigger always better?

BY CAMERON CLARK

Shelter Island is, to say the least, a unique place to grow up. With our midnight ferry curfews, beautiful landscape, and passionately loyal locals, it's hard to find another place that truly captures the essence of this small town. This little town personifies the saying "It takes a village..." and provides alumni with a lifelong support group. Nonetheless, for most Shelter Island students, leaving the nest and heading to college is an inevitability. This is an anxiety-producing transition, especially when coming from such a small, personalized learning environment. So, this begs the questions: does transitioning to college from such a small high school make the leap more difficult? And, does coming from a small high school mean a small college is a better fit?

"My first few thoughts [on going to college] were a mix of excitement and anxiousness to meet new people and try new things," explained current Siena College freshman and SIHS class of 2014 alum, Erin Colligan. While Erin's college is considered a "small school" according to univer-

sity standards, it still houses close to 3,200 students; which is larger than the year-round population of Shelter Island. On choosing a college on the smaller side, Erin said, "In a small school you can get more involved, classes are more active in participation and the teachers know who you are." However, even a small school can feel big after leaving SIHS. Erin explained, "It's weird in a way, college makes you realize you have to build friendships, interests, and a sort of reputation all over again." Lea Giambruno, (S.I. class of 2013), attends SUNY Oneonta, a college with approximately 6,000 undergrads. The transition took some getting used to for Lea. "Going from 20 kids in my class at Shelter Island, to 1,500 kids [in my class] at Oneonta was a huge change. There are so many people I'm still meeting in my sophomore year who lived in my freshman building, but I never met." It seems her choice has given Lea the best of both worlds, as she explained, "I definitely prefer going to a 'big school.' Although, I do appreciate the smallness of the Island

when I come home to it."

Matthew Dunning, from the Class of 2014, now attends St. John's University, with a student body of 15,000 students. When asked about the transition, he said, "I enjoyed knowing everyone at Shelter Island so well. I know a lot of people at St. John's too, but for every person I know, there are five that I don't." Despite the large size of St. John's, Matthew said, "It's not at all hard to meet new people. I just introduce myself when I go into a new class and it lets people know that I'm friendly and willing to make friends. If they can recognize that, we find stuff in common." Matthew makes the small school to big school transition sound easy!

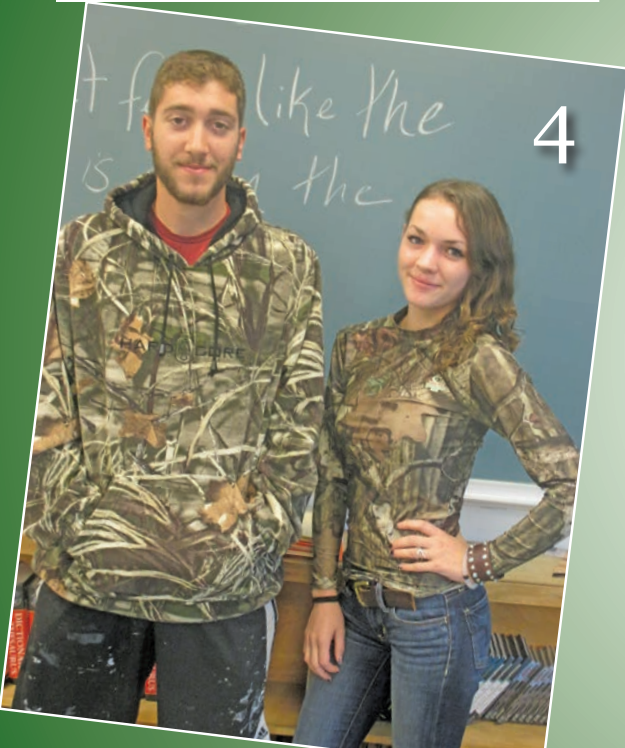
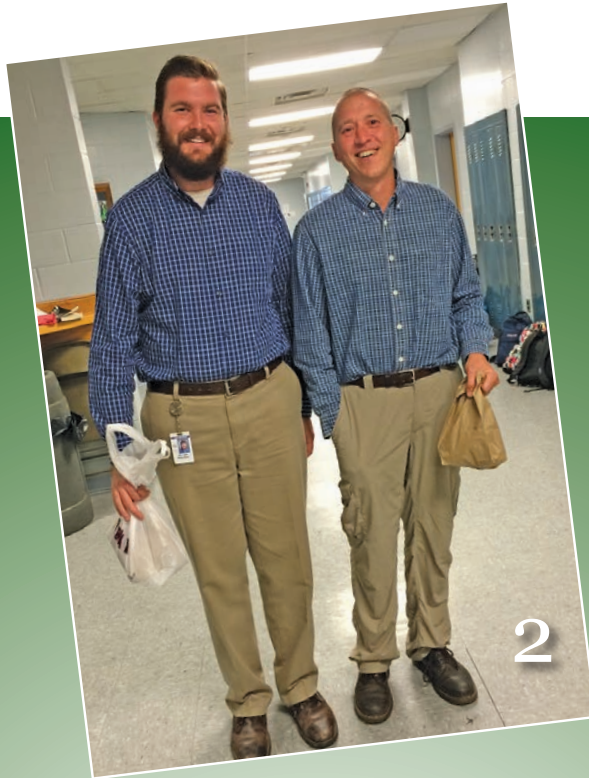
Katy Binder, (SI class of 2013), focused on how different athletics can be when going to a big college or university. Katy attends Villanova University, which has an undergrad population of about 7,000. She shared, "What I miss most about Shelter Island is playing sports. If I'd known that I would miss volleyball so much, I definitely would have applied to

smaller school so I could have played for a Division III school." At SIHS, if you want to play a certain sport, you are pretty much guaranteed a spot on the team. That is far from reality at big schools, like Villanova. Even though Villanova is much more competitive athletically, Katy hasn't felt lost there, saying, "I've made a lot of close friends, and I made it a point to get as involved as possible in campus activities."

Whether attending a small, private college, or a large university, the transition from out little island seems like a big one. "I miss SI a lot more than I thought I would," Erin Colligan divulged. It seems, according to these recent alums, that the key to making the transition is to be open to new experiences, seek out ways to be involved in campus life, and to let others know you are ready and willing to make new friends. After all, all freshmen are in the same boat, so even though homesickness can creep in, taking in the adventure of a new beginning is essential.

TWINNING

In such a small school, it's not difficult to come across people with matching outfits. Here are some of Shelter Island's finest twinning pairs!



1. Science buds Ms. Bothwell and Mrs. Gibbs found themselves “twinning” while both wearing coral tops, brown pants, and brown shoes. Unplanned, they swear! Photo by Kelly Colligan **2.** Math teachers Mr. Theinert and Mr. Brigham posed for a photo after returning from lunch, both wearing blue and white checkered button downs, tan pants, brown belts, and brown shoes. Photo by Kenna McCarthy **3.** Cross country gals Caitlin Binder, Francesca Frasco, and Lindsey Gallager matched each other by proudly sporting their XC shirts with blue jeans. Photo by Devon Treharne **4.** Juniors Richard Ruscica and Shawna Goody both broke out in camouflage. Photo by Devon Treharne **5.** Freshman girls Emily Strauss, Sarah Lewis, Lindsey Gallager, Francesca Frasco, Madison Hallman, and Bianca Evangelista smiled for a “Flannel Friday” photo. Photo by Devon Treharne **6.** Administration pals Mr. Gulluscio and Skugz decked out in matching suits, supporting the new tradition “Blue and Grey Fridays”. Photo by Kelly Colligan **7.** Pretty in purple! Mr. Cox, Mrs. Sears, and Dr. Dibble all happened to be wearing different shades of purple. Photo by Devon Treharne **8.** Sarah Lewis and Hayley Lowell-Lizanzkie matched with beige sweaters, blue jeans, and black combat boots. Photo by Devon Treharne **9.** Movie sensation Napoleon Dynamite and junior Peter Kropf are pictured side by side representing their “Vote for Pedro” shirts. Photo by Kelly Colligan

AROUND the Halls

BY
KENNA
MCCARTHY



HENRY LANG

"I got a speedo from my cousin, and re-gifted it to my classmate Max."

For this holiday's issue of "Around the Halls", we asked students:
"Have you ever re-gifted a Christmas present? If so, what?"



AMELIA REITER

"My grandma got me a ugly vest that was too small and I wrapped it up and told her it would be better for her instead".

NICO SEDDIO

"Once I gave my dad a cheese grater from the dump. I guess that counts as a regift."



AMELIA CLARK

"When I was 7 I got socks from my sister Cameron and I gave them to her four days later for her birthday."



ELIZABETH DUNNING

"I once got a Ronald Reagan calendar from my crazy aunt. I re-gifted it to Mr. Doelger."



MRS. WEIR

"I got a repulsive Christmas wreath from my friend, and re-gifted it to my co-worker."

SI girls basketball is back and ready for new season

BY PETER KROFF

It is freezing outside—you know what that means: a brand-new season on the hardwood for both the Shelter Island junior varsity and varsity girls basketball teams. This year marks the first time in two years that the Indians have had both a JV squad and a varsity one. It is not only a great sign for the current season, but also for the future. Both teams have high expectations, since last year's team (JV only) dominated by going 13-1, under Coach Peter Miedema.

Let's start off with the young guns. The junior varsity girls basketball team is coached by Danielle Gil, new to the Indians program. She is happy that there is both a JV and varsity because "it is good for player development, and we can practice together, have the same playbook, and all be on the same page." Coach Gil has a squad of seven, and though of course every coach would like to have ten for practices and scrimmages, she really doesn't mind. "It is good so they can all play and get lots of reps in practice," says Gil of her small team. The coach notes that she would like her team to improve in the "experience and fundamentals" departments, but also sees the great strengths that the group already has: "They are very fast, very hard workers, and willing to learn," attributes that could propel a team in any sport to success. These characteristics fit nicely into Gil's coaching philosophy, which emphasizes "defense and the run and gun offense." Her main goal

this season is for her team to "play as a cohesive unit, with good team chemistry." This should not be a problem, as Coach Gil explains: "Because of our school, the players all know each other, and many of them are my students, making the coach--player relationship a plus." Gil has been playing basketball since she was five, and knows the importance of keeping things fun and positive. Using "pasta parties and motivational sayings" are only two of the ways Coach Gil keeps her players motivated, energized, and upbeat. She "loves basketball so much," and is looking forward to "the competitiveness, getting to hang out with everybody, helping the varsity, and inspiring [her] players" this season.

Hayley Lowell-Lizanckie, one of Coach Gil's players, believes it is important to "work together as a team to win." The freshman sees the advantage of playing in a small school: "Since we are smaller, we can bond." She is happy to "work with the varsity" because they are "good role models."

The varsity girls basketball team is led by returning coach Peter Miedema. Like coach Gil, he recognizes the benefits of having both a JV and a varsity: "It is important to be together in order to try to create consistency." The coach doesn't think the graduation of last year's seniors will have too much of an effect on his team because "now the girls are ready to step up, emerge as team leaders, and take on more important roles." The varsity squad has eight



Coach Peter Miedema (center) instructing the junior varsity and varsity girls basketball teams at a recent practice. PHOTO BY PETER KROFF

players, a number Coach Miedema believes has its "pros and cons." He says, "The players will get more playing time and exposure, but they are also susceptible to foul trouble and [may] lack fresh legs." "Staying competitive against the elite teams and beating the teams we should beat" are two of his main goals for this season. Miedema's coaching philosophy, which should help accomplish these aims, is to "make sure at the end of each practice we are better than before." He would also like to instill the "excitement of competition" in his players. The coach plans to incorporate "positivity" into his practices and "allow the girls to play more freely." According to Coach Miedema, the team's unique traits include "playing hard all the time and always picking each other up." He looks forward to "calling Newsday and the Shelter Island Reporter" to tell them his team's stats for box scores and articles, something he hasn't done for

two years, since there had only been a junior varsity for him to coach. Miedema loves basketball because he enjoys watching "five people on the court at the same time working together," and, in addition, greatly appreciates the "flow and perfection" you see on the court after a lot of hard work.

Junior Margaret Michalak hopes to "rebuild, since we haven't had a varsity team in two years." She believes the team differs from others in the league because it is "very aggressive, and tiny, but mighty." Margaret looks forward to "getting back into shape and playing against tougher teams."

Although both the junior varsity and varsity girls basketball teams have high expectations and their sights set on winning, they also know how to have fun. Sometimes we forget why we play basketball or sports in the first place, but these teams remind us why: For the love of the game!

'Tis the basketball season

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

'Tis the season! Both the girl's volleyball team and the cross country team ended on terrific notes, and now it's time to get into winter sports, including boy's basketball. Last year's varsity team made some outstanding achievements, so this year the team will certainly have some big shoes to fill. This past season, the varsity squad, coached by Mike Mundy and Jim Colligan, achieved the title of Long Island Class D Champions, and even went further to be Southeast Regional Finalists.

This year, the team lost four solid senior players, which makes this year somewhat of a rebuilding year. "It will be difficult to replace last year's seniors, but the hard work the team has put in over the summer will help the team adjust," varsity coach, Jay Card, says. Among other changes, Coach Jay Card has taken over as the varsity coach. Coach Card has coached at the

JV level for the years in the past, and has collaborated with Coach Mundy and the varsity team all along. This puts the new varsity coach in a great position to coach this renovated team. He says he "doesn't expect much of a difference" in regards to coaching at a higher level.

Ian Kanarvogel, last year's JV coach, will remain in his position as he takes on his also new squad. The loss of this year's junior players could be difficult. "Losing my juniors will be a tough transition for me. I am losing my entire starting lineup from last year. With that said, I am excited to mold this new group into a successful unit," Coach Kanarvogel explains, "I have full confidence that we will have a successful year." Coach Card also is expecting great things for the varsity squad. "One of my goals is to return to the playoffs and be strong contenders," he says,



PHOTO BY KELLY COLLIGAN

Members of the varsity boys basketball team are pictured in the zone, preparing for their scrimmage against Mercy High School on December 1st.

BBALL CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

SPORTS

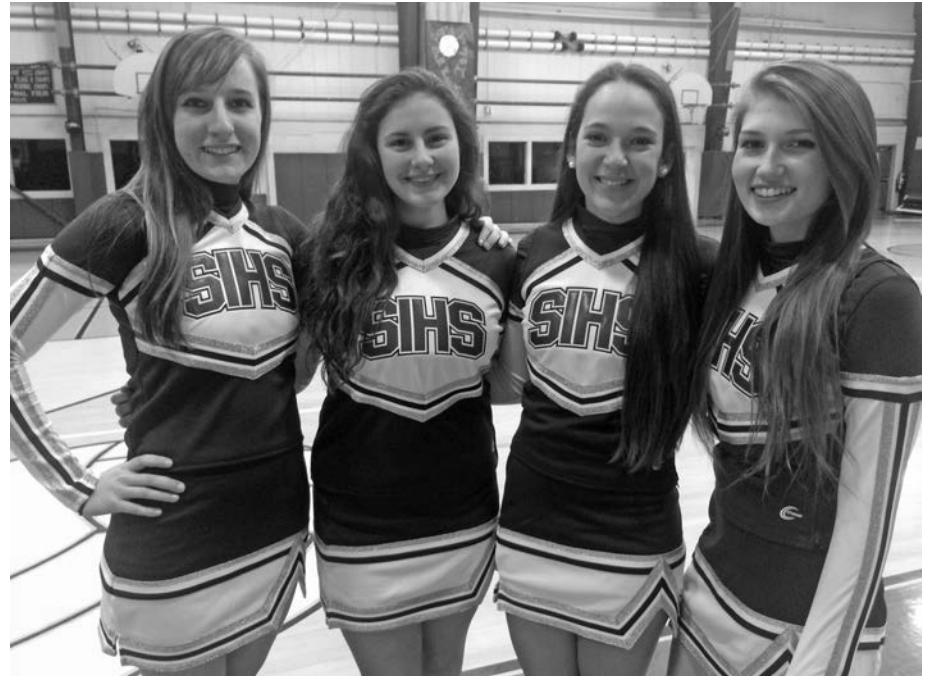
Changing cheerleaders

BY CAMERON CLARK

Major change is in store for our cheerleaders here at Shelter Island School for the winter season. Since cheering officially became a legalized sport as opposed to a “club,” not only are the funds up, but so is morale. The cheerleaders this season have ditched the old uniforms that had been in use for the last twenty years and updated their look to a more modern, sleek version, of course still donning the classic “SIHS” lettering. “I’m excited for this season! Change was definitely needed in order to refresh the spirit here at S.I. school” says enthusiastic senior member of the squad, Nicole Poleshuk. The cheer team this year is coached by Jessica Bosak and veteran Nationals cheerleader Debbie Sears. “They both bring different things to the table,” says Olivia Garrison, another senior cheerleader, “Mrs. Sears is super awesome at coming up with new cheers and keeping us focused, while Ms. Bosak keeps us all on beat, stretched, and ready to go at all times.”

Both of these qualities are pivotal for

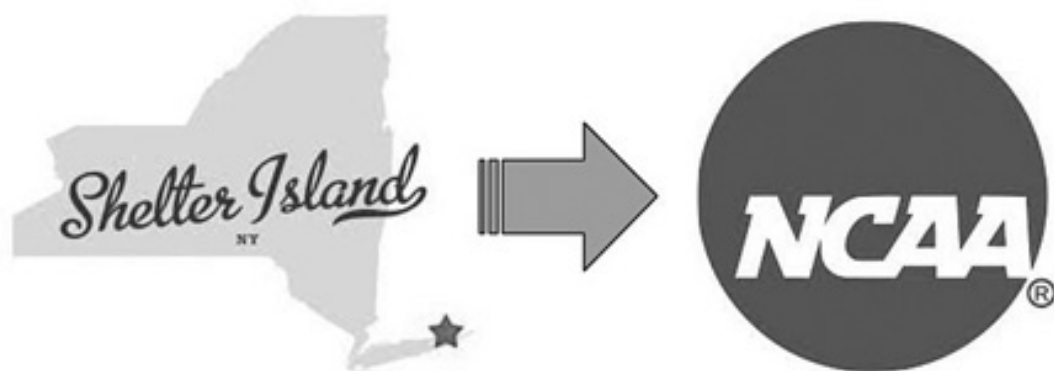
the squad this year, due to their goal to have all new cheers and chants. Along with having to learn a half time dance, the cheerleaders seriously have their work cut out for them. “We can do it, if we keep up the momentum. We’re essentially a totally different squad from last year. We’re all pumped and ready for an awesome season,” says junior member, Emily Hyatt. “While it won’t happen this year, what Mrs. Sears and I see in the future is our girls going to compete around Long Island, and eventually going to Nationals,” Coach Bosak said with confidence. She continued, “This year is a major conditioning year to feel out the individual strengths of the team.” The team is made up of Olivia Garrison, Nicole Poleshuk, Cameron Clark, Emily Hyatt, Elizabeth Dunning, Olivia Yeaman, Zoey Bolton, Sophia Strauss, Julia Labrozzi, and Isabella Sherman. The squad is small, but more ready than ever to bring back some spirit to Shelter Island School and support the Indians.



Cheerleaders Emily Hyatt, Olivia Yeaman, Julia Labrozzi, and Sophia Strauss show off the new and improved cheer uniforms.

From SI to the NCAA

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN



As most young, dedicated, and aspiring athletes know, playing the sport they love at the college level is a huge privilege and takes a lot of hard work and time from the student athletes. Shelter Island, with a history of successful teams in the past from multiple sports varying from basketball to volleyball and many more, lack a large population of alumni representing the island at the collegiate level of play. Some say, with SIHS competing in Class D competition (the smallest classification in New York State), in one of the leagues with the smallest schools in the state, can put an aspiring athlete at a disadvantage when it comes to college recruiting, and does not prepare athletes for the high level of college play.

College coaches want people who have proven they can perform at a high level. This is why student athletes from schools with large populations who play in the best leagues often get recruited

more heavily than “small school” kids. Former Shelter Island basketball standout and Class of 2005 graduate Chris Evangelista, who played at Division III institutions Rhode Island College and SUNY Purchase, said that being a good player in League 8 in Section 11 (Suffolk County) can be seen as “a big fish in a small pond” and will be viewed as that until an athlete proves that they are otherwise. Even though Chris received a good amount of interest from the time he was finished with his freshman season, it was more of a challenge for him than other recruits at larger high schools to get noticed. Though, he says that the player cannot control the situation, and should focus on what is important: becoming better. “My advice would be to not worry about it, and focus on gaining exposure in basketball outside of Shelter Island,” said Evangelista.

Former standout on the powerhouse volleyball team and Class

of 2013 graduate Saverina Chicka had views similar to Chris Evangelista, saying that student athletes often need to “reach out to schools to let them know we are interested in them before they begin to look at us.” Saverina currently is a sophomore playing volleyball for SUNY Fredonia in upstate New York, competing against strong

Division III competition. She also commented on the difficulty of collegiate practice and on how much one has to prepare outside of school volleyball to be successful at the NCAA level. “There is a lot more preparation in college ball. Summer is when you get a chance to really train and bring everything you have to the table come August.” Saverina also noted that playing travel or “club” volleyball during the off season helped her obtain notice from colleges and gave coaches the opportunity to come out and watch her play.

Cori Cass, a former Shelter Island basketball phenom, played collegiately at both the NCAA Division I level (Manhattan College, which was a top twenty program in the country at the time) and the Division III JUCO level (Becker College) after graduating Shelter Island. Cori described the jump from League 8 to the NCAA as “a ten fold jump,” also noting that

“guys are bigger, faster, and just all around better.” He said the dedication is rigorous, and from the time he stepped on campus, a year long commitment had begun. To even get to that situation, Cori had to use every resource he could find, including the help of friend John Findstein as a recruit contact to reach out and get him a look. Although he describes this way as “very unconventional,” he knew he had to do something outside of the box, because being from here, one has to keep “all avenues open” and do what is necessary to get notice, even if it is slightly unorthodox.

Shelter Island has a history of great teams, as well as individual players. Being a small town, family-like community, sports can really bring kids together. However, for more serious student-athletes, a small school can hold them back from reaching not only their full potential, but their goals of playing their sport collegiately. Because of the remote location of our small island community and the miniscule size of our school, student athletes have to be much more proactive than the average high schooler at a larger school. There comes a point where they have to take their future into their own hands and seek recruitment themselves. Even though the process of recruiting may be a bit more stressful here, a determined, ambitious student-athlete can always find a spot on a college roster.

Camping out for a good cause

BY KENNA MC CARTHY

Sleeping in boxes at the school sounds fun, right? Well, maybe. Every year the National Honor Society run by Mrs. Mahoney raises funds for Habitat for Humanity. Students who are part of NHS and other high schoolers wanting to participate, have to raise at least \$150 dollars to be able to take part in this annual event. The long night starts at 6pm and goes until 6am the next morning. There is little sleep, but lots of fun.

This year chaperones Mr. Bocca and Mrs. Mahoney kept an eye on students throughout the night. It was a night of firsts for Mr. Bocca, including eating a marshmallow peep, spying an owl, and lighting his first match. Luckily, the Cardboard Campout took place on a fairly mild

evening, however, as participant Kelly Colligan shared, "by the time morning came, it was so dewy that my sleeping bag was all wet." The activity was a success, as it raised over \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity, as well as awareness on the part of all who participated. "Living on Shelter Island, we aren't exposed to the reality of homelessness and poverty. This was a chance to open students' eyes to living in the shoes of a homeless person," Kelly pointed out.

The money raised by this event will be part of a larger effort in the spring, when students will help build a house for a needy family. The "Cardboard Campout" gave everyone the opportunity to learn things about each other and gain a new perspective.



Kelly Colligan, Serina Kassik, and Kenna McCarthy (left to right) getting ready to sleep in their temporary homes during the "Cardboard Campout".

Is community service really a graduation requirement?

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

Of all of the milestones of "growing up," graduating high school is one of the most glorifying and exciting, but what is really required of us before we walk across that stage? We all know that we have to have a passing GPA and meet the Regents requirements set forth by New York State to get our diplomas, but Shelter Island School students have also long been reminded to complete and log community service hours. What is the deal with community service hours? Are they required to graduate? If so, how many? Are they simply encouraged in order to make us better citizens? Do we have to do community service at all?

It seems the answers to the questions swirling around community service were not that easy to come

by. Students seemed confused about whether or not community service was required to graduate. Senior Julia Martin seemed to be confused, saying, "I think they are required. I'm not sure. I know they are in other schools." Senior Olivia Garrison chimed in, "I don't know either, but I know if you get over 100 hours you get a special scholarship or something." If these seniors are not even sure if they need a certain amount of hours before graduating, there seems to be a communication disconnect.

Guidance Counselor Mr. Palios was the man to ask about what is truth versus rumor in this community service confusion. Mr. Palios stated he, "doesn't know why students would assume there is a requirement for com-

munity service hours to graduate." Explaining more fully that, "there is no school, national, or state requirement concerning community service in order to graduate." Mr. Palios did, however, point out where this information may have gotten muddled in the first place, explaining that in the past there was a class requirement for Participation in Government that students complete a certain number of community service hours. In addition, the uncertainty might have been exacerbated by seniors logging their community service hours in attempts to become members of the "Century Club." This honorable distinction is given to students who complete 100 hours of community service. (There is no scholarship for this achievement.)

In last year's senior class, only six out of twenty seven total students earned this impressive achievement.

So, we don't have to complete a certain amount of community service hours to graduate, but does that mean we shouldn't? Of course not. Mr. Palios explained, "community service has several priceless advantages that can teach students lessons that they cannot learn in the classroom, such as selflessness, concern for others in the community, and being part of something bigger than themselves." Not to mention, colleges love seeing community interaction and volunteer work on student resumes. Even though we don't have to, doing community service can help us to give back to the island that has given us so much.

OSMER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

lantic Coast Conference for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. You can catch Mr. Osmer reading his copy of Newsday every morning, especially all the high school sports scores in the MSG Varsity section. The coach watches "mostly news and the Discovery Channel" on television, and when listening to some tunes, he prefers country music.

Rick Osmer plans to "finish out his career here, and then stay on Long Island, only traveling during the winter months." The coach knows he "made the right decision to come here" because he "loves small schools" and "the kids are great."

DOUBLE TROUBLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

waving enthusiastically, even though Beth knew few people on Shelter Island since she had just moved here. All of the confusion had an unexpected result; it contributed to Beth feeling "immediately like a local," she shared.

Lynne Colligan is a teacher at Shelter Island School and has lived on the island for about 9 years now. She knows many people around town, so naturally when the confusion began, people were mostly mistaking Beth for Lynne. Beth recounted a time at Stars Cafe when some students called out, "Hi, Mrs. Colligan!" while going on their way, never even realizing it wasn't really Lynne. Now, though, the tables are turning. The first time Lynne was mistaken for Beth, "A gentleman asked me how my lawn was growing and how my dog was. At the time I wasn't growing a lawn, nor did I have a dog. I said, 'you must think I'm Beth,' to which he replied, 'Oh yes, sorry, you look so

much like her. She's trying to grow grass at her bed and breakfast."

About all of this confusion, Lynne says, "I find it funny that in such a small place there would be someone who looks so much like me." Lynne acknowledges that the two do look quite similar from afar because of "their height, hair, and glasses."

Beth Swanstrom moved to the island just last November from New York City to open her bed and breakfast, Seven on Shelter at 7 Sterns Point Road. Seven on Shelter is not your traditional B&B, it is "contemporary," according to Beth. At the B&B, she has maintained the 1902 farmhouse look on the exterior. Inside, the bedrooms and bathrooms have been renovated to give a new feel to an old house. Art is also sold in the boutique/gallery section of the B&B. Beth shared that her favorite part about running a B&B on the island is "when people come and

stay on Shelter Island for the first time and then tell me how beautiful it is and how much they now love it."

The twinning pair finally met last winter when Jimmy Rando at Sweet Tomatoes officially introduced them. Beth had been "very curious to see the resemblance, and when I saw her, I knew exactly that that was the woman people were confusing me for." As they greet one another, "We both just laughed," said Beth. Lynne added, "I was happy to finally meet Beth." The mystery of who's who will continue to puzzle some Islanders, but that's ok with Beth, she has a strategy; "I just smile and wave because I don't want people thinking Lynne is being rude and ignoring them." Lynne agrees, saying, "for the most part, I just smile and wave back when I realize I'm getting a wave from someone I don't know." Looks like these doppelgängers have each other's backs.

A trip to Bay Street

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

On November 7th, a chilly, dreary Friday afternoon, the entire high school filed into school buses to attend Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird" at Bay Street Theater. The students walked the streets of Sag Harbor, excited to see such the Pulitzer Prize winning novel come to life on the stage. Students walked into the theater, and waited in Bay Street's lounge, reading information



Students admired the luminous set for Bay Street's "To Kill a Mockingbird". Photo by Alex Perlaki

on both the play and its characters. When they were allowed in, students quickly filled all the closest seats to the stage. The lucky ones who were able to sit in the front row were on stage level, right in front of all the action. Students looked around in amazement at the quaint, unique theater. Some had never been to Bay Street Theater before. The theater arranged this showing for just the Shelter Island Students, leaving no one else in the theater seats. In addition, the play was arranged to be viewed free of charge to high school students, as Bay Street's goal was to encourage readers to see such a famous work transferred to a live performance. After a brief introduction, the lights dropped, and the play began.

The protagonist, Scout, narrated the play as an adult telling her tale in flashbacks, reflecting on her experiences as a child. This made the audience feel like they were caught up at

all times, and added a second perspective to the play. Following her short monologue, the students saw a young girl run onto the stage. It turns out the actress who played the younger Scout was only eight years old! Follow her came her older brother, Jem, and her father, the famous Atticus Finch. The set remained constant the entire play, with a few props added for scenes in the town square and in the town court. The actors put the aisles of the theater to full use, running up and down them during their performances. The play kept students riveted in their seats. Students awaited the actors' every move, and their southern accents added to the authenticity of the play. Gun shots, thunder, lightning, were just few of the many special effects during the production, which kept the audience alert and intrigued. Upon finishing the

play, all the students gave the actors warm applause and were moved by the performance. The students raved about how impressive the young actors were, how realistic the special effects were, and how exhilarating the play was as a whole.

"The play was definitely worthwhile and really helped me understand the themes behind To Kill a Mockingbird," Margaret Michalak explained. Devon Treharne, high school English teacher felt the same way. She says, "I thought the play was very well done. I was so impressed by the actors who played Atticus Finch, Bob Ewell, and Tom Robinson. When the actor playing Bob Ewell actually spit in Atticus's face, the whole audience gasped; it was intense! The play was so moving and effective in evoking the heartbreak Atticus and Tom Robinson faced. I found myself choking back tears more than once."

always highly competitive," he shares.

With great momentum from last year's season, the boy's basketball team is looking promising. The players, especially, are excited to see how the season unfolds. Tristan Wissemann, a junior, says he is going to try and meet the newly set standards for the team. "We're hoping to utilize the new players for the new varsity team and try and make a run like last year," he says. Another returning varsity player, Peter Kropf, explains how he is hoping to beat Pierson. "They always put up a fight, so it's going to be tough. "We perform best if the team works as a cohesive unit," he explains. Both coaches would highly recommend that the students, faculty, and community members all attend the games to support the team, and lead them to success. This year's basketball season is bound to be a great one, folks.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"Every day we will walk into the gym to play a game that we want to win." Taking the game step by step will be a tool the team uses. "Win each quarter, then each half, the third quarter, and then close out the game".

JV Coach Ian Kanarvogel has hard work to impose upon the younger squad, as well. "This year I will have a defensive philosophy. The focus will be on getting better in that aspect of the game," he says, "Defense is all about effort and determination. I was my team giving one-hundred percent effort at all times." Like all JV teams, Coach Kanarvogel is determined on preparing his team for the varsity level. Having the JV players progress as players and master the fundamentals are just few of his goals for this basketball season. One team the coach is looking forward to playing is Ross. "We usually match up well and the games are

Reaching a milestone: 50 years of science fair

BY TRISTAN WISSEMANN

The annual science fair has served as a right of passage for seventh through ninth graders, and even the occasional upper classmen. Originated in 1964, by Gene Kinghan, the science fair's original aim was to showcase the scientific knowledge of students and the in-depth experimental research that

took the students months to conduct. Not only has the annual science fair helped students with their scientific expertise, but it has helped students with other real life skills that can be applied in college and the workforce. What Gene Kinghan started, no one anticipated would still be around 50 years later, enlightening and inspiring students each year.

Like most things, the science fair has only gotten better and more advanced with age. "The amount of technology available now is a big difference from when it originally started," explained Mrs. Sharon Gibbs, middle school science teacher and current science fair coordinator. Even though the way her students can research their topics has changed, the principles and rules of the science fair have not been altered very much over the past fifty years. Mrs. Gibbs describes the principles of the fair as the same, but "updated and modified" to the needs of the students. Over time, there have been more and more safety requirements added and the amount of of judged rounds has gone from six to seven to a condensed three rounds. Also, Mrs. Gibbs likes to bring in judges with certain "areas of expertise" so they can get a full understanding of what the student studied and researched, and possibly even help them out for a follow-up project in proceeding years.



Even for former students of Mrs. Gibbs who did not follow a career in science post graduation, carry with them the memories and lessons learned from their days presenting those big science fair boards in the gym. Mrs. Gibbs explained with great pride that students who are now in college, have graduated college, or are

currently in the workforce have come back to her and described how the science fair helped improve their presenting skills "greatly" in college.

This year being the 50th annual year is a not only a big milestone for the school and community, but for Mrs. Gibbs personally, as well. Mrs. Gibbs, a member of the Shelter Island School class of 1986, is a product of the science fair herself, and was greatly impacted by the initiation of the fair by Mr. Kinghan. Mrs. Gibbs has been in the shoes of everyone involved by being a student competing, a judge analyzing the projects, and a parent dealing with a child in the process. She described Gene Kinghan as a "mentor" and "a great mind of science who blessed the school with his knowledge." Although Mr. Kinghan is no longer with us, a family member of his is scheduled to be in attendance in his memory. Mrs. Gibbs said he "would be pleased to see the science fair still going strong, even fifty years later."

"Anything that can last fifty years is an accomplishment," explained Mrs. Gibbs. Yet, that doesn't mean she will rest on its reputation, "We are always trying to add more," she asserted. With the science fair still going stronger than ever, it is yet another example of how Shelter Island traditions are what this school and community is built on.

The first annual clash of the classes

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

This year Student Council decided to make some changes to the Halloween event previously known as "Anything Goes," rebranding the event as "Clash of the Classes." "Anything Goes" had been held for over a decade and had themed class costumes and skits as a central part of the tradition. This year, all of that changed.

"The skits became a chore," Student Council Vice President Kelly Colli-

gan said. Changing "Anything Goes" to "Clash of the Classes" made for a fresh new competition and students responded enthusiastically. Just because the skits were discontinued, however, didn't mean costumes were not encouraged. The class with the most students dressed up received extra points in the overall competition.

This year, annual favorites such as the relay race, pie eating, and dodge-

CLASH CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CLASH

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ball were back, things like the class banner, pumpkin decorating, and mummy wrap were nixed, while one exciting new addition was a game of "Family Feud." Three students were chosen from each class to take part in the classic game show. All of the categories were Shelter Island themed, including, "Annoying things summer people do" and "best place on S.I. to get a breakfast sandwich." The responses had everyone laughing and the audience became so involved, some even started shouting out answers. Overheard on the bleachers was an elementary student emphatically telling his friend, "This is like watching the real show, but better!"

It seems nearly every year seniors win "Anything Goes," but this year sophomores were victorious in the first "Clash of the Classes." Seniors came in second, freshmen third, and juniors were last. Based on the success of this year, "Clash of the Classes" will live on as the new and improved "Anything Goes."

CLASH

of the

Classes

