

NYS testing— Parents say ‘no thanks’

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

The time has come. Students, parents, teachers, administrators are saying “enough is enough” when it comes to New York State Common Core tests in grades 3-8. Countless test refusal letters have been written regarding these tests and recently a fourth grade student from Florida made a speech that outlined the perceived flaws of state-mandated tests overall. The video went viral, and people all across the country cannot stop talking about “opting out” of or “refusing” state testing. The test refusal buzz is especially loud in New York State. This contentious issue has trickled down to Shelter Island School. Nearly half of the 3-8 students chose not to take tests this year, and that statistic speaks for itself.

The only question is, why? Parents cite a variety of complaints about New York State’s current Common Core ELA and Math tests, some include: the tests are too lengthy, the multiple days of testing takes away too much classroom instruction time, the test content is developmentally inappropriate, the scores are not shared with parents and teachers in a timely and meaningful way, as well as other personal reasons. One core concern for parents is that the tests simply create excessive stress for their children. “The tests did stress me out a lot when I was younger,” eighth grader Camryn Page said. Fifth grader Francis Regan added, “I think it’s a lot of pressure.” “I don’t like the test because they are way too long for younger kids to take,” fifth grader Olivia Overstreet said.

Students also cite frustration with the fact that they don’t receive their test results until months and months later. “We have to wait such a long time to get our scores,” fifth grader Katherine Ramos said, “Plus, we don’t even get to see what questions we got wrong, we just get a score.” The test results reports consist of a single score for each test, with no details on which questions the student got incorrect. This lack of information seems counterintuitive, as teachers are left without the specific information they could use to tailor instruction for their students’ needs. Camryn Page, who did refuse the tests this year explained, “It’s not even testing us on our own skills. My parents agreed with me.” Eighth grader Holly Ross, another test refuser, chimed in, “They don’t even test us on what we should be learning.” Eighth grader Ella Mysliborski agreed, adding, “They’re

pointless to take, they are just too repetitive.” This brings up another hot button issue swirling around state testing: teachers “teaching to the test.” In order for students to be prepared to take these exams, teachers must devote time in the classroom to test preparation, but many believe this limits teachers’ creativity, spontaneity, and makes learning too rigid and undifferentiated.

On the other hand, some students and parents believe that these NYS tests are still beneficial and necessary. “The more [tests] you take, the better you get at them,” Alan Garrison, (parent of an eighth grader), explained. “They get students in the habit of taking long tests and will make them less stressed for more important tests later in life,” he added. This does bring up a valid point. High school students have to take Regents exams to graduate and most students end up taking the SAT/ACT as upperclassmen, so many believe that state tests help students “get in the routine.” Eighth grader Justine Karen said, “I don’t mind taking them. It can help prepare for standardized testing later in high school.” An interesting case occurred for fifth grader, Emmett Cummings. He explained, “I took the tests the first two days, but then opted out the last day. My mom let me.” Parents had to put their desire for their children to refuse the state tests in writing this year, and many of them waited until the very last minute. “Some trickled in, but the day of the ELA they were flowing,” Donna Clark explained.

So, what was the turn out? Nearly half of Shelter Island students decided against taking these state tests. 46.2% of Shelter Island’s 3-8 students refused the Language Arts test. The grade with the most refusals was by far eighth--68% of them opted out. In regards to the Mathematics test, a total of 44.3% of 3-8 students did not take the test. According to the Suffolk Times, in Greenport and Southold, more than 50% of their students did not take the tests. In Southold, a total of 58% opted out, while in Greenport, a total of 61% opted out. These statistics sure are giving the state a run for its money. It seems the future is tentative for these 3-8 state tests. Parents are making their voices heard and parents, students, and teachers are eager to see if the tests continue to roll out unaltered, or if the test refusal movement forces New York State’s hand to make a change.



The National Honor Society in Orient, building a house for one lucky person as part of the Habitat for Humanity program. PHOTO BY WALTER MACKEY

National Honor Society helping others through Habitat for Humanity

BY PETER KROPP

On Saturday, April 25, the National Honor Society took part in the Habitat for Humanity program, helping to build a house for one lucky person in Orient, just east of Shelter Island on the North Fork. NHS raised \$1130 by way of the Cardboard Campout fundraiser to make this event possible. Before we get into the specifics of this event, though, let’s get a little background on Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity International was created by Millard and Linda Fuller in 1976. Eight years later the organization gained public visibility and national interest when former United States President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn joined with the group to tackle the issues of housing for the poor. Since it was established, Habitat for Humanity has built or repaired over 1 million homes, impacting more than 5 million people around the world. It prides itself on building simple and affordable houses for low-income families. The houses are designed to keep costs as low as possible, while meeting the needs of the homeowner and his/her family. If that wasn’t enough, Habitat for Humanity employs resource and energy-friendly building practices, so the environment is protected and not negatively affected.

All of the National Honor Society members (seniors Thomas Card, Olivia Garrison, and Caitlyn Mulcahy, and juniors Kelly Colligan, Elizabeth Dunning, Emily Hyatt, Kenna McCarthy, and Richard Ruscica) contributed to building the house in Orient by nail-

ing two rows of outside insulation and taping all the seams on the house. This opportunity was run by NHS leader Janine Mahoney and Ellen Grove from Shelter Island’s Presbyterian Church. Some members of NHS chimed in about their time helping others. Olivia Garrison thought it was “fun to learn how to do new things by yourself, and to learn the process of what goes into building a house. I really enjoyed working as a team to give someone a home.” This and “Relay for Life” are her two favorite NHS events “because you get to go out and be active.” Caity Mulcahy also noted that “it was a great bonding experience.” She elaborated by stating, “The event opened up the real world to us; it showed us reality.” Elizabeth Dunning found the charity work to be a “different, but really great and cool experience. I felt good being

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That shirt's comfortable? Then wear it

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

Say you spot someone on the street wearing a shirt that you don't particularly like. You could never see yourself wearing that shirt, it may not be your style, and overall you really just don't relate to the shirt. By wearing that shirt, that person is not affecting you whatsoever. It doesn't matter why he/she is wearing the shirt, but he/she is. Sometimes a person wears a certain shirt simply because it's what feels right, or it's what makes him/her feel comfortable. It doesn't necessarily have to "make sense" or appeal to someone else. People can wear whatever shirt they'd like, because it is not affecting those around them... and it's their body, I mean, their shirt.

Now, think of that shirt as one's gender. Gender varies amongst each person, and one's gender does not have to "match up" to his/her sex. What many people do not realize, is the words gender and sex are not interchangeable. One's physical anatomy is what determines his/her sex. Each person is born with a sex, either male or female. The majority of people's gender identity and bio-

logical sex are "aligned," so we have commonly used the words "sex" and "gender" synonymously. However, for some people, one's physical anatomy does not match up to the gender he/she identifies with; this is called transgender. The word transgender is a broad term for people whose gender identity, gender expression, or behav-

What many people do not realize is the words gender and sex are not interchangeable.

ior does not conform to that typically associated with the biological sex to which they were assigned at birth.

Just because a person is born a "man," with male anatomy, does not mean that person is necessarily a "he." This person, although born "man," can feel emotionally and physically like a woman. Just because

one has male anatomy, does not mean he/she is comfortable living life as a "man." In recent months, media coverage has focused on Bruce Jenner's transition from male to female. Jenner has shared with the world his feelings that he has, since childhood, felt like a woman trapped in a man's body. This has been especially shocking for the American public, given that he was once proclaimed to be "the greatest athlete in the world."

For those who did not see the recent Diane Sawyer interview of Bruce Jenner, for many viewers, it was nothing short of revolutionary. Jenner explained how he has spent his entire life feeling uncomfortable with his external self. He had been wearing a "shirt" that was not representing who he truly was. Although biologically a man, Jenner felt from a young age he had the internal feelings, emotions, and sensibilities of those associated with a woman. This miraculous discovery about Bruce Jenner should serve as an example to many, because it has inspired people to start expressing their true identity, (or wearing the

"shirt" they are most comfortable in). Bruce Jenner may be the famous face bringing attention to transgender people, but it is estimated that 2%-5% of the population identify as transgender.

Yet, with truth and perhaps "unorthodox" gender expression comes hate and negativity. Unfortunately, the Olympic athlete has received much more hate than gratitude. People are confused and critical about the fact that Bruce feels he should have been born a woman. "But he won the decathlon, he can't be a woman," the sentiment seems to be. Would you walk up to somebody, and tell them they can't wear the shirt they're wearing? Most likely not. Bruce Jenner wants to be a woman? So be it. His feelings are not going to change, whether people are willing to accept that or not. And why should he change? Whatever "shirt" Jenner, or any other individual for that matter, wears, has absolutely no effect on your well-being. Bruce Jenner runs like a girl, and he's proud of it. And we should be, too.

Fifth graders taking a big leap

BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

It's the time of year when seniors start to stress over preparation for the Oral Comprehensive Exam (OCE), however, this year it is not only seniors preparing for an end of the year presentation. For the first time, the fifth grade will be expected to present a sort of modified OCE, called an Oral Comprehensive Project or OCP.

Last year, Dr. Emmett and Mr. Cox were approached by Jennifer Rylott about implementing an "OCE" for the elementary kids. Once they decided it would definitely positively influence the kids, they got to work. The elementary OCPs will take place in mid-June and will test a variety of student skills. The elementary OCPs consist of two parts and each student is expected to have a ten to twelve minute long presentation. Part One will be presented as a Prezi presentation and should answer the essential question: "How have your experiences at Shelter Island Elementary School prepared you for your future as a student and as an adult?" Along with answering this essential question, seven other questions must be addressed in student presentations. The additional questions ask students about personal accomplishments, improvements, challenges, and the impact the elementary school has had on each individual student.

Part Two of the OCP is a separate letter that will be submitted to the judging panel. Students must address these letters to their younger selves. Letters must contain advice to their younger selves on successfully navigating elementary school. The presentation is graded out of 40 total points. The rubric focuses on speaking skills and presentation content. The speaking skills mainly concentrates on delivery, eye contact, posture, and volume, with each topic graded from one to four, four meaning all elements are covered comprehensively. The content emphasizes topic development and is graded out of four total points. Dr. Emmett and Mr. Cox are still considering where the grade for their presentation will fit in classroom assessments. However, they are confident that it will tie into the students' English Language Arts grade on their report card. Their grade could also be reflected in other areas of their report card, such as "work habits." The board of evaluators will consist of Dr. Emmett, Mr. Cox, an additional adult, a faculty member of students' choosing, a fifth grade peer, and Jenn Rylott. Also, a fourth grade observer will be present to get an idea of what they are to expect next year.

In order to prepare for the OCP, students are getting guidance from

their teachers during class time every day. Dr. Emmett is focusing on how to implement a successful hook and grab the attention of the evaluators. Mr. Cox is going over the students' bullets of information and trying to expand analysis daily. He is really trying to get the kids away from "scratch and sniff answers," and instead focus on creating a "deep reflective piece." So far, the drafts the students have created are "pretty incredible," according to Mr. Cox. Dr. Emmett states that he is really looking for the students to "up their level of commitment." To test that commitment, Dr. Emmett is asking, "Are you bringing your project home to work on it?" "Are you working hard and focusing?" By Dr. Emmett's standards, the answers to these questions are a resounding "yes" so far.

Although this first year is really an experiment, the project has many goals, both for teachers and students. Dr. Emmett shares it is to "help the kids reflect and gain confidence in presenting publically," while Mr. Cox states it is to have them "reflect authentically on their elementary school experience while building on moving forward." Both can agree that going through the process is really good for the students. It helps them not only learn, but take the positive relation-

ships they have created in elementary school and apply them to the real world. The goals for both the students and teachers go hand in hand; the OCP will even help teachers, in that teachers will use feedback from the OCPs to not only improve the OCP process, but the elementary experience for students in years to come. Also, it can help the kids and teachers to celebrate their

He is really trying to get the kids away from "scratch and sniff answers," and instead focus on creating a "deep reflective piece."

accomplishments and move forward from there. In short, the elementary OCP's will help the students prepare for their senior year OCE, and although it is difficult at first, the teachers can see the change in commitment of their students--going from "this is hard" to "I can do this."

We would love to hear from you!

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SCHOOL BOARD SWITCH-UP

Goodbye to Dr. Gessner

BY JACK KIMMELMANN

Four superintendents, a 2% tax cap, and over a dozen new teachers hired; Dr. Stephen Gessner has had a very busy, and often challenging six year tenure on the Shelter Island School Board. Now, Dr. Gessner feels the time is right step down from his position and move on to other things. "It is time for some new people to get a chance and time for new leadership on the board," he shared. Education, however, will remain Dr. Gessner's focus, as he has many new projects on the horizon, one of which will take him to India in the near future.

Dr. Gessner decided to run for the School Board six years ago because education has always been a focus of his professional life, so it is not unfamiliar to him. Also, he noted, "there's a big ethos to do good with others here [on Shelter Island], so since I served a lot of time with the community, I felt it would come naturally." This dedication to service and education made Dr. Gessner a perfect Board candidate, but that did not mean the job would be an easy one. "Balancing being the leader, while letting others help on decisions" has been one of his biggest challenges while on the Board. It is something difficult to master and you have to "use your instincts," Dr. Gessner said. There has also been a lot of turnover in the district in the six years Dr. Gessner has served. Four superintendents have come and gone, making the School Board the most reliable and familiar leadership in our district at times. Administration turnover along with retirements, new teacher/staff hires, and programmatic changes have all challenged the Board and kept Dr. Gessner very busy.

Another task that truly tested the Board was the New York State 2% tax cap. Yet, the fact that the Board stayed within the tax cap goes down as one of Dr. Gessner's proudest moments. He also noted the hiring of Dr. Hynes and Mr. Skuggevik as other

highlights of his Board service. In the realm of academics, Dr. Gessner feels positive changes have been made. He explained, "In the past, it was very difficult because we had one teacher teaching a variety of subjects, but now we have specialty teachers who can teach certain subjects very well. This makes learning a lot better in our school, while putting less pressure on the teachers to know multiple subjects." He went on to add, "I thought it was too demanding for one teacher to teach all the subjects in the curriculum." Dr. Gessner is also looking forward to the new college credit op-



Current Board of Education President Dr. Stephen Gessner. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER.

portunities for students starting next year. "I'm trying to ease the transition [from high school to college] so students are more prepared for college."

Dr. Gessner is "confident that others will fill his role [on the Board] nicely," and looks forward to his continued involvement with education programs internationally. "New projects will fill up my time," he explained. As far as new Board members go, Dr. Gessner advised, "it is essential that they are independent, and they have their own ideas and perspective." Thank you, Dr. Gessner, for your unique perspective for the last six years. We wish you well.

with these types of projects, because they helped him when he was in need. In Mackey's words: "I moved into my house in 1999 and then became a full-time supervisor [for Habitat for Humanity] in 2006, and in 2014 became a construction director. I fell in love with the organization when I was doing my sweat equity, and then they hired me full-time at the director position."

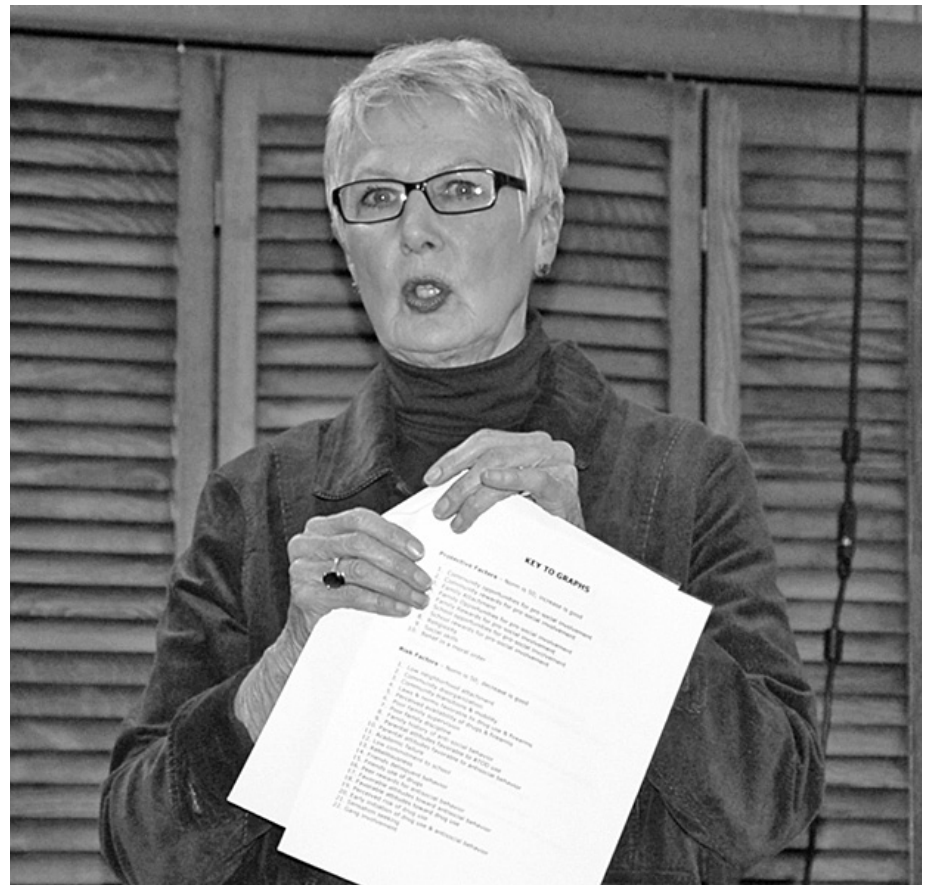
Although most of us take for granted that we have a roof over our heads, not everybody does. Programs such as Habitat for Humanity and the National Honor Society help to make sure that those less privileged don't go unnoticed. For this, we should applaud them.

HABITAT

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part of the program." Mrs. Mahoney believes that the members gained a "better understanding of the program and developed skills that they never knew they had." She admits that she "can't pick one" favorite NHS event "because we work very hard to support a multitude of programs and help others."

The construction director at the location, Walter Mackey, was deeply affected by Habitat for Humanity, since his house was built by the organization in 1999. This inspired him to get involved



Outgoing board member Marilyn Pysher. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER.

School board switch up

BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

Most students never take into account how much the Shelter Island School Board does for our school. The School Board has a central role in everything from managing our school budget to hiring the teachers who engage us in learning everyday. As this year comes to an end, the Board is saying goodbye to a very special member-- Ms. Marilyn Pysher.

Joining the Board three years ago was a big step for Ms. Pysher, however she was not reluctant to take it. She initially joined the Board because she wanted to "help make a positive difference in a place that is the heart of our island" and she felt she had a new perspective to bring to the table. Ms. Pysher explained, "I have been both a teacher and a business consultant, so I felt I had something unique to contribute. Also, I'm a senior citizen, and since such a large percentage of our population is as well, I thought the Board needed an older person's perspective."

However, being a Board member has not always been easy. Ms. Pysher recalls having to face the departure of Dr. Hynes and other "fabulous faculty and then hire new folks who could step into such big shoes and fit into our special culture." Not only did the Board have to find new people, they also had to help put together and manage the budget of the school--a very difficult task when there are so many restrictions, making for a frustrating job. "Everyone associated with the school is committed to excellence and it's difficult to strive to continually do more with so many

restrictions," Ms. Pysher explained. Despite the frustrations, when asked what she has enjoyed most about the position, she says, "working with all the wonderful people and feeling part of this incredible school." For Ms. Pysher, it's easy to enjoy such a job when the Shelter Island School Board has such great qualities. The board consists of "a really smart group of people who each represent a different aspect of the Shelter Island community." The board also gets along great, works hard, and shares many fun memories.

Looking back on her time as a Board member, Ms. Pysher believes the greatest accomplishment of the Board is hiring very experienced professionals, as "it's the people who make the school." She explains, "We [the Board] demand so much of them and they all give beyond expectation." Despite all the great experiences working on the Board, Ms. Pysher has now decided to step down after serving for three years because she feels she wants younger people to "bring new energy/ideas to the table." Ms. Pysher is also ready "to go travelling in [her] trailer!" Ms. Pysher has many hopes for the future of the school. After her departure, she is sure that the school will continue to get better. "The community and all who work for the school care so much and are willing to do whatever it takes to provide the students with the best educational experience possible within the limits of our island," she says. She is also very optimistic that the new candidates, Mrs. Binder and

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PROFILES

Welcome Nichole Hand

BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

Have you seen a new face in the halls in the last few weeks? It just might be eighth grader Nichole Hand. Nichole recently joined the eighth grade class here at Shelter Island School, but her journey to Shelter Island was not a long one. Nichole grew up in Southampton and attended the Southampton Intermediate School. She's no stranger to Shelter Island, but now finds herself a permanent resident, as her family is building a house in our island community. As for how Nichole is finding school on "the rock," she says, "there's less drama"

and she "likes the people here." Nichole's classes are going well and she especially enjoys "Algebra with Mr. Theinert, Biology with Mr. Williams, Social Studies with Ms. Gil, and English with Mrs. Treharne and Mrs. Sears." Nichole is "interested in anything," however she really enjoys drawing and a variety of sports such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and football (her favorite team being the South Carolina Gamecocks). As for future plans, Nichole is very interested in math, and wants to become a "teacher and a therapist at the same time."

Nichole comes from a big family, as she has four siblings--two younger brothers, Michael and Pierce, and two sisters, Maya and Amber. Even though her family has no pets, she would love to get a Husky or a snake--yes, a snake. Like most of us here, Nichole appreciates the island because "it's gorgeous" and it's small so she can walk to a friend's house without the drive. Even though Nichole is happy at school, she is looking forward to "having fun, getting a break from school, and swimming" this summer; aren't we all...



8th Grader Nichole Hand. PHOTO BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

Dr. Dibble: Lifting spirits and weights

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN



Dr. Dibble stopping for a quick photograph during his busy day. PHOTO BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

Tucked away in his office just outside of the MST wing of the school building, Dr. Dibble quietly goes about his daily routine. Since 2002, he has been a constant in Shelter Island School in his position of School Psychologist. Though he is seen as a quiet presence by many students, Dr. Dibble has an integral role in our student body, helping kids in crisis, kids with learning disabilities, and anyone who needs someone to listen.

Dr. Dibble is a lifelong Long Islander. He grew up in Patchogue and graduated from Patchogue-Medford High School in 1979. Dr. Dibble then went to Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. After a two year stint there, he transferred to Oneonta State, just a couple of miles down the road from Hartwick. Dr. Dibble earned a major in Psychology and Literature during his glory days in college. Before coming to SIHS in 2002, he worked at Eastern Suffolk Boces. In addition, Dr. Dibble runs his own private practice where he provides therapy multiple afternoons a week. When asked if he had a specialty in the field of

psychology, Dr. Dibble answered that even though he doesn't specialize in a certain topic, he "works mostly" with people suffering from anxiety and depression.

At home, Dr. Dibble is a family man. Residing in East Marion, he lives with his wife Deborah in their newly "empty nest." Dr. Dibble's oldest son, Matthew, and his youngest son, Gavin, both attend college. When his younger son, Gavin, graduated in 2014, it left Dr. Dibble and his wife in a childfree home during the academic year for the first time in decades. "It's a very big adjustment," said Dr. Dibble. He describes his house as being more calm now, and he has more time for personal interests and activities, like spending time with friends. Dr. Dibble is an avid reader and traveler, but he is "extremely passionate" about the sport of powerlifting. Dr. Dibble trains daily and even attends powerlifting competitions. "It can get a little intense sometimes," he shared, with a chuckle. Powerlifting is not the only sport he is passionate for though, as you can find him rooting for all of

the New York teams, especially the Knicks, since basketball is a favorite of Dr. Dibble's.

Even though Dr. Dibble can come off as a quiet, introverted man, he claims that he is one of the bigger pranksters on the school faculty, frequently playing jokes on his fellow teachers, such as Mr. Miedema. One of many funny pranks that went on between these two jokesters was a few years ago when Mr. Miedema hurt his ankle. After learning of his injury, Dr. Dibble just had to bring in a pair of extra, extra small crutches for Mr. Miedema, which some might consider a low blow. All jokes aside, Dr. Dibble thoroughly loves his job here, but if he had to pick another job, he would have liked to stay in the field of science as a neuroscientist, or continued with his passion for the outdoors as a forest ranger.

Dr. Dibble holds one of the most impactful positions in our school. His professionalism every day can help kids in need. If you feel like you need someone to talk to about an issue large or small, Dr. Dibble's door is always open.

Learning + Fun = Mr. Brigham

BY PETER KROPP

Who do you think of when you hear the words "tofurkey" and "monkey-picked tea"? Yep, the one and only, Mr. Walter Brigham, Shelter Island High School's longtime math teacher. Maybe you thought you knew Mr. Brigham, but now we will dig deep and really get to know the vegetarian, Star Wars-loving, funny teacher we all love.

Mr. Brigham was born in the Bronx and raised just north in Mount Vernon, New York, where he lived up until the age of about 14. His family then made the move to Shelter Island--they "had always been from Shelter Island,

and they decided to move back." He attended high school here, adjusting to the change "easily," and noting that the isle was a "much nicer place to live." The math teacher was "just a regular kid" who loved basketball and baseball, and he was and still is an avid New York Yankees fan--not too surprising for someone born in the Bronx. He furthered his education at the University of Albany, where he received a degree in mathematics. The Bronx Bombers fan chose the college because "it was a cost-effective school," adding that he "had a quality academic experience" there.

Ever since he was young, Mr. Brigham "wanted to teach." Although he had some "odd jobs over the years," he became a computer teacher here at SIHS in the fall of 1992, and then in a few years, a math teacher. Some people may find math hard, so teaching it to teenagers sounds even harder, but Mr. Brigham does it every day because he loves to see "when the students get it." He knows how to keep students interested and the classroom lively. He often ties math concepts to real-world applications, makes jokes, and creates clever memory devices to help the kids. And then there's his fa-



Mr. Brigham in front of his bulletin board in his classroom. PHOTO BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

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PROFILES



Ms. Galasso smiles for a photo at Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Thornton, NH with her husband (left) and seventy-nine year old father (middle). PHOTO BY ANN MARIE GALASSO

Ms. Galasso— she can run, but she's not hiding

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

Last year, Shelter Island High School did lose one of their beloved science teachers to retirement, Ms. Galasso, but she was not forgotten! Although now happily retired after going above and beyond for her job, Ms. Galasso certainly has not slowed down. From traveling and sleeping in, to binge watching new tv shows and “grocery shopping when there’s hardly anyone else in the store,” Ms. Galasso’s on the move. Knowing that she’s already had some amazing retirement adventures, we had to follow up with Ms. Galasso and get the scoop.

Although most teachers love their jobs, being a teacher is hard work. There are little things that you miss when pursuing a teaching career, and Ms. Galasso’s sure learning that. “Staying up late and being able to sleep into the next day is one of the best parts of not teaching,” she laughs. “Also, traveling when it’s not a school vacation is great.” Skiing on weekdays was for her, a blessing. Traveling has been a big activity of Ms. Galasso’s, with destinations ranging from D.C. to Alaska. She recalls the craziest thing she’s done being “going to Alaska and taking a helicopter ride to a glacier.”

As everyone knows, with free time comes one thing-- binge-watching. When using Netflix, it’s practically inevitable. “I’m always several seasons behind everyone else!” she explains, “But currently, I’m watching ‘House of Cards,’ ‘Sons of Anarchy,’ (Ms. Treharne’s suggestion), and ‘Parks and Recreation.’ Too funny!” Among other things, Ms. Galasso has been enjoying “reading, relaxing, cooking, and

enjoying the East End like [she’s] a tourist.” What’s better than that? She also just took a fascinating workshop on genealogy. “I plan on doing some research to learn more about my grandfather (an Italian immigrant) and his family. Unfortunately, he died before I was born,” she explains. Clearly, there’s never a dull moment with Ms. Galasso.

But at the end of the day, Ms. Galasso does miss some things about teaching. She explains how she misses the “wild antics of teenagers” and “feeling like a part of the Shelter Island community.” (Don’t worry Ms. Galasso, you haven’t left it!) Luckily, she has been able to keep in touch with old colleagues and students via Facebook and email. She recalls, “This past fall I had lunch with a former student (Lia Stelljes). I taught her during my first year at SI.” She says, “Of course, I miss the daily interactions with my old buddies!”

She sure hasn’t forgotten her love for working at Shelter Island School. “I haven’t told anyone, but I’m still on the call list for school delays and closings. I don’t know what makes me smile more when I get a call...remembering how awesome it felt to get a snow day, or hearing Jacki Dunning’s voice,” she says. In addition, Ms. Galasso could not forget the “incredible farewell” that she received from students and colleagues. “I felt like a million dollars that day!” Interestingly enough, an entry was made in her calendar last year for this June. It reads, “Julia says come to graduation.” “If I’m not there physically, I’ll be there in spirit!” Ms. Galasso says. “Miss you all!”

New sights to see

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

The Grand Canyon National Park has forever been a significant landmark of the United States and a place that everyone wants to be able to visit at least once. Now, thanks to the help of math teacher and avid traveler Mr. Theinert, students will have an opportunity of a lifetime to travel to the southwest to visit one of the natural wonders of the world. Even though the trip is not expected to take place until late June of 2016, students need to start preparing soon, for this trip is going to be a big one.

The excursion is set to begin on June 27th, 2016, and students will return home July 1st, 2016. Right now 12-20 students are expected to take the trip, according to Mr. Theinert.

While on the trip, students and chaperones will not only have the chance to see the Grand Canyon, but also Zion National Park, and two stunning national monuments, Wupatki and Sunset Crater. The states of Nevada, Utah, and Arizona

will be visited over the course of the southwestern tour. These places will be the sight of several different outdoor activities, such as river rafting, swimming, rock climbing, and rock scrambling. Mr. Theinert plans to “go in-depth about the unique topography and environments of the Southwestern portion of the United States with students. “Being outside is awesome,” raved Mr. Theinert. “So, if I can successfully run this trip, then it provides students with that opportunity.”

Being a world traveler himself, Mr. Theinert wanted to bring the opportunity of seeing more of our country to Shelter Island students. “My hope for students is that they get to expand their horizons (and comfort zone) by traveling to a new place and taking part in activities they may not have

experienced before.” Mr. Theinert also hopes that students will learn to be more responsible on the journey, considering they will need to be packing bags, moving through airports, and ready on time, all without the help of their parents, who will not be attending as chaperones. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to see the Grand Canyon and surrounding areas, contact Mr. Theinert right away.

The Grand Canyon trip is not the only new and exciting travel development making some noise here at school. The famous New York City trip is in the process of making a possible comeback as soon as Fall or Winter 2015. Mr. Theinert has been



tasked with attempting to arrange a new and improved city trip. Being a high school student not long too ago, and having experienced the trip four different times (once each year of his high school career), made Mr. Theinert wish for current students to have the opportunity that he and his classmates at the time had. “My goal in wanting to see the trip brought back to life is to continue a strong Shelter Island tradition that was started by great teachers like Arthur Pederson (former history teacher).”

With all that is happening in the near future for our student body, keep yourselves posted for updates. These two trips of historic measures will not only be fun and riveting learning experiences, but they will become school traditions in the near future, if Mr. Theinert’s master plan succeeds.

PYSHER FROM PAGE 3

Ms. Lynch, will be great additions to the Board. About the new candidates, she said, “Mrs. Binder and Ms Lynch are smart, caring, and high energy people who will be fabulous additions to the Board.” And, if you think Ms. Pysher is ending her involvement with the school and our island community altogether, don’t fret. Ms. Pysher admitted, “I am a person who always has to feel I’m doing something for my community, so although I don’t know yet what form it will take, I know I will be offering my assistance in some way. After all, how could I stay away from such an exciting, important, and wonderful place?” Please don’t stay away Ms. Pysher; we thank you for all you have done, and for all we know you will continue to do for our school and our community.

PHOTO BY ANN MARIE GALASSO. Mrs. Galasso smiles atop a glacier, that she arrived at via helicopter. Clearly, she forgot to bring a copy of The Inlet.



AROUND the Halls

BY
KENNA
McCARTHY



WILL GARRISON
Work and possibly go to Florida



SOPHIA STRAUSS
Travel more! I'm most likely going to California and hopefully Italy!



CAITLIN BINDER
I'm going to Green Mountain running camp in New Hampshire

Summer Fun in the Sun!

Summer is coming faster than ever! Everyone has things they want to do or accomplish before the warm weather ends and school starts again in the fall. So, in this final issue, of the year, we ask you: "What is on your summer bucket list?"



MR. BRIGHAM
Climb a mountain



NURSE MARY
Go to the Jersey Shore!



ELLA MYSLIBORSKI
Riding horses



SYDNEY CLARK
To do something other than work



JULIA MARTIN
Throw a Project X party on my last night on the Island before college



JACK LANG
Go fishing!

HOLLY ROSS
Go to Splish Splash

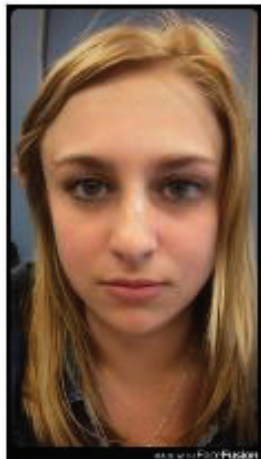
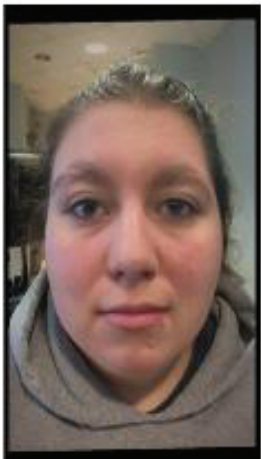
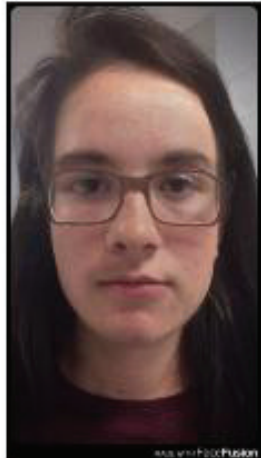
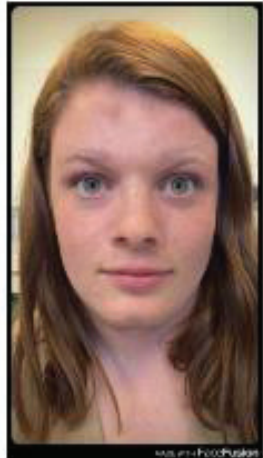
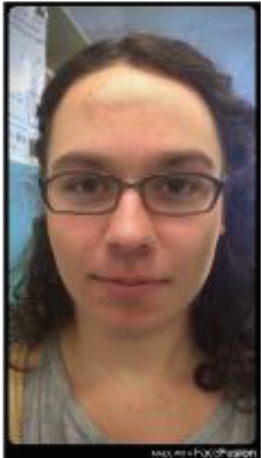


SENIOR SECTION

FACE MORPHS: SENIORS

by Kelly Colligan

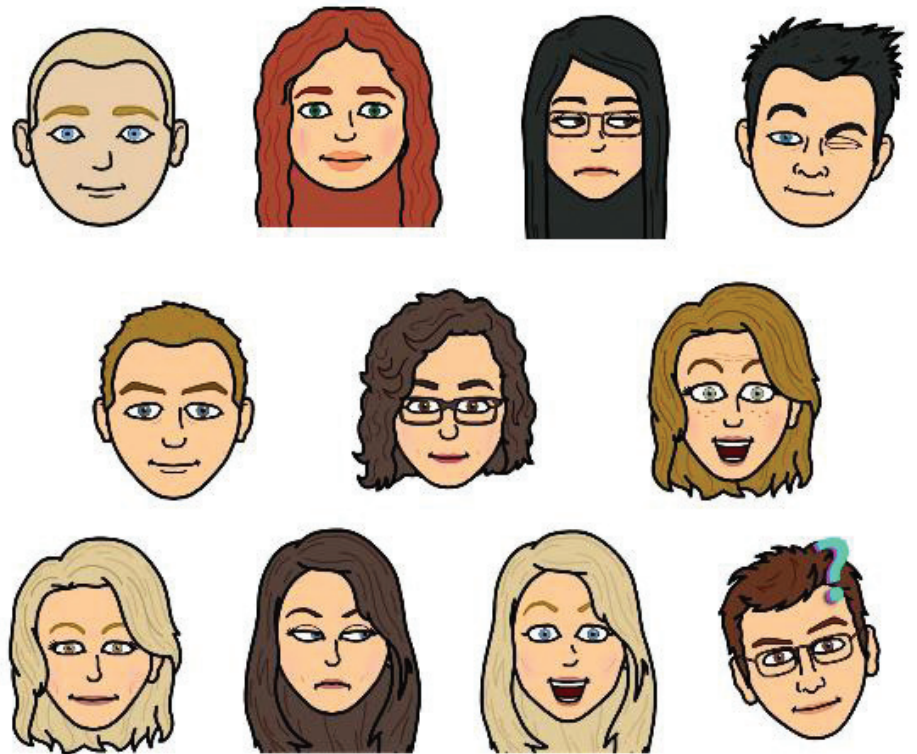
Face morphs is back! But this time-- senior edition!. Morphees include: Cameron Clark, Nicole Poleshuk, Johnny Sturges, Tommy Card, Caity Mulcahey, Haley Sulahian, Sawyer Clark, Olivia Garrison, Julia Martin, Taylor Rando, Jonathan Lewis, and their class advisor, Ms. Bosak. Can you guess these morphs?!



SENIOR "BITMOJIS"

by Cameron Clark

Check out these "Bitmojis" of the Class of 2015 and see if you can figure out who's who...



BRIGHAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

mous dollar system. If Mr. Brigham makes a mistake in his math--or even in his everyday speech or actions, such as mispronouncing or misspelling a word on the board--and someone catches it by yelling, "That's a dollar!!!," he then owes the class one "creamer dollar." When the "creamer dollars" add up, Mr. Brigham gets the entire class cream doughnuts and students get a five-minute break at the end of the period to enjoy the tasty treat they have earned. This reward system is an extra way to help keep kids, especially doughnut-lovers, focused on the task at hand. Record for most dollars collected in a 40-minute period? Fourteen, "all pretty much because of [2014 graduate] Thomas Mysliborski," Mr. Brigham shared.

Mr. Brigham has a wife and four kids: Hayley, 15, Cole, 13, Quincy,

10, and Grady, 5. All of them "love sports," but Quincy has particular interests in President Theodore Roosevelt and the art of calligraphy. The math teacher admits he "doesn't have a normal routine," but it's one that his family also follows. He says that "the routine has chosen me." It consists of getting up "very early in the morning," when other people are still sleeping, and "exercising and getting things done." Mr. Brigham claims that in Southold, where he lives, his family is known as "that crazy family that runs in the morning."

If you think it a coincidence that Mr. Brigham wears a Yankees polo shirt on Fridays during baseball season, you are wrong: it's a tradition. Ever since 2000, he has done just that, so long as the Yankees are still competing. His favorite sports mo-

ment was when Yankees third baseman Aaron Boone hit an American League Championship Series-clinching home run against the Boston Red Sox in 2003 to send the Yankees to the World Series. The math teacher is so engrossed in the Yankees--Red Sox rivalry that he actually enjoys a "Red Sox loss more than a Yankees win." His favorite athlete is Larry Bird, the famous basketball legend who played for the team that Mr. Brigham roots for: the Boston Celtics.

The math teacher and his classes have had lots of fun over the years, thus making it "hard" for Mr. Brigham to pick the funniest moment during his career at SIHS, because "there have been so many" laughs. He settled on one, though: "When Tom Fay [another 2014 graduate] came into my class with straight hair." Where

does he see himself in 10 years? The math teacher who enjoys tofurkey on Thanksgiving and special monkey-picked tea in the morning, replies, "either still teaching here, or on my own farm." Mr. Brigham's favorite book is *The Quark and the Jaguar*, and the movies he loves the most are "The Godfather" and "The Last Samurai." His favorite app is WabbitEmu, and when it comes to television, he finds himself watching "The Walking Dead" and has always appreciated "Seinfeld," hailing the "Kenny Rogers Roasters" and "Serenity Now" episodes as his favorites.

I don't know if anybody can imagine SIHS without Mr. Brigham. If it is up to him and his students, he will teach, as he would say, "for-ev-er!"

SENIOR SECTION

College bucket list

BY JACK KIMMELMANN

THE CLASS OF 2015 only has a few short weeks left in high school, so we were curious to find out what they are most excited about experiencing in college. Here are the top three things they are looking forward to:

JOHNNY STURGES

"Getting away from high school."
"Being more independent."
"Finding who I am."

SAWYER CLARK

"Excited for coming home."
"Getting through the 4 years to make money after."
"Getting up at 6am instead of 4am."

TOMMY CARD

"The vast amount of opportunities."
"Exploring the tunnels of Rochester."
"Camping out in the lecture halls."

OLIVIA GARRISON

"The boys."
"The freedom."
"Going to sporting events."

JULIA MARTIN

"The Miami weather."
"Having the afternoons free."
"Finding new friends."

CAMERON CLARK

"Meeting new people."
"Going on my school's Canada trip."
"My classes."

HALEY SULAHIAN

"Living on my own."
"Meeting new people."
"My classes."

NICOLE POLSHUK

"Going to the hockey games in the new rink there."
"Getting away from the island."
"Being on my own."

CAITY MULCAHY

"Independence."
"The quidditch team."
"My classes."

TAYLOR RANDO

"Building a bond with my roommate."
"Being close to Boston."
"College parties."

Early onset senioritis:
One senior's perspective

BY CAMERON CLARK

You know it's bad when your English teacher "formally diagnoses" you with senioritis in the comments section of your progress report during quarter 3. Yes, that happened to me. And no, I'm not the only one. While not actually recognized by dictionary.com as a real word or ailment, (Hello?! Get with the times dictionary.com, I was counting on you!) senioritis is real, it has set in, and it is driving our teachers insane.

For the entirety of our school careers, we have been told to keep our grades up in order to get into a good college. For twelve years, we work hard, pull all nighters to study for exams and finish projects, spend hours on end staying after school to learn complicated concepts, play sports, and participate in clubs, all to have an impressive resume and high school transcript. So, when the stress of the college application process is over and college selections are made,

then what? Once a student commits to a university, school doesn't end, teachers don't just stop teaching their lessons, obligations do not cease to exist. Herein lies the problem. This purgatory between high school and college is when the virus infects us all. It's called senioritis. After years of being pounded with work and responsibility, we are this close to freedom. We've made the commitment to chapter two, but we are stuck in the last few pages of chapter 1.

The side effects of this virus called senioritis are serious and they extend beyond school work. Laziness is the main strain of the disease. Students refuse to do school work, call in sick to work and sporting events, and may actually lose weight due to being too lazy to make their own food, while simultaneously being too poor to buy any. Julia Martin, president of the senior class, recalls a time when this senior

sickness almost got the best of her, "I was in my bed, I was so hungry, but the food was all the way down stairs. I basically starved. It was horrible." In the classroom, English teacher, Devon Treharne, says the top three symptoms of senioritis she has noticed in her twelfth grade class are, "the inability to focus for more than 60 seconds at a time, giving lame excuses for missed work, and spotty attendance." Spotty attendance. Ouch. Mrs. Treharne's on to something. My sources tell me multiple students from the class of 2015 have missed up to 10 school days this year, and our "senior skip day" hasn't even happened yet!

Why the poor attendance? Why the utter disregard for academic responsibility? "I just don't know what the point of school is once I've made it into college," explains Nicole Polshuck, "I've been told my whole life that in order to succeed I have

to get into college by getting good grades. I've got the grades, I'm going to a college, so what am I still studying for?" Valid point, Nicole. It can feel as if keeping up on the academics after college acceptance is futile. I get that. However, no matter how fed up we get with our studies, there are always more lessons to learn and many more experiences to be had. Few seniors realize that their final transcripts from high school are sent to colleges, and can, in fact, result in a rescinding of admission if the final quarters of study show a marked drop in grades. The end of high school is our last chance to make habits which we should bring with us to college. Let's rally for a change. On our way out, let's show our teachers what we can do. Senior class valedictorian Olivia Garrison had this to say about senioritis and overcoming the virus that has infected us all, "I'll get back to you on that."

SENIOR SECTION

St. Augustine: A senior trip to remember

BY CAMERON CLARK

The Class of 2015 took it down to Florida for their senior trip this year. While agreeing on a time and location was no easy task, seniors did make it to St. Augustine, Florida in mid-May. The location was chosen because of its rich history and culture, along with its close proximity with the Atlantic Ocean. "We had a set itinerary, but by the time we got there, we just kept coming up with new, fun things to do!" excitedly explained senior, Olivia Garrison. On the day of the seniors' arrival it was a sunny and 82 degrees and the group, chaperoned by Peter Miedema and Jessica Bosak, set out to check out the town.

The first night was spent eating a delicious dinner in the middle of Historic Saint Augustine, and shopping around the cobblestone pathways. Nicole Poleshuk said, "I really liked the second day, even though there were stormy clouds, we had an awesome time touring the fort, [Castillo De San Marcos], and going to the ocean!" The Fort De Castillo De San Marcos is the oldest in the United States and has been under siege by six different countries throughout history, so the architecture and history is very unique. "On Friday night it was nice to dress up and go to the AIA Alehouse, although it wasn't as fancy as we thought it would be, it was still pretty good," said Julia Martin.

The seniors were given a lot of free-

dom, activity-wise, on their trip. While there, they discovered there was an Alligator farm not too far from their hotel, where you could go ziplining over the animal pens! "Not everyone could go zip lining because there were only so many available spots left," explained Johnny Sturges. Johnny, along with Olivia Garrison, Cameron Clark and Sawyer Clark, all took the exciting challenge. "It was really hot that day, so we were really sticky, but it was worth it," added Sawyer. Afterwards, the four students joined their classmates at the beach where it was a beautiful 86 degrees. Many of the seniors enjoyed their rented boogie boards and the warm waves.

"The trip was so entertaining," said Julia. "my top three moments were definitely when the fire alarm went off in the hotel while Olivia was showering, when Olivia was pooped on by a tropical bird, and the ghost tour we took on the last night." Julia wasn't the only one who enjoyed those things, chaperone Mr. Miedema starts hysterically laughing when any three of those things are mentioned. Overall, the trip was not only educational, but a great time for the students of the Class of 2015 to bond in their last few weeks of high school. The entire group agreed with Julia when she said, "our senior trip was definitely better than any other class has ever had."



Class of 2015 remembers when: Señorita Leever edition

BY CAMERON CLARK

The seniors have all sorts of silly shenanigans and adventures to look back on in their Shelter Island School career, but when we started asking, we noticed a familiar theme in their responses: Mrs. Leever. So, we went with it. Here are some of the seniors most notable memories from their years in Señorita Leever's classroom!

Remember when.....

Tommy: "Mrs. Leever taped an onion on her cat scratch and it got infected!"

Cameron: "Mrs. Leever would chew her algae smoothies."

Sawyer: "We had to carry Senorita Leever's rolling chair out to the field outside if we wanted to have class outside."

Julia: "We shunned Mrs. Leever and she gave us all zeroes for class participation? Harsh."

Nicole: "Mrs. Leever opened the door during our lockdown drill? We could have died. Just sayin'."

Taylor: "My name became 'Vero' because of Spanish class."

Johnny: "I tried to change my Spanish name to Esteban and Mrs. Leever wouldn't let me. So, I just stopped participating."

Caity: "Olivia and I went to Perlman over the summer and saw Senorita there, inexplicably carrying a huge bag of assorted nuts."

Olivia: "Senorita was leaving school in her car and she stopped to talk to me, so I opened the door, got in the back seat, and refused to get out."

Thanks for the memories, Señorita Leever! We love you!

Mrs. Leever had to have the last word though! In response to our Remember when: Señorita Leever edition, Señorita Leever created her own top ten list of memories made with the class of 2015.

1. The entire class was so nice as sweet little 7th and 8th graders -- even Esteban!

2. Getting to see how cute they were as little kids when they did their Mi Ninez project.

3. The entire class would hide when I stepped out of the room and Tommy Card could hide in the smallest places.

4. They would also try to block me from coming in the room, but that didn't work so well, because I have super powers

5. Tommy, Sawyer and Liam would work together and they would come up with some pretty strange sentences.

6. Everyone screaming when we watched "El Orfanato" -- uno, dos, tres... "toca la pared!"

7. Everyone singing "Las Mananitas" so beautifully, except for the last 2 lines where they decided to change the words.

8. Julia was very good at acting out ALL the new vocab words -- too bad she's so shy!

9. Trying to explain to Olivia the difference between being inquisitive vs being argumentative!

10. When the girls went on a silent strike for several days during class (on 2 separate occasions) because they were upset with me. Moi? I'm like Mary Poppins... practically perfect in every way!

Traveling athletes: on the road to up their game

BY JACK KIMMELMANN

Shelter Island School has some great athletic programs, but in order to become more competitive athletes, many students are seeking out travel teams. How do they manage their time when they have travel athletics, academic responsibilities, and extracurricular commitments all at the same time? It is certainly a delicate balance.

Travel teams are very demanding because all practices, games, and tournaments are off-island, so the simple commitment to travel is time consuming and complicated. For 7th grader Liam Adipietro, that can mean some really late nights, "It's very time consuming and sometimes I get home as late as 1am." Fellow 7th grader Walter Richards, who also plays basketball, recognizes the difficulties, but also the benefits of his hectic schedule. "Although it takes away a lot of my time, it's good meeting new people and making bonds with them." Walter plays on the Long Island Elite team their record is This social connection is especially valuable to S.I. students on travel teams. Juniors Kenna McCarthy, Margaret Michalak, and Kelly Colligans travel team (Long Island Fury) have spent a total of 6 24 hours days traveling this season.

Even though it was a lot of traveling time it was worth it because they got some social benefits as well as the other positives from playing travel, she says, "You get to meet different kids from others schools and see how their everyday lives are."

Not only are there social benefits to playing on an off-island or travel team, but it can help bring your game to the next level and help prepare you for collegiate play. Junior Tristan Wissemann, who is planning to play college basketball says, "You're playing against guys who are being recruited by big name schools, and it makes you have to adapt to their style of play." Being forced to adapt as a player to more fierce competition ups any player's

game, which is essential for S.I. students looking to play beyond high school. In addition, the opportunity to have scouts see a S.I. player in action is a rare thing; travel teams allow this visibility that is harder to attain here at home. Also some big time coaches have watched some of his tournaments such as scouts from UCONN.

Playing a travel sport has its benefits and drawbacks. Although it may be time consuming and makes managing time more difficult, it is also a great way to forge new friendships, while staying on top of and improving a player's game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER WISSEMAN. Long Island Elite Travel Basketball Team



PHOTO COURTESY LYNNE COLLIGAN. Long Island Fury celebrates their first number one tournament win in the Bronx.

Spring sports review

BY PETER KROPP

Spring started out cold and dreary this year, but it ended with warmer temperatures and even hotter sports teams. The Shelter Island Indians junior varsity baseball and junior varsity softball have concluded their seasons, and despite cross-country action being months away, the running club is keeping kids on their feet.

First, let's talk some baseball. The JV squad of 13 played 10 games (there would have been more, but the baseball gods made it rain), going 2-8. Although they found themselves on the unfavorable side of .500, the team improved in all aspects of the game under the tutelage of Coach Peter Miedema and Assistant Coach Mike Dunning. The players bravely faced problems like playing with snow on the ground, and developed a unique chemistry as the season went along. Coach Miedema poetically summed up the season: "Early in the season, our bats were as cold as the weather, but as the spring flowers blossomed, so did the Shelter Island baseball team, closing out the season with a 20-run victory." Junior Henry Lang

thought the year was filled with "a lot of fun and a lot of laughs." He especially enjoyed "getting better and learning from our mistakes." Another junior, Richard Ruscica, found the season to be a "good chance to work on basic skills and an opportunity to teach the younger kids." Rich's favorite moment of the year was watching and being part of the nearly never-ending "streak of hits" that the Indians compiled at Pierson in their season-opening 16-8 win, a game that he believed was a display of "great, close baseball." The junior wants to "finish up his high school baseball career with a winning season" next year, and so do the other juniors, including myself. With the skills, spirit, and enthusiasm the Indians bring to the field every day, this seems like a very possible goal.

The JV softball team continued a streak of domination this year, ending with an undefeated record, going 15-0. Coach Ian Kanarvogel described the season as an "overall success, in which everybody contributed and put forth a great team effort." His favorite

moments of the year included "Shawna's [Goody] one-hitter vs. Knox, Julia [Labrozzi] hitting for the cycle, Sarah's [Lewis] pitching, and winning vs. Stony Brook." Junior Kenna McCarthy stated, "The season was full of laughs and many wins." Another 11th grader, Kelly Colligan, thought that "this was one of the best seasons." She appreciated how Coach Kanarvogel "incorporated a nice mixture of excitement and success." With the future looking bright for the Shelter Island softball, it's reasonable to think that that excitement and success will last for a long time.

Ready, set, go! Even though the cross-country gun won't sound until the fall, runners on the cross-country team and others are wearing out the isle's trails as part of their participation in the running club. The club meets every Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 2:30 to 4:30 and is guided by Brian Knipfing, Toby Green, and Bryan Gallagher. The running club is active year-round, but sometimes other sports and extracurricular activities interfere, resulting in

less participants during certain times of the year. They usually run on the school track, at Fiske Field, Goat Hill, and other spots around the island. If you thought straight-up running was the only thing you'd have to do, you'd be wrong. The club will go through workouts that are geared toward building speed, such as hill running, short sprints, and interval training. A typical session will last about 1.5 to 2 hours for the older participants, only half an hour for the younger ones. Mr. Knipfing loves running and all that comes with it. He enjoys "being outside, running in scenic areas, the quiet, and just going fast sometimes." Sixth-grader Jason Green finds running club fun, because you "get to be around your friends, while doing something you like." Tenth-grader Olivia Yeamen likes "bonding with people [at running club], and plus, the running keeps you in shape.

Whether it be hitting home runs or running a couple of miles, SI School's athletes sure had a successful, exciting, and fun-filled spring season of sports!

Viva en España

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

Summer is a wonderful time for students to broaden their horizons and travel. Taking a trip with a school program or with family is a wonderful experience, as new places have so much to teach about new cultures. Here at Shelter Island School, juniors and seniors have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity every other year to travel to Spain.

This summer, ten students will be traveling abroad and experiencing much of what Spain has to offer. While in Spain, students will be living with a host family in the ancient port city of Cádiz, going to Spanish classes in the morning, and venturing out to take

in the culture during the day. There will be two tentative day trips to two different cities, Gibraltar and Seville. One of these trips will take place in the very beginning of the journey and one on the last full day the students have. The great thing about this trip is that the students will be

learning and perfecting their Spanish speaking skills by living with a family who is fluent in the language. Each host family will have two or three students staying with them, this makes it easier for students to adjust and not feel awkward or uncomfortable while they are staying with a new family.

Many former students loved this trip and have had great things to say about it, Erin Colligan said "Since Spain was the first place I traveled outside of the United States, with this brings many revelations. In a place foreign to my own and out of my comfort zone, I was able to challenge myself to communicate as well as be active and interested to Spaniard ways and even history." The students that are going this summer have so much to look forward to, Olivia Yeaman said, "I am most excited to try all the new foods!" Going to Spain for twelve days doesn't come around often; the students that are taking part of this adventure are going to have the trip of their lives.



Prom 2015: The 20s roared again

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

This year's prom found inspiration in the pages of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic American novel, *The Great Gatsby*. In the novel, infamous protagonist Jay Gatsby hosts fantastical parties at which "men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings [...] and the stars" (Fitzgerald 39). What better inspiration for a prom than this novel and "the Roaring 20s"? With golden bottle center pieces, pearls, and jewels on the tables, The Ram's Head was the perfect venue for the 2015 prom, exuding 1920s decadence. With a lovely water view serving as the backdrop for gorgeous pictures in the gazebo or on the bright green grass, people started off the night in style. Everyone attending "put on the Ritz," as they used to say in the 20s, with some girls even giving a nod to

1920s fashion with their dress and accessory choices. The only thing missing was that green light on the end of Ram's Head's dock.

Instead of traditional table numbers, tables were named after characters in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*: Wolfshiem, Carraway, and Buchanan, to name a few. All agreed that the food served was of impressive quality. Before the night came to an end, the royal court was announced and Julia Martin and Tommy Card were crowned queen and king, while Aidan Mysliborski and Elizabeth Dunning were crowned prince and princess. To Mrs. Meghan Lang, Mr. Jimbo Theinert, and the class of 2016, a very sincere thank you for hosting our the fabulous prom of 2015.

Guide to make the summer fly

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

As the school year comes to a close, and the summer vacation rapidly approaches, knowing what to do to make your summer vacation count is very important. After all, you do not want to be sitting on the couch Labor Day weekend and think "Where did all the time go?". With all of the opportunities to have a good time on this island, we had to cover what the Shelter Island "summer musts" are, and what we would, if we were in the spirit, share with our seasonal friends as the highlights of summer in the special place we call home.

8th grader Nick Young is one of the many people who believe the list of things to do on Shelter Island is endless. "It's hard because there are so many different things to do," said Nick. He ultimately suggested playing a round of golf at one of the two golf courses on Shelter Island. "Try to be outside," he advised. One big consideration during the summer vacation on our small island is the incredibly high tourist population during July and August.

With the population going from just over 1,000 year-round to well over 10,000 in the summer, only the locals know best things to do and places to go. Junior Richard Ruscica says that out of all the restaurants, tourists need to try the famous Commander Cody's. Located on Smith Street near the school, Richard likes to describe the restaurant known mostly for its seafood and chicken as a "diamond in the rough." "You can't

beat the Commander Cody chicken," he excitedly raved.

Perhaps the most popular summertime activity on Shelter Island is to take an excursion to one of the superb local beaches, where of course you can have fun in the sun. Freshman Dan McCafferty suggests that instead of going to a beach that is already popular or well known, both tourists and locals should go and try out "Second Bridge" located near the Shelter Island Yacht Club. The bridge makes for an experience that can not be found just anywhere else, with it being so close to the water in terms of being low. "It's a different thing to do," explained Dan. Fellow freshman Wesley Congdon suggested that non-locals should go and experience the Fire Department chicken barbeque. This well-known Shelter Island summer tradition not only has great food, but it gives people a chance to mingle, and for tourists, they can get to know the year-round people they share this small island with.

Every year, the seemingly never-ending summer days end all too soon. This summer, try something different and explore our beautiful island in a new way. This can apply to all Islanders, whether locals or tourists. Seeking a new adventure can be as simple as going down an unknown road, trying some new cuisine, or taking a swim in a new place. Make your summer count, after all, it is the very best time on Shelter Island.



*See back cover for an inside
look at this year's prom!*

