



Kindergartener Nathaniel Overstreet greeting his new superintendent, Mr. Skuggevik, with a high five on the first day of school.

PHOTO BY DEVON TREHARNE

# The past is be–“Hynes” us, Skuggz is here to stay

BY CAMERON CLARK

As a result of Dr. Hynes’s infamous move to Patchogue-Medford, some students have been left with an overwhelming sense of deja vu due to the fact that Shelter Island School has had seven different superintendents/principals over the past 10 years. Not to worry though, S.I.! New Superintendent Mr. Skuggevik (“Skuggz”) says he is here for the long haul. “When people ask how many kids I have, I say 219,” Mr. Skuggevik explained, with conviction. And, although he wants to get to know the district and student body better before making any big changes, Mr. Skuggevik did say one of his primary goals is to, “get students to look forward to coming to school and become more involved in the school and the community.” As for why he left Greenport to come to S.I., Mr. Skuggevik shared, “I loved Greenport, and the school I worked at prior (Longwood), but I came here for the small close-knit community Shelter Island has. It’s nice to really be a part of a community. I was a part of Longwood, but not as much as in a

small community where one can walk through halls and streets alike, and say hello to everyone by name.” Mr. Skuggevik anticipated that Shelter Island was going to be a great new place to work, but there are some things he envisions working towards over the next few years.

“When people ask how many kids I have, I say 219,” Mr. Skuggevik explained, with conviction.

“I’d like [for students] to have more opportunities to earn an associates degree while here at school, and for there to be more college courses available.” Mr. Skuggevik explained that offering more opportunities for col-

lege credit during high school could reduce students’ future debts and offer some students the opportunity to enter the workforce directly from high school with special skills. Another idea Mr. Skuggevik has is to try to include a college tour in almost every field trip, beginning in middle school, so that by the time a student is a junior or senior in high school, they have had the opportunity to be on a number of college campuses. As for that pesky Oral Comprehensive Exam, seniors, you’re out of luck—it’s still on. About the O.C.E., Mr. Skuggevik explained, “I love it. The best people in the world are those who can stand up and talk to you.” Mr. Skuggevik’s mantra is “Pride, Respect, and Responsibility. All else falls under those basic guidelines, and those who enter my office will know that right off the bat,” he declared. “You ask my own kids, ‘what makes you a man or a woman?’ and they will immediately respond, ‘Pride, respect, and responsibility.’” Mr. Skuggevik hopes we all learn this lesson from

him, and in the meantime, we can all relax and get to know the “new guy,” as he is not coming in with an agenda to turn the school upside down. “Just because something works somewhere else, doesn’t mean it will work here. I will try to change things with everyone as they need to be changed and no sooner,” he assured.

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- Who’s new at S.I.?
- Skuggz according to Skuggz
- A backpack love story
- Ice bucket madness!



## EDITORIAL

# The cell phone controversy

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

For the past eight years, I have attended Shelter Island School, and I have rarely felt babied. There are some exceptions regarding middle school, when we had to use pencils instead of pens, and wait to use the bathroom, but overall I have felt pretty independent and it has remained that way because I have not abused the privileges I have been given.

Us kids, we like it that way. If we are given certain privileges, those who would like to keep those privileges obey the rules, and those who don't, well, don't obey the rules (and don't deserve the privileges). It's rewarding for those who are responsible to be given small benefits, like carrying a cell phone. I have carried my iPhone in my back-pocket for two years. It's never been an issue, and I speak for many.

On the days when one does not have pockets available, one may carry his/her phone in his/her hand in between classes and on his/her forty-minute lunch break. Sometimes you will see a student texting in the hall, or maybe even on the phone, but for the most part cell phones have never really been an issue at Shelter Island School to my knowledge. So, why change that?

We have been given the privilege for many years

to leisurely use our phones when not in the classroom. But in fact, now that cell phones are not allowed out ever, (unless with a teacher's consent), I find myself using my cell phone more in the classroom than on my own lunch break. Teachers use cell phones as a tool in the classroom, and the majority of teachers allow their students to listen to music while doing independent work. What many do not realize is phones are not always a distraction, and are often being used by students to make studying more efficient.

I am frankly dumbfounded that as a junior in highschool, I am not allowed to even have my phone in sight on my own lunch break. Coach texts me about practice? Off I go to the bathroom to go check my phone without being caught with this forbidden device. Sister away at college calls to see how my day's going? Better run off to an empty classroom to sneak her a "can't talk" text. Even with a phone in hand, not in use, it could be taken for the rest of the day and you could be given after school detention.

To be fair, I can see how cell phones could be a bother to adults, especially teachers, who see kids walking through the hallways with their heads

down and headphones in. Being totally absorbed in your phone, neglecting teachers' hellos, in between classes, this is inappropriate. With that said, many of us know this, and for those of us who don't, well, we deserve a talking to about basic manners and etiquette.

Lunch breaks are when the issue arises. Upper-classmen, who either spend their lunch outside the gym, inside the gym, or in the cafeteria, are not allowed to even take a glance at their phones, for the risk of being "caught." Those of us who have used our cell phones appropriately throughout the year are found to be treated more like children towards the end of our high school career. Why is this? Why take a privilege away from those who have not even had the chance to abuse it? If students treat adults with respect, I believe they should be given a certain amount of respect back, and if we are punished for using an electronic device, I find that a clear sign of mistrust. Can we not find a compromise for the newly enforced cell phone policy?

Sent from my iPhone

## Skuggz Corner

To all of you reading this, let me first say thank you for the warm welcome I have received since coming to Shelter Island.

I thought I'd give you a quick background of my career in education. My teaching experience includes both private and public school education and I have administrative experience in large and small school districts. I served as an assistant principal in the Longwood School district for five years and most recently served as the principal of Greenport Secondary Schools for five years.

My educational philosophy revolves around the ideas of, "pride, respect, and responsibility". My time in the U.S. army made me realize that these qualities are what truly make you a man or a woman. They are the qualities that will help you succeed in whatever it is you choose to do in life. I encourage all of you to always work to the best of your ability and to take pride in everything that you do.

My goal is to give every one of you broad experiences in literature, mathematics, science, the social sciences, and the arts, so that you may choose the path you want to follow. It is my firm belief that whichever path you follow, your education should be both challenging and engaging.

Knowledge of the individual is vital to this end. I do not believe in a "one size fits all" approach. Each student's history, experiences, and aspirations make you unique and you should be treated as such in your educational experience. You must all be empowered to make informed decisions about your futures. It is my duty as an educational leader to give you all of the tools to explore which ever avenues you choose to take.

I am excited as I begin my journey on Shelter Island. From what I have seen so far there is nothing that can stop us from achieving great things. Please don't hesitate to stop in and see me at any time, as my door is always open.

I thank you again, and promise to do everything possible to prepare you for your future.

Let's go Blue and Gray!

*Skuggz*



We would love to hear from you!

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# Coming home: Welcome back, Mr. Gulluscio

BY PETER KROPF

It has been close to twenty years since Todd Gulluscio walked the Shelter Island School halls as a senior in high school. Now he's walking them again—as the Director of Physical Education and District Operations.

Mr. Gulluscio, born and raised on the isle, has close ties to the school. His mother is Virginia Gibbs, the middle school coordinator and math teacher, and his wife, Jennifer, is a special education teacher. Mr. Gulluscio also has two children in the school—Tyler, a sixth-grader, and Kaitlyn, a third-grader. The newest addition to the family is baby sister Brookelyn, just born this September.

After graduating Shelter Island High School in 1995, Mr. Gulluscio went to Florida Southern College, majoring in physical education; as a baseball/basketball lover, he umpired some baseball games and coached high school basketball. He also received an advanced certificate in administration at Dowling College and got his Master's Degree in elementary education at Long Island University (LIU) Southampton.

Mr. Gulluscio began his journey in education right here on Shelter Island from 2003 until 2005. His jobs included substitute teacher, permanent substitute, teacher assistant, and leave replacement. With his all-around sports knowledge, he coached varsity golf, varsity cross-country, JV baseball, and JV basketball. Mr. Gulluscio then spent seven and a half years at Greenport School, the first five as a physical education teacher and the next two and a half as Athletic Director/Dean of Discipline. (That is also where he worked with Mr. Skuggevik for the first time.) Starting in 2012, he spent the next year and a half at Pierson School in Sag Harbor as the Director of Athletics, Wellness, Personnel, Physical

Education, and Health. Mr. Gulluscio likes being in education because he says he is able to “give students opportunities to do different things

“Programs are driven by student interest.” Mr. Gulluscio is proud to note that he was on the student council that pushed to put a beverage ma-

Mets fan. He has a base, a ball, and a scorecard from a Mets game at Citi Field. He and his family even went to the 2013 All-Star Game at CitiField.

Oh, and did I forget to say that the whole family has been to every Major League Baseball park in America? By way of flying and driving, they had a thrill of a time during this ultimate baseball experience. The Gulluscio family has basically seen the entire country together. They have marveled at historic sites, including the Grand Canyon and Mount Rushmore, and Mr. Gulluscio notes that they have also visited several museums, Disneyland, and Las Vegas. Baseball is in Mr. Gulluscio's blood, as his uncle is the official scorer for the Miami Marlins. This connection helped make the family's trip a more fun-filled and unique experience. In Atlanta, the family got to go on the field during batting practice. As would be fitting, though, some of their best memories came when going to Shea Stadium/Citi Field to watch the Mets. They were lucky enough to get a ball in the stands and even meet the likes of stars R.A. Dickey and David Wright. And perhaps one of the most surprising things is that none of the games the family has gone to have ever been rained out!

Mr. Gulluscio enjoys working where he lives because he likes the idea of “running into someone you know at the post office” and knowing that everybody is “working toward the same thing.” He wants the “opportunity to spend more time with his wife and children” and “give [Shelter Island] back what it gave me.” Even though some people might be turned off by the idea of working with their whole family in the school due to too much togetherness, he “loves it.” The real reason why Mr. Gulluscio is back: “It's home.”



PHOTO BY PETER KROPF

and make them better.”

So far, Mr. Gulluscio says he has not made any changes to Shelter Island School policies, but he notes that he is “enforcing what we have”—the rules that were already in effect, but were not always enforced. To clear up any confusion about the cell phone policy, Mr. Gulluscio says that use of such electronic devices is banned inside the school until 2:30. He advises all students to “check out the school's Code of Conduct” and students are welcome to ask him any questions, as his “door is always open.”

The Director of Physical Education and District Operations plans to “meet with every student, seeing what they want to do.” He adds,

chine near the high school stairs. He says it shows how if students band together and gather enough support through student programs, such as student council, anything can happen.

On a more personal note, Mr. Gulluscio is a huge sports fan. He roots for the New York Mets, Miami Dolphins, Orlando Magic, and Tampa Bay Lightning. If you're wondering why he likes so many Florida teams, remember that Mr. Gulluscio spent a good deal of time in that state, and went to a lot of sports games there. He recalls the days of Shaquille O'Neal and Penny Hardaway on the Orlando Magic with fondness. When you enter his office at the school, it is easy to see that he is a die-hard



## Logan Librett

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

After sum-  
mering on the island for many years, Logan and his family decided to move here permanently. Logan is a freshman this year and integrating into a new school, especially a high school can be difficult, except Logan already had friends on the island, so he did not have to go through the usual process of being a new kid and trying to make new friends. Logan likes his classes, his favorite being resource room with Mrs. Mahoney, “I like resource room because I get to finish all my homework and Mrs. Mahoney is really

nice,” Logan explained. Logan's also looking forward to this year's Science Fair.

Before his move, Logan attended Rye Middle School in Westchester County. He said the main difference between our school and his old one was obviously the amount of students attending the school and the cafeteria. He explained, “The cafeteria is definitely one of the biggest differences because my old one was basically a restaurant with many different choices.” “I like Shelter Island a lot better than my old school,” Logan shared. Now, if only we could get that restaurant cafeteria...

## Elijah Topliff

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

Elijah didn't travel too far to join the student body here at Shelter Island School, but just because he only had to ferry his way from Sag Harbor to his new home, doesn't mean that it hasn't been a big change. In Sag Harbor, Elijah attended the Hayground school in Bridgehampton. His move to Shelter Island for the official start of high school has been a positive one and he noted, the main difference between Shelter Island and Hayground “is that we have less time in between classes and the school itself is larger. So far, Elijah likes how small Shelter Island School is and he is enjoying all of his classes. “I like Biology with Mr.

Williams and Algebra with Mr. Theinert, because both the teachers are really nice.”

Elijah is quite happy that he and his family moved to Shelter Island, and he is adjusting nicely to the community. Though coming to a new school has its pros and cons, Elijah made friends pretty quickly, “The hardest part was that I didn't know anyone or where any of my classes were, but I made friends really fast.” Elijah said SIHS met most of his expectations and he looks forward to the year ahead.





## In the MST wing, everything's going (Both)well

BY KELLY COLLIGAN



PHOTO BY KELLY COLLIGAN

With Ms. Galasso “feeling like she’s won the lotto,” Ms. Bothwell is ready to start a new beginning here at Shelter Island School. Always a chemist at heart, Ms. Bothwell studied chemistry at Binghamton and Stony Brook Universities. “I’ve known I wanted to teach since I was six years old. Chemistry has always been a passion of mine,” she explains, “it’s definitely my strongest subject.” Although teaching Regents Physics is new to her, Ms. Bothwell says she is eager to do interactive demos with her students.

Ms. Bothwell has had experience in many schools on Long Island. She’s taught in Longwood, Sachem, and Eastport South Manor. She’s taught a variety of subjects, including AP chemistry, Regents chemistry, eighth grade science, and academic intervention services (AIS). When asked what her greatest obstacle would be, she explained, “I think acclimating to this new envi-

ronment is going to be the most difficult, mainly because most of the teachers have been here for so long and I’m so new.”

With that said, Ms. Bothwell had nothing but great things to say about the teachers here at Shelter Island School. “The other science teachers have been wonderful—so helpful and welcoming.” Ms. Bothwell had been involved in the interview process since last June. After four hour-long interviews, and then some, she found out she got the job. “I told my family the news right away. I was beyond thrilled.”

A few factors persuaded Ms. Bothwell to apply for this position. Things that interested her included the senior oral comprehensive exam, the Intel research class, and the annual science fair. “I saw how strong Shelter Island’s science program was as a whole, and decided I would love to work here.” Student behavior can vary from district to district, and Ms. Bothwell noticed that the students here are much more “interactive and in tune with each other.” She explains, “Although they do talk more than usual, most of the time it’s for the benefit of each other’s learning. I’ve noticed that because they’ve all known each other so long, they are much more verbal and eager to help out their classmates.”

Ms. Bothwell says she is eager to get in the swing of things here at SIHS. “I’ve been loving getting to know all the students, teachers, and parents better. I’m excited to collaborate with Mr. Williams and get involved in his science programs.” You may even see Ms. Bothwell as a new judge for the 50th annual Science Fair!

## The new fish in the pond: Ms. Gil

BY PETER KROPP

Shelter Island School has a new history teacher as a result of former history teacher Brian Doelger’s departure. We thank Mr. Doelger for his time on the isle, but now Danielle Gil will take the reins and instill her knowledge of social studies into the students here.

Born and raised in Port Washington on Long Island, Ms. Gil loves to play sports. The Nassau County native participated in basketball, golf, lacrosse, and swimming as a youngster, and still finds time to play basketball and perform martial arts. Other than participating in athletics, Ms. Gil enjoyed listening to a lot of music as a teenager, especially the Backstreet Boys. After high school, she attended Skidmore College, where she majored in political science and minored in international affairs. Ms. Gil received her Master’s degree in history education at C.W. Post and enrolled in a special education program at Molloy College. Next, she taught at Port Washington High School, where she had deep roots as a former student, for two months in 2013. From December 2013 to June 2014, Ms. Gil shared her history wisdom with high school students in Seaford.

Ms. Gil teaches history because she simply loves it and is fascinated by “the fact that history repeats itself and that you can relate it to today.” She cites the Constitution of the United States as an example, since it is hundreds of years old but still affects our daily lives. As for her teaching style, Ms. Gil tries to make class “more of a group discussion” and doesn’t want the kids to feel like she is superior to them. She appreciates all history, but points out that Ancient Greece and Rome are her favorite periods.

Ms. Gil lives and breathes profes-

sional sports on a daily basis. The San Antonio Spurs, New York Giants, New York Rangers, and New York Yankees are her favorite teams. A religious viewer of ESPN, the shows Ms. Gil enjoys most on the famous sports television network include “Pardon the Interruption” and “Around the Horn.” Other television shows she loves to watch are WWE’s “Total Divas” and the famous sitcom “Friends.” The history teacher also likes to read. The last book she read was “Bondi’s Brother,” which is about a Holocaust survivor, a man who spoke at an assembly at Port Washington High School when Ms. Gil was there.

Ms. Gil “loves it” here on Shelter Island and adds that the people have been “warm and welcoming.” She thinks the island is “unique,” and considers teaching here a “very nice change.” I think we can all agree that we hope this change is a permanent one.



## The one that got away

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

You may feel like it’s exceptionally quiet in the Humanities wing—no loud cackle, and a notable decrease of argyle sweater vests. The reason behind all of this is the loss of a Shelter Island favorite, Mr. Doelger. Although still alive and well, Mr. Doelger has decided to switch career gears to work at Saxton Middle School as an assistant principal. Students and faculty were heartbroken to hear of his departure after school ended in June.

The main reason for Mr. Doelger’s decision was an opportunity to advance his career. He had been studying for his doctorate,

while studying for his administrative degree at the same time. Trying to push himself academically was always a goal of his. “I loved teaching, but it has always been a focus and dream of mine to become an administrator,” he says. This choice wasn’t an easy one, though. It was an extremely tough and emotional decision for him to make. “The hardest part of my decision was I knew I would no longer teach the magnificent students of Shelter Island,” he says, “I really mean it when I say that each and every student I taught has a special place in my heart.”

It’s safe to say Shelter Island is

an important place to Mr. Doelger. He explained how he loved going to work each and every day. It wasn’t even work to him. “No exaggeration—my experience at Shelter Island was the happiest four years of my adult life.” Whether teaching kids in the classroom, performing with them in the auditorium, or coaching them on the court, Mr. Doelger did it all. Being a part of last year’s school play, “Young Frankenstein,” was one of his favorite memories. “Mr. Kaasik taught me a great deal about the stage and how to motivate students in a different way,” he explains. Mr. Doel-

ger says he will be sure to come back to see this year’s school production.

Shifting gears, Mr. Doelger is settling in nicely at Saxton Middle School. “Everyone has treated me tremendously.” The main difference between the current middle school he works at and Shelter Island School, is obviously the size. The middle school where Mr. Doelger now works has a student body of approximately 800 students, whereas on S.I., grades 6-8 consist of about 60 students. Although the school is a lot larger, Mr. Doelger is liking the change.

GOT AWAY CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



# Suddenly single

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

Has one of your siblings recently left the nest? This holds true for many students at Shelter Island School. Although many complain about their older siblings, the tides usually turn once that sibling leaves the house for college. Some, on the other hand, barely notice that their sibling has left.

"It doesn't affect me much. But I have to say, I do prefer having her around. It's too quiet without her," Jack Kimmelman, a junior, explains. Phoebe Starzee, a freshman, also agrees that it is much more quiet without siblings in the house. "It's so weird. The house feels so empty. Things aren't the same without the siblings around." Not only are siblings good company, many serve as drivers to their younger siblings. Serina Kaasik, a junior, says she misses her older siblings giving her rides to wherever she needs to go, (despite her family owning a taxi business). Phoebe adds that she doesn't like going into school at 6:45 everyday with her mom, since her brother, Hunter, isn't there to give her rides anymore.

Another benefit of being an only child is that you tend to get more attention from your parents. "Being the youngest in the family has its perks," Kaasik adds. Getting more attention isn't always a plus, though. Johnny Sturges, a senior, explains how times, he doesn't like it. "My mom's much more annoying now

that [my sister] Tara's gone. She's always on my case. But on the other hand it's great because you get everything you want." Even though the shift in attention can be nice, most students agree that they prefer having siblings in the house. Some even wish they had younger siblings. Jack Kimmelman wishes he had a younger brother so he could turn him into a basketball prodigy, and similarly, Johnny Sturges wishes he had younger siblings so he could boss them around, instead of being told what to do.

Another interesting sibling relationship was found in the McCarthy household. Kenna McCarthy, a junior, explains how she and her sister never really "clicked" in high school. "When Morgan was home, we fought a lot, and we never really got along," she says. "But now that she's gone most of the time, we actually talk more and get along better." It seems as though for many students, they "don't know what they have until it's gone." Who knew that being suddenly single could be so bittersweet?



## GOT AWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Being an assistant principal, he deals with a lot of discipline problems. "It's obviously not the fun part of the job, but to balance that, I get to interact with students on a friendly level, as well," he explains. As many know, our former superintendent, Dr. Hynes, also moved on to work in Patchogue-Medford. "Dr. Hynes has been great to me," Mr. Doelger says, "of course him being at Pat Med was an added plus for me wanting to work there."

While being an assistant is fresh and interesting, Mr. Doelger says he does miss teaching a great deal. Being a social studies teacher, he says he "misses talking about history and politics," but what he really misses are the kids. "I really miss the interaction with them. I miss the camaraderie with the great people whom I worked with and developed lifelong relationships with." Among all those things, Mr. Doelger says

he also misses the physical beauty of the island itself. The only thing he does not recall missing about teaching is grading DBQs.

Plans do not end here for Mr. Doelger, though. Once he finishes his doctorate, he plans to teach college level courses for Dowling. He will also keep teaching an aspect of his life by staying involved in religious education for St. Matthew's Parish in Dix Hills. This is not the end of teaching for Mr. Doelger, just simply a shift of gears. Because his departure was so sudden, he says he will be back to Shelter Island at some point to say goodbye to his "family" here. Many will remember Mr. Doelger as the always-smiling history nerd with a gift for teaching and making people laugh. Those sweater vests, lessons, and memories will be forever cherished by so many students here at Shelter Island.



PHOTO BY BETSY MARTIN

Julia Martin with her backpack on her first day of school in kindergarten (top); Julia with it on her first day of senior year (bottom).

# A girl and her backpack: a love story

BY DEVON TREHARNE

When Julia Martin's grandfather bought her a brand new L.L. Bean backpack for her first day of kindergarten in 2002, he never could have imagined that she would be still be carrying it during her senior year of high school; but that's exactly what she's doing. Julia remembers picking out her well-loved turquoise backpack with her grandfather when she was just five years old; "I loved the color," she explained, "and he even got my name put on it." Julia's nostalgia for and loyalty to her very first backpack seems exceptional in today's "newer is better" mindset, but it's something she has never questioned.

The first few years using her backpack, Julia never thought about getting a new one. "I never had a reason to get a new backpack, and I really did love it. My mom was also against buying a new one, so it kinda killed two birds with one stone," she joked. Then, in 2008, Julia's grandfather passed away and the backpack he bought her had more meaning than ever. As she approached high school and was still carrying the bag embroidered with her name, Julia said, "It became awesome that I had kept it this long, so I was determined that it would last me through senior year."

And, that it has, even if it sports a few "modifications" to keep it in one piece. Julia and her mom have sent L.L. Bean the side-by-side picture of herself with her beloved bag on the first day of kindergarten and the first day of senior year, in hopes that the story of the "backpack that could" gifted by her late grandfather might spark some interest. If they have any sense, we'll be seeing Julia's pretty smile in a catalogue soon, proving just how durable those L.L. Bean backpacks really are!

Thirteen years later, her bag is imperfect; dental floss holds together an outside zipper and hard-earned stains and fading has changed the fabric on the outside of the bag to a washed-out version of the original bright blue-green, but Julia displays the wear and tear with pride. "My grandpa would probably laugh to know I still carry it, tell me my backpack is gross, and buy me a new one," Julia said with a smirk, "but this backpack is coming with me to college." She plans to use it "until the zippers fall off or the bottom falls out; that's when it's done. Otherwise, it's sticking with me." Sounds like the backpack is as stubborn as its owner, and that is something to be admired.



# AROUND the Halls

BY  
**KENNA  
McCARTHY**



**BILLY BOEKLEN**  
“Beat Bridgehampton!”

## This year I will...

It's a new year, that means a new start. So, we wanted to hear what's on your agenda! “Around the Halls” asked S.I. students and staff to complete the following sentence: “This school year I will...”



**TAYLOR RANDO**  
“Graduate.”

## MRS. RYLOTT

“Work to insure that we work together as a team to move our district forward, as well as making sure all of our students' needs are met.”



**MS. GIL**  
“Become part of the Shelter Island community.”



**CHRIS CORBETT**  
“Try to be more social.”



**HENRY SPRINGER**  
“Play on the playground, I think.”



# Ice Bucket Frenzy

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

We've done it, we've taped it, and millions of people have liked it. It's the "Ice Bucket Challenge." "The Ice Bucket Challenge" took the world by storm this past summer and raised awareness and funds for ALS on an unprecedented scale. ALS stands for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. As this disease progresses, sufferers eventually become paralyzed. The disease is 100% fatal. Before this summer's "Ice Bucket Challenge" mania, many people had little to no knowledge of ALS. So, how did this phenomenon start?

According to Time Magazine, the "Ice Bucket Challenge" was started by Chris Kennedy, a golfer from Florida. He accepted the challenge from his friend, but it was not meant for ALS specifically at the time, he could have chosen any charity he desired. He chose ALS in honor of a family member who was battling the disease. Kennedy then nominated his wife's cousin, whose husband was suffering from the disease. Then, one thing led to another, and the challenge turned into a viral trend that spread worldwide. It has been incredible to see the charitable donations climb as time has gone on. As of August 29th, the ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge" has earned \$100 million for ALS research. According to Forbes magazine, that is a 3,500% increase from the \$2.8 million that the ALS Association raised during the same time last year! It is hard to find someone who has not participated or been nominated and donated for this great cause. Perhaps, what is equally as interesting as the "Ice Bucket Challenge's" success, is examining just why it has been so successful.

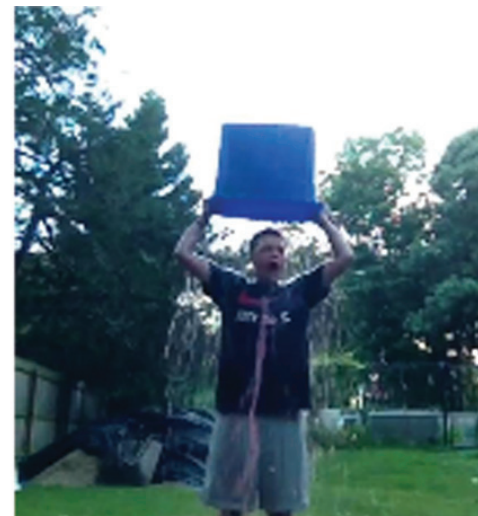
One intriguing (and perhaps unintended) aspect of the "Ice Bucket Challenge's" success is that it appeals to people on many different levels. We would love to believe that everyone who participates does so first and foremost because they feel it is important to raise awareness and funds for such a devastating disease. And, that is enough of a reason for some. For others, the "Challenge" appeals to that old-fashioned motivator -- peer pressure. Being publicly called upon, by a friend, to complete the "Challenge" brings many back to the days of being dared on the playground. This peer pressure aspect of the "Challenge" has certainly pushed many participants to get it done, or risk letting down a friend, or worse yet, fail to step up to a "dare" so publicly announced. And finally, and probably most unappealing, there are those who complete the "Challenge" because they love nothing more than an excuse to post a "cute video" of themselves on social media to share with the world. This is the most selfish motivator the "Challenge" offers, but it cannot be discounted in today's selfie-obsessed society in which people pride themselves on how many "likes" they can rack up in a day.

Are there those who completed the "Ice Bucket Challenge" purely for philanthropic reasons? I sure hope so. Are there those who did it just because they felt guilt would nag them if they left a friend's nomination hanging? Definitely. And, did some really only do it so they could see how many likes they could get while dumping water over themselves in some quasi-creative way while wearing their new favorite bathing suit? Sadly, yes. However, that's the brilliance of the challenge -- it appeals to the philanthropic and the narcissistic alike and it has put the ALS squarely in the center of popular culture, while raising incredible amounts of money for the cause. Bravo "Ice Bucket Challenge," Bravo.



## PICTURED: (TOP TO BOTTOM)

Justin Bieber • Serina Kassik • Kim Kardashian (with Ellen DeGeneres)  
Danny Boeklen • NFL football players • Lena Dunham





# Volleyball looks to stay dominant

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

When the summer season ends, a new beginning commences for the girls volleyball program. With five consecutive undefeated seasons in the league, and many exciting playoff runs, this year's team's expectations loom large. Even with the loss of four key seniors from last year's outstanding squad, coach Cindy Belt says the goal for this season is the same as always: "to be Class D champions," yet again.

The other teams in the league will most likely be more competitive than in years past, as some have new coaches and new systems/styles of play. Coach Belt says that even though the squad is a talented team, they will have to "work harder for wins." With the loss of several seniors, Coach Belt expects juniors Kenna McCarthy, Kelly Colligan (both captains), and Margaret Michalak to step up as key leaders for this year's team. All players will be key in the success of the team, but senior captain Taylor Rando and juniors Serina Kaasik and Emily Hyatt are expected to play major roles as a result of the several seniors who graduated last year. Rando is "start-

ing to fill in nicely" as a defensive specialist and on the right side, according to Coach Belt. Kaasik, who already has a year of varsity experience, is playing with confidence this year and is fine-tuning her skill set. And Hyatt, a middle hitter, formerly played tennis, but wanted to give volleyball a try, and is improving quite quickly, according to coach Belt.

Even though they did not play their first game until September, the team made an effort to improve their abilities to make this season successful. McCarthy, Colligan, and Michalak all played club volleyball during the winter and had the opportunity to play against tough competition and alongside other skilled players from schools around Long Island. Coach Belt, along with new junior varsity coach Jimbo Theinert, also ran weekly volleyball nights at the gym during the summer for whomever wanted to come and hone their skills. About Theinert's new coaching position, Belt says he is "good with kids" and is "picking up the game very quickly." Theinert certainly has big shoes to fill, following in the wake of coach Karen Gibbs, whose successes

at the JV level helped prepare players for the elite varsity level.

Coach Belt says that she "hates to compare teams," but this team will have to work very hard to continue their dominance over the league. This is not lost on the players, as Kenna McCarthy shared, "We have been undefeated for 5 years, so it is hard to think about losing a game and ruining the streak, and having to start all over again. It feels like an enormous responsibility." Even with this pressure, they still have a positive, upbeat outlook, and are focused on doing their very best. Being a part of a winning program, it is not the first time these girls have felt expectations loom, but

they are determined to meet the challenge.



PHOTO BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN



Jack Lang races to the finish line, proudly representing Shelter Island School

PHOTO BY KRISTINA LANGE

## On the run again

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

The last time we had a cross country team was in 2009, but we've broken the streak; cross country is back and this team looks like a force to be reckoned with. The three coaches Brian Knipfing, Toby Green, and Brian Gallagher have been training their team rigorously. The sixteen members of cross country (8 girls, 8 boys) range from 7th-12th graders and will race in a variety of venues across Long Island. On the team this year are a number of students who have been a part of a running club under the advisement of Toby Green and Brian Gallagher; these runners are coming to cross country fit and ready for competition.

During meets, boys and girls start their races only a minute apart and average a distance of 3.1 miles. This year's team will run in team meets, as well as invitationals which take place on weekends and at times have 20-30 schools in attendance.

This season has seen a strong start. In the opening meet against Port Jefferson, freshman Lindsey Gallagher came in first for

the girls and Sawyer Clark came in first for the boys. The second meet against Southold again saw the girls take the lead, while the boys were "narrowly defeated," according to Coach Knipfing.

Many goals have been set this season, for the team and individual runners. Coach Knipfing said, "I see both the girls and the boys teams being very competitive and they are definitely going to be a force in Class D." Sawyer Clark is very confident with himself this season and has been running very efficiently. He boldly predicted, "I am planning on going to states." Their competition better take note, as Coach Knipfing "hopes that people know that Shelter Island Cross Country is back and we are ready to compete against some of the best teams in Suffolk County."





# Tee time

BY PETER KROPP

"They are a team—they like each other and are very supportive." That's how Shelter Island Varsity Golf Coach Bob DeStefano describes his squad of 13. This group, which is currently 1-4, is what Coach DeStefano calls a "very young team." They include 11th graders Henry Lang and Richard Ruscica, 10th grader Will Garrison, 9th graders Wesley Congdon, Bianca Evangelista, and Peder Larsen, 8th graders Owen Gibbs, Mason Marcello, Erik Thilberg, and Nicholas Young, and 7th graders Henry Binder, Daniel Martin, and Lucas Quigley-Dunning.

Last year, the Indians varsity golf team had a rather successful season, as they went .500, going up against some highly touted, competitive schools. The seniors from that squad have now graduated, while other members remain. DeStefano describes this season as a "no-stress year," because he wants the players to "learn more about the game of golf." Coach DeStefano says it is "difficult playing varsity ball" when pretty much all of his players "are beginners." Even though it is tough, he adds that his team is showing "steady improvement."

As for the strengths and weaknesses of his golfers, Coach DeStefano notes that they can "swing and hit the ball well," but "don't hit enough good shots." The latter results in a "lack of consistency" that the coach knows will resolve itself as players get more experience and practice.

As even the professionals know, golf can be a very frustrating sport. Coach DeStefano teaches the game and keeps it positive at the same time by trying to instill confidence in his players. He tells them that they

"already know how to play the game" and that they should "swing their own way." Although Coach DeStefano is giving this advice to tweens and teens, these same tips could benefit golfers of any age.

The players also have their own thoughts on the season. Junior Richard Ruscica says, "We have a lot to learn," but isn't worried because "Mr. DeStefano is a great coach." Richard likes playing golf because it is a "good sport to know for adulthood and it is relaxing." This season he wants to "shoot under a 50" and become an "overall better golfer."

Sophomore Will Garrison describes the team vibe as being "really about getting better for the future and progressing as players." He loves Mr. DeStefano's coaching techniques: "Mr. DeStefano makes golf as simple as possible and focuses on one thing at a time. He helped me so much with my swing." Will loves the game because he "likes the patience you need for it," and he even watches it on television. The sophomore adds, "It is really fun and relaxing when you have the basics down, plus you get to be outside."

Will shares Richard's goal of "shooting under a 50," and realizes that "it will take a lot of hard work, effort, and patience."

At the end of the day, Coach DeStefano has three goals: "To make sure kids learn the rules of golf, learn how to play the game, and have a good time doing it." With a young, hard-working, and determined group of players, led by a dedicated veteran coach, Shelter Island golf doesn't just have a bright team, it also has a bright future.



The Shelter Island golf team with coach Bob DeStefano

# Scoreboard saga

BY PETER KROPP

The lone scoreboard that used to be above and to the right of the mural by Peter Waldner was a staple in the Shelter Island School gym since the days of the Walkman, IBM computers, and Grant Hill jerseys. When the scoreboard was first installed twenty years ago, the Indians varsity boys basketball team went undefeated. Then, twenty years later, in the winter of 2013-2014, the team had another great season—wrapping up as Suffolk County Class D Champions. The scoreboard was part of a rich sports history here on the isle, including the countless undefeated, powerhouse girls volleyball teams, but it is now time to start a new chapter.

Over the summer the school got two new scoreboards to replace the old one because it had multiple mechanical and electrical problems that were hard to fix. According to maintenance crew member Greg Sulahian, "the circuit board shorted out." Athletic director Rick Osmer states that it was difficult to repair because "nobody made the parts [unique to the scoreboard] anymore." He added, "You couldn't see it great from the home bench," since part

of the hoop blocked it from the players' and coaches' line of sight. Our school originally got the old scoreboard for free because Coke/Diet Coke paid for it and benefited by the advertising (the product names were on it). The two new scoreboards, in contrast, were paid for by the school and include two new shot clocks and controls, as well.

Osmer notes, "one scoreboard is located in the original spot, and the other is directly opposite, on the girls' side of the gym." This second installation is obviously a convenience to everyone closely following the score of a game when the action is on the girls' side of the gymnasium. He says, "nothing in the gym is affected by the new location of the scoreboards" and that "everyone will definitely be able to see them, no matter where they are sitting in the gym."

It was only last spring that maintenance crew chief Mike Dunning stressed that the operation was "very much in the planning stage," as it and the approximately \$8000 from the school budget needed for the scoreboards had to be approved by the School Board. "The best case scenario happened, be-

SCOREBOARD CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



PHOTO BY PETER KROPP





Mr. Miedema poses on Omaha Beach near a statue commemorating the D-Day invasion that took place there.



Kenna explores the Great Barrier Reef.

## Shelter Island Globetrotters

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

When school let out last June, the adventures and memory-making trips began for several Shelter Island students and faculty members. In all, members of our S.I. School community circled the globe, visiting several different countries. Some visits were to far flung family members, others for pure exploration, but it seems that all the trips had one thing in common--the travelers got the "bug" and can't wait to travel again.

Social studies guru, Mr Miedema, took a trip to the Netherlands this past summer. The trip not only gave him the opportunity to visit some significant historical sights, but also to spend time with family members, many of whom he had never had the opportunity to meet before his journey. In between catching up with cousins, aunts, and uncles, Mr. Miedema was lucky enough to tour the Anne Frank Museum. This he said was, "moving and gave him more insight into the Holocaust and the Frank family's plight than ever before." Mr. Miedema also visited Normandy, France and walked on

Omaha Beach, the infamous location of American soldiers' "Storm on Normandy" at the tail end of World War II. Standing on the beach, Mr Miedema said, "I was humbled and overwhelmed by the physical landscape of the beach. It amazed me seeing how exposed the beach was, that any men survived that day at all."

Sophomore Ray Karen also jetted to Europe this summer, visiting Finland to see family members. Though he spent much of his time in Helsinki, he also explored the Finnish countryside. Ray particularly appreciated the natural beauty of the country, explaining, "they don't cut any of the trees down, it's more woodsy than it is here." Another highlight for Ray was the classic architecture of Finland. "I saw a train station that was carved into the side of a mountain and many old, beautiful buildings," said Ray. He hopes to return someday to Finland and explore more unseen places.

Freshman Sarah Lewis took her own excursion with her family to Sweden this summer. Like Mr Miedema and Ray, the main purpose of the trip

was to visit family from her mother's side on the outskirts of Stockholm. Sarah spent plenty of quality time with her family, as these trips are only once a year. While there, Sarah and her family visited an action-packed Swedish amusement park and a go-cart rink. She also enjoyed swimming with cousins on long, lazy afternoons. "Spending quality time is one of the best parts of the trip," she said. Sarah knows that she will return to Sweden next year, and for that she is thankful. This family tradition is one that has kept her close to her roots and her extended family.

The Inlet's very own Kenna McCarthy took a trip to the other side of the world this summer, going to Australia with the "People to People" Student Ambassador Program. Ambitious students from high schools all around Long Island joined her for a trip that introduced them to Aussie culture and history. Kenna and her new friends explored the entire eastern coast of Australia. They visited several towns, like Cairns, Townsville, Sunshine Coast, and the capital

of Australia, Sydney. Kenna got to take part in many activities that most people can only dream of, such as snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef, petting koala bears and wombats, and touring one of the wonders of the world--the Sydney Opera House. The best part of the trip according to Kenna were the friendships she brought home with her. "I still keep in touch with many of the students I traveled with, we made bonds that have lasted far beyond our trip," said Kenna. That's not to say Australia itself didn't impress Kenna; she "most definitely" plans to return to Australia and has already set her sights on a possible college semester abroad "down under."

For those who are fortunate enough to travel abroad, the lessons learned and the sights seen can open the door to all types of new experiences. Mr. Miedema, Ray, Sarah, and Kenna have experienced life far beyond our island borders and feel blessed to have had the opportunities to do so.

## Back to school bbq

BY CAMERON CLARK

Replacing sunscreen and floaties with pencils and notebooks is a daunting task for everyone. After a great summer, how can one even begin to think about grading papers and doing homework? Luckily, here at Shelter Island School, we've answered that very question with the Back to School BBQ. Every year, kids, faculty, and parents alike eagerly await the event that takes place in the field at the end of the first week of school. This year was no different. Thanks to the generosity of dozens who are involved in the PTA, the Shelter Island community was able to enjoy

delicious cheeseburgers and hot dogs, accompanied by salads and tasty desserts. As for activities, if you were not a part of the kickball game that was dominated by most of the middle school boys, you were chatting up friends you hadn't seen all summer, while enjoying the tunes provided by DJ Tommy Damiani. "It was a great time to catch up, and there was free food, so what's not to like?" said 8th grader, Nico Seddio. Overall, we give the "Back to School BBQ" a thumbs up!

## SCOREBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

cause otherwise it would have had to wait until next summer.

The new scoreboards have all the same features of the previous one, but are even better: they also display team and player fouls. This should be music to many a coaches' ears, as they no longer have to yell for information about fouls from the scorer anymore.

I say, let's give these new scoreboards a history of their own in future years!



# Hot Apps: who's downloading what?

BY PETER KROPF

**Junior Kenna McCarthy-** "'Time Hop,' because it connects to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. and shows you what you posted 1,2,3, etc. years ago to the day."



**Junior Emily Hyatt-** "'Two Dots,' because it is a puzzle game and you have to figure out how to solve it."



**High School Science Teacher Brittney Bothwell-** "'Groupon/RetailMeNot,' because I love to shop and get great discounts."



**Freshman Joshua Green-** "'Twitch,' because you can watch live streams of people playing video games. It helps you make the decision of buying a game because you can see what it is like first."



**Physical Education Teacher Brian Becker-** "'Powerschool,' because it is fast and amazing for attendance and accessing student info."



**Junior Elizabeth Dunning-** "'Tumblr,' because you can look at pictures, art, members of your favorite bands, and you can reblog stuff."



Kindergartener Nathan Sanwald has an emotional moment before his first day begins. Photo by Devon Treharne



First grader Harry Clark looks excited to start his first day of school. Photo by Kelly Colligan.



Kindergartener Oliver MacDonald on the verge of tears, as it was the dreadful first day of school. Photo by Devon Treharne

# Ready, set, go!

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

There were smiles and tears, and for many, both at the same time. The class of 2027 arrived September 4th buzzing with anticipation, wearing backpacks that seemed to extend from their knees to the tops of their heads. Some stuck close to their parents, others ran off to chat with friends and wave to teachers coming outside to greet them. It was the first day of kindergarten, and not just the littlest ones needed comfort and support, more than a few parents could be seen reaching for tissues as they

waved their little ones off. Starting kindergarten is a big deal. Adjusting to an 8-hour school day is daunting for many kids, and getting used to being away from home for that amount of time takes a while.

Sending a child off to kindergarten changes a family dynamic. Although Sadie Clark seemed ready to go, her mother, Katorah Green saw the day as bittersweet. "The hardest part of the day is that Sadie is my last one. There is no one at home now," she shared. The day is a transitional one

for parents as much as it is for their children. Little Oliver McDonald struggled when it was time to say goodbye. Clutching his mother and burying his face, he needed some convincing to go ahead into the building with his class. His mother, Hilary, was surprised by his reaction, saying, "Oliver has a twin sister and she was fine. I actually expected the opposite today." She agreed with Katorah Green and explained, "The hardest part is letting go." Kindergartener Cayman Morehead, "had

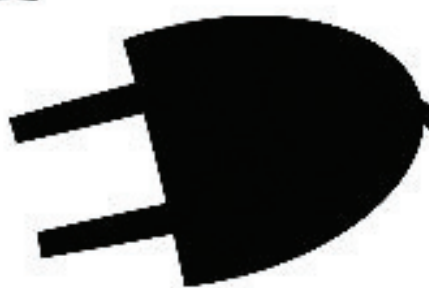
no reservations because he attended preschool," and was "ecstatic" to begin, according to his parents Paige and Nicholas. They can't wait to watch Cayman, "become a part of the community." The kindergarteners have already begun to become a part of the S.I. School community, and next year, those tears will most likely give way to anticipation, as first grader Harry Clark said, "I can't wait to play tug of war at field day."



# The Outlet

by Kelly Colligan

Check out some of Shelter Island's students' six-word short stories!



You hurt me,  
I am broken.  
Henry Lang



Running then,  
running now,  
forever running.  
Caitlin Binder



Saving lives  
saves me  
from me.  
Billy Boeken



Little bait, small  
fish, big hopes.  
Stephen Murphy



Long days,  
short months,  
hot sun.  
Emily Strauss