



Knightly News

Glen Cove High School's Student Newspaper

Homecoming Issue 2025

Red and Green Pride At Its Finest

by Furkan Efe Ozdemir



photos: Lisa Viscovich

Once again, we coast into the school year with the transition from summer to fall, when tradition strikes, which is arguably the most energetic and personal favorite for some. A tradition that has lasted generations before us and will last generations after....homecoming! Needless to say, it's an exciting first for our freshman and a nostalgic, emotional rollercoaster for our seniors.

Spirit Week this year started on Monday, with the classic pajama day, which saw a surprising amount of students and even some teachers in onesies and comfy pajama sets looking straight out of bed. Tuesday followed with jersey day, overflowing with Dodgers, N.Y. Giants, and Eagles jerseys. The rest of the week wasn't so quiet either. Wednesday was Disney Day, which sprinkled the hallways with magic and glamor. Thursday was Legally Blond vs. James Bond, where people either dressed up black tie to business casual. Finally, School Spirit Day had everyone dressed in their grade color—red for freshmen, orange for sophomores, blue for juniors, and green for seniors—as well as teachers wearing school colors.

Pulling into the school and seeing it covered in white stripes of toilet paper never gets old, which seniors appreciate even more when it's their last time being there for it. As always, the varsity players' houses were looking similar to the school's front yard. These traditions add meaning and warmth to a small neighborhood school; learn to enjoy it and never take it for granted!

Costumes weren't the only part of spirit week. In fact, the four hallways were shining, covered with decorations. As we've

seen the last couple of years, the juniors had competition coursing through them. The blue hallway was lit up with Christmas lights, balloon arches, and even catchy slogans. The sophomores showed some effort as well, but the same couldn't be said for the seniors and freshman.

Friday was the day when every class was cut short, and the announcement was made to slowly get the audience into their seats for the pep rally. The Pep Rally this year did not have a theme like the last two years, but the show was still booming with red and green pride, and that's all everybody needed for a good time. Starting off with the announcement of our football team, our Student Senate called up every sports captain for a brief speech about the long year ahead of us, with performances regaining the attention of the students in the middle. The cheer team and kickline put on a great show for our eyes, followed by a great piece from the GC Drum Line. A junior added, "I think it's one of the best events we have all year since it includes the whole community and every student, it creates lasting memories for everyone."

In the midst of the animalistic celebration, the Homecoming Court was announced - Boys: Joseph Leftwich, Ryan Martino, Michael Renga, and Aiden Van Ommeren; Girls: Valentina Canales, Isabella Damiano, Siena Scagliola, and Alyssa Weigand. Afterward, the crowd disbanded as our band performed the last song, accompanied by the stomps on the bleachers. The homecoming night continued by the amazing PTSA sponsored carnival where the entire community gathered to have fun before the game. Following the

carnival, the parade, including all of the Glen Cove schools and the cheer program, started.

The momentous day was capped off by the football team with an amazing comeback 38-22 win over Valley Stream. It saw the squad overcome a pair of two-touchdown deficits to win by 16 points for the first win of the season. Even better, Coach Rubin earned his first win as a varsity coach! At halftime, the GC Kickline and Cheer team put on amazing routines right before the announcement of Homecoming King and Queen: Joseph Leftwich and Valentina Canales. Congrats to Joseph and Valentina!

Later on, we asked Mr. Hudson about this week, and this is what he had to say: "Spirit Week, the Pep Rally, and Homecoming were absolutely amazing. Congratulations to our Big Red Knights on an incredible win. The energy from the crowd and community was outstanding, and our students and staff had a great time showcasing their school spirit through classroom decorations and all the festivities. What a week to remember. Go Big Red!"

That is Homecoming week, even though it somewhat stings for the seniors, it was a very fun week in Glen Cove. A perfect tradition to last for years and make many memories. Special thanks to GCTV for recording the entire event and to everyone who showed up in support of the team. Stay strong Glen Cove and enjoy the rest of the year. Go Big Red!

Ms. Butler's Story: Awareness to Action

By Nishka Baboolal



Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign, which spans the entirety of October. Thirteen percent of women in the U.S. develop breast cancer, so we wear pink to show solidarity with that 13%. Breast Cancer Awareness Month was created in 1985 by the American Cancer Society. What once began as a week-long campaign turned into a month. During this time, people around America host walks, events, and more to raise money and awareness. Schools nationwide recognize the struggle many have faced.

In Glen Cove, we host things like the Connolly School Walk-A-Thon to fundraise for local organizations like Glen Cove Cares and the American Cancer Society. There are many treatments for breast cancer: surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, and oftentimes these are used in tandem. Many of these services can be very expensive. Fortunately, we have Glen Cove Cares, which is a non-profit organization for our residents to get help with financial needs when it comes to these types of therapy.

To learn more about the experience of someone who has faced breast cancer, the Knightly News spoke with our very own Ms. Butler, who is a GCHS English teacher. Her journey and perseverance is something to look up to as she has survived this disease for 11 years, yet continues to shine her light on everyone she meets. There are many different kinds of breast cancer, and the kind she has is Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC), which is the spread of cancer that originated in the breast to one of several organs in the body. For her, it is her bones. Ms. Butler spoke of the feeling that such a terrible diagnosis leaves you with, "I think it's human nature to feel invincible, like that things that happen to others cannot happen to you, specifically," which connects with many of us who have experienced certain troubles that we never thought would affect us.

One of the things that got her through such a difficult time was her support system, and when she felt a bit alone, she built her own. What began as a Facebook group for women on Long Island with MBC turned into a 78 member group, where some of them meet monthly to converse over research and support one another. She reminded both herself and the people around her that once accepting her diagnosis, she started checking off her bucket list and remembering she can still thrive.

Having breast cancer is already such a big change to someone's life, and for many, it can only be a negative thing. However, for Ms. Butler, she chose to take this challenge head on and suck every last drop out of her life. She is setting an example to her students, that even if life is filled with trials, you can still find the positive, as she says: "I am trying to live my absolute best life, and maybe that's the silver lining." Luckily, her quality of life has primarily stayed the same throughout this, and even if she may be unable to control the future, every day can still be lived to the fullest.

Her thoughts on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the complexities of it were very interesting to hear firsthand. For example, there is pink-washing, in which companies profit off of this serious illness by selling pink things in a sort of marketing scam. She brought a different stance on this month that is usually not shown in the media. October is not simply a time to wear pink, but to fundraise to find a cure. Her feelings could be summed up by a poster slogan she used at a rally last month: We Are Aware, Time For A Cure. There needs to be more research, and with so much federal funding being cut from studies and trials, raising money is extremely needed at this time. Treating this month with any less seriousness and sincerity than it deserves is a disrespect to all of those who have suffered. Butler ended her interview with a strong call to action for people to wake up to the obstacles that so many women have to endure, and it is not until we find a cure that we will be free from this disease. There is a possibility for anyone to have cancer, and we should take this month as a period to reflect that there should be a time when no one has cancer for long.

Book Review: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

By Mariah Lindsay Cueva

Harry Potter has been recently announced to get an HBO max series adaptation. After having been around for 28 years there have been a blockbuster film series, a spin off series, and a Broadway play. At its core, the Harry Potter franchise is filled with fantasy, mystery, adventure, loyalty, and friendship.

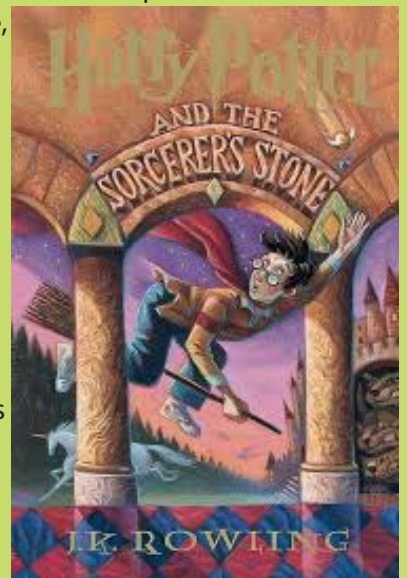
The story begins with a young orphaned boy named Harry Potter. After his parents tragically died, he was left in the care of his uncle, aunt, and cousin, the Dursleys. They often treated him as an unwelcomed house guest rather than family. He spent his childhood living in a small cupboard under the stairs. Furthermore, he lived most of his life in isolation because the kids at school feared his cousin Dudley. Everything changes one summer day when Harry receives a letter from Hogwarts. This letter is addressed to a "Mr. H Potter, the cupboard under the stairs", which leaves Harry feeling curious as to why anyone would write to him. Every time his uncle throws out the letter it would come back with twice as much force, as if it had a mind of its own. The mysterious letter leads the family into madness until a strange visitor knocks on their door. A man named Hagrid, the groundskeeper, reveals that Harry is a wizard and invites him to attend Hogwarts. This school is filled with magical spells, wands, enchanted creatures, flying broomsticks, and power figures like the Headmaster Albus Dumbledore. While attending Hogwarts, Harry befriends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. Together they uncover the truth of his past and dangerous secrets about the school.

Author J.K. Rowling was inspired to write about her late train from Manchester to London in 1990. She drew inspiration from her mother's death and her depression. This shaped the novel's themes of love, family, sacrifice, and humility. Harry Potter represents someone who gives more than he's ever received. As a young boy, Harry was treated unwanted by his only relatives. However, he doesn't take his frustrations out on those around him. Instead, he strives to have a fresh start when attending Hogwarts. A key moment that defines Harry is his decision to let the Mirror of Erised go. After finding out that the mirror showed what the user desperately wanted, he decided it was best to get rid of it in order to not let the great power overtake him.

Main characters that circulate throughout the story are Harry, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger, Neville Longbottom, Severus Snape, Albus Dumbledore, Draco Malfoy, and Rubeus Hagrid. A dynamic character showcased in the novel is Hermonie Granger, who is the voice of logic and reason. At first, she was a know-it-all perfectionist, which annoyed her classmates. Hermione felt that she had to be smarter due to her non-wizard family lineage. She wanted to follow the rules at Hogwarts and threatened to turn her classmate in if they broke them. However, after the troll incident, she lied to protect Ron and Harry from being punished. As a result of their attempt to save her from being killed and rushing in even though they didn't have the skills necessary to take down a monster, the three of them remained close friends throughout the year and shared their brave nature.

The Sorcerer's Stone does an excellent job of world building. It introduces readers to the characters' motivations that set up future novels. And the contrast between Harry, Ron, and Hermione adds depth to the story. Harry Potter was born of two magical parents, but raised with a normal family, so the reader is able to learn about the wizarding world along with him. Ron Weasley is depicted as someone who was raised by a loving but poor family. He always felt the need to prove himself. Lastly, Granger, a girl whose parents weren't magical, constantly works hard to prove she belongs in the magical world.

I highly recommend this book to people who love fantasy and magic. If you would like to read books similar to the Harry Potter series, I would recommend Fantastic Beasts, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Nevermoor, Keeper of the Lost Cities, and His Dark Materials.



As Glen Cove School District’s new Superintendent, you’ve been selected as the best candidate for the job by our Board of Education. How long have you worked in the Glen Cove School District, and what positions have you held?

I have served the Glen Cove City School District for the past ten years. I began my time in the District at Glen Cove High School in 2015 as Assistant Principal, working alongside Mr. Hudson in supporting students and staff. I later transitioned to the role of District Science Coordinator, overseeing K–12 science instruction and curriculum development. In 2019, I was appointed Principal of Landing Elementary School, where I led instructional and community initiatives with a focus on student growth and engagement. Three years ago, I joined the District Office as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology, where I continued to advance teaching and learning across all schools.

During your time here, what has been your favorite part about our Glen Cove Community?

Working with the people of Glen Cove has been my favorite part of serving this incredible community. Having also lived in Glen Cove from 2012 to 2019, I have developed a deep personal connection to the families, students, and staff who make this place so special. It’s especially meaningful to see former students from my early years as Assistant Principal now returning to the district as teachers. I have also had the joy of watching students I taught as fifth graders during my first year as Landing Principal grow into confident seniors in high school, ready to take their next steps in life. Witnessing this growth of our students, staff, and community, has strengthened my sense of pride and belonging in Glen Cove.

How has your experience working in Glen Cove, at various levels, informed your role as Superintendent of the GC District?

My experience working in Glen Cove at multiple levels has profoundly shaped my perspective and approach as Superintendent. Having served as Assistant Principal at the high school, District Science Coordinator, Principal of Landing Elementary, and later as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology, I have gained a deep understanding of how every level of our district contributes to the success of the whole. These experiences have allowed me to see the full arc of a child’s educational journey, from their first days in elementary school to their walk across the graduation stage, and to understand the importance of aligning our instructional vision, culture, and supports across all schools. Equally meaningful is my personal connection to this community. Having lived in Glen Cove for seven years and worked here for the past decade, I have witnessed firsthand the pride, diversity, and resilience that define our city. I have seen former students return as teachers and young learners grow into graduates ready to

take on the world. Those experiences continually remind me that leadership in Glen Cove is about relationships. It is about knowing our community, valuing its history, and working together to create a sense of belonging and opportunity for every student. This is the first time in over a decade that Glen Cove has seen a new Superintendent.

Was there anything you found, or still find, challenging about the position? What has been your method for overcoming any challenges?

Stepping into the role of Superintendent after more than a decade of stable leadership has been both an honor and a responsibility I take very seriously. One of the most meaningful challenges has been balancing the need to honor Glen Cove’s long-standing traditions and successes while also leading the district into its next chapter of growth and innovation. Because I have served this community in several roles over the past ten years, I came into this position with a deep understanding of our schools and a genuine appreciation for the people who make Glen Cove so special.

Still, every new leadership role brings new perspectives, expectations, and relationships to build. My approach to overcoming these challenges has been grounded in listening, transparency, and collaboration. I am fortunate to have an incredible team of district administrators, including Mr. DiNapoli, Ms. Kahan and Mr. Klatsky, along with outstanding building and content leaders, who share a commitment to our students and staff. Together, we work to ensure that every decision we make reflects our shared vision for teaching, learning, and belonging. By focusing on our collective strengths and maintaining open dialogue, we’re building a culture where innovation is encouraged, relationships are valued, and every voice contributes to our vision for the future.

And on your background, what fields did you study during college? Was education always something you planned on pursuing, or was it a career you discovered with time?

My academic journey began in the sciences. I earned my bachelor’s degree in Biology from Columbia University, where I conducted research in physical and organic chemistry and later worked at Columbia University Irving Medical Center studying estrogen receptor expression in breast cancer cells. At that time, I envisioned a career in medicine and scientific research, not yet realizing how deeply education would shape my path.

It was through my work as a teaching associate and mentoring younger students in the lab that I discovered my passion for teaching and learning. I came to understand that what inspired me most wasn’t just the science itself, but helping others make sense of complex ideas and watching their curiosity grow. That realization led me to earn a master’s in Teaching and to begin my career as a founding teacher at Sunset Park High School.

From there, my journey in education took root, blending my love of inquiry, reflection, and service into a lifelong calling.

Your multilingual background is among many of your credentials—how has it shaped your interactions with families/students in the district? As well as any programs within our schools?

Being multilingual has greatly influenced how I connect with students and families in Glen Cove. I speak Spanish and Romanian and learned English and French in school, which helps me appreciate how language shapes understanding and belonging. Research in psycholinguistics shows that multilingualism enhances communication and cognitive flexibility. These are skills that translate directly into leadership by fostering empathy, cross-cultural understanding, and effective collaboration. In a community as diverse as Glen Cove, these strengths allow me to listen deeply, communicate across cultures, and create an environment where every student and family feels seen, valued, and included. It is also why I am passionate about supporting linguistic and cultural diversity as essential parts of who we are as a district.

Are there any goals you had in mind for our school community that you would like to share?

My goals for the Glen Cove school community center on deepening our shared commitment to excellence, belonging, and partnership. Academically, we’re continuing to strengthen literacy and critical thinking across all content areas so that every student becomes an engaged, confident learner prepared for future success. Just as importantly, I want every child to feel a true sense of belonging, so that they know that they are seen, valued, and supported by the adults around them.

Looking ahead, a key focus is ensuring that our students are truly future ready. This means preparing them not only with strong foundational skills, but also with the ability to think critically, collaborate creatively, and use emerging technologies responsibly. Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the world around us, and I believe schools must help students understand how to harness these tools ethically and thoughtfully. By integrating AI literacy into our curriculum, we can empower students to be innovators, problem-solvers, and informed digital citizens.



Teacher Feature: Mr. McGowan

by Kaitlyn Kielczewski

The teacher featured for the homecoming edition is Mr. McGowan. Mr. McGowan is a new art teacher here at Glen Cove High School: he teaches fashion illustration 1st period and studio art both 3rd and 5th period. He also teaches art for 7th graders at the middle school and art for kids in Pre-K at the elementary school, so he is getting the full range of the Glen Cove school system.

Before coming to Glen Cove, Mr. McGowan used to work in Manhattan for children in ABA. ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) is a therapy that helps kids with autism learn skills and lessen problematic behavior. In the city, he worked with people with behavioral issues and people on the autism spectrum and taught them basic art skills. He also worked as a substitute teacher during undergraduate school. He came to Glen Cove because he was looking for a sense of community and a bigger art department since he came from a smaller school.

Like many artists, the art teachers Mr. McGowen had in high school really inspired him to become a teacher, as they made him love art and inspired him to pass his love on to the students he teaches. His parents are also educators and were a big part of his inspiration too. He loves teaching and creating art because art brings out a lot of freedom of expression and personal creativity within a person.

Mr. McGowan grew up in Syracuse with two younger brothers and two parents who are also educators and came from military backgrounds. Outside of art and education, he loves traveling, hiking, and mountain climbing. Two places he wants to visit are Italy and Mexico City, where one of his favorite artists, Frida Kahlo, is from.

Welcome to the GC Family Mr. McGowen!



Culture in Motion

by Nishka Baboolal

Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual U.S. celebration that recognizes the history, culture, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. It is celebrated to honor the history, diverse cultures, and brilliant contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States. The celebration’s dates are significant because they coincide with the independence days of several Latin American nations.

This year’s 2025 Hispanic Heritage Month theme is “Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future,” which was selected by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. This theme can be interpreted as a way to emphasize the importance of recognizing the rich history and cultural contributions of Hispanic Americans, while also looking forward to the future. It began as a week-long event in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan, from September 15th to October 15th. October reminds our country of a significant minority in our society; Hispanic Americans make up about 20% of the U.S. population, which is 68.1 million people who are Hispanic.

Over 60% of the Glen Cove School District is Hispanic, and in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, Glen Cove High School brought in a dance teacher to teach different Latin American dances to the students. It was an enjoyable experience for those who were lucky enough to participate, which showcased the diversity of our school.



Tips for a Great School Year

by Nicole Lee

Complete classwork and try to start homework while in school. That way, you have time to study and prepare for upcoming exams after school. Doing so will also build habits of self-discipline and avoid procrastination.

Get involved in clubs. Clubs can allow you to explore interests and can be a great way to meet new people. Being an active club member teaches you how to collaborate with others well which are essential skills for life.

Study smarter not harder! Attend extra help sessions when you need it. It pays to get help when you need it rather than taking an exam not knowing what to do. Extra help sessions are also a great way to build rapport with your teachers.

Take advantage of online study tools. Quizlet, KhanAcademy, and YouTube are all great resources if you want to clarify something at home.

During the week, review class notes daily. You’re more likely to remember information long term if you space out your studying rather than cramming.

Try to get at least seven hours of sleep a day during the week and catch up on sleep over the weekend.

Purchase a planner to stay on top of your assignments, exams, and events. There’s only so much your brain can remember, think of your planner as your second brain!

Make sure you eat a healthy breakfast every day so you can concentrate in class.



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WANTED

Greetings from the staff of The Knightly News!

We are looking for energetic, dedicated writers and journalists to join our newspaper team!

Writing in other languages is a bonus as we are looking to make the newspaper bilingual! Please stop by Room 143 on Tuesday afternoons after school if you are interested! We look forward to seeing you then!

Mrs.s. Palazzo & Mr.O'Donnell

Concert Review: MICO Toronto in Asbury Park

by Natalie Macnow

It was a two and a half hour drive to my favorite concert of all time. Asbury Park, NJ, was the better venue to visit, my other options being Syracuse or Buffalo, NY. By the time my dad and I had finally found parking, the line for VIP access was down the block of the bowling alley of Asbury Lanes. It was nearing 5:30pm when I spotted some of my friends anxiously awaiting the opening doors. In the attached diner, I could see the Meet-and-Greet setup through a window, alongside many fans getting photos with the artist. My best friend got out of her Uber, and we waited together on the line for General Admission, pulling out our tickets for the hilarious security guards around 7:30pm. The opener for our leg of the tour was Vaultboy, who collaborated with MICO on the song, "Don't You Cry." Vaultboy had been losing his voice throughout the past few show days, and the crowd did not disappoint by singing along to his music. He made everyone feel a range of emotions, with humor in the song "Everything Sucks," to a comforting feel with one of my new favorites, "i wish you knew." In between songs, he interacted with fans and even accepted gifts from a few, such as a keychain my best friend Saura had made.

"Lights out,
I'm calling from a thousand miles
away..."

In the bowling alley venue of standing room only, the audience of 600 roared with excitement and deafening cheers as MICO and his band took the stage. The crowd was electrified throughout every song, and every finish left us longing for more. MICO called on the audience to jump throughout the upbeat songs such as "glhf<3" and "prove me wrong," even going into the crowd to jump with them (and spray water from his water bottle on the closest members). He interacted with the audience, accepting gifts such as Labubus, a keychain from Saura, and drawings. He had even caught someone holding a 'Latinas for Mico' sign, which in reality had a different sign stating 'Latinas for Matt', referring to MICO's drummer, Matt Oliver. Along with these songs and funny moments, MICO played a song that had been released right around the beginning of his touring season, "Ever After," which he had collaborated on with music artist eaJ. Another song titled "Parasite," a surprise collaboration with fellow music artist and friend, Haiden



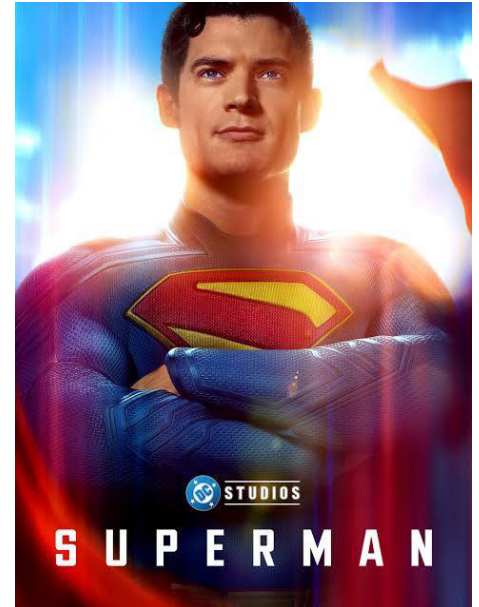
Henderson, had been included in the setlist. The cover of the night was revealed through a prerecorded robot bit called M.ai.CO, shocking the audience with Gracie Abrams "That's So True," which seemed just as perfect as the original song.

With riffs and continuous arm waves of the crowd, the entire night held a range of emotions. One of the more emotional moments of the evening was during his popular song "Senses," which now has over 20 million listens on Spotify. Audience member Madi, under the tiktok account @stars4micotoronto, cut out and colored over 700 paper stars to give out to everyone. They were held up and shone with flashlights during the song, making the moment more heartfelt. MICO's smile lit up on stage even more than it had already been during the performance. He thanked Madi in a video after the concert for organizing it all as a surprise.

MICO ended the night by thanking his crew, the bowling alley, his sound director Austin, his photographer for the U.S. tour Eruma, and everyone who showed up for the night. Taking a moment to reminisce about the start of his band, he thanked his bandmates: Jason, Matt, and Raffaele, who play the guitar, drums, and bass, respectively. The last song he played was "Another Soul," which he dedicated to "all of the people who have been here for a while." It had come out almost exactly two years ago at the time of the concert, and meant a lot to him. He said that night, "I hope none of you relate to it, but if you do: hey, we're all here." It was definitely my favorite of the night and was a perfect way to end the concert, with the opportunity being more than worth the drive.

Film Review: Superman

by Mariah Lindsay Cueva



The new Superman film, directed by James Gunn, was released in July to much fanfare. Starring David Corenswet as Clark Kent and Superman, Rachel Brosnahan as Lois Lane, and Nicholas Hoult as Lex Luthor, the film is filled with action, adventure, and sci-fi elements. It was a fantastic movie that has been long-awaited for Superman fans across the world.

The movie starts off with Superman already established and beloved by the public. However, Kal-el is shown to lose his first battle against The Hammer of Boravia and retreats to get medical help from his secret base. At his home, robots attend his wounds while receiving a touching message from his Kryptonian parents. Soon after, Clark Kent receives praise for publishing his first major article at the Daily Planet, while Superman receives backlash from his actions in Jarhanpur. Later that week, the heartfelt message delivered by his Kryptonian parents is broadcasted and revealed to have a sinister message for all humans on earth.

The plot revolves around Superman struggling with what he represents and what his purpose is on earth, while also trying to be the hero that Metropolis needs. Gunn's interpretation gives a different take on the role of hope that the Superman mantle holds. Different from the Man of Steel brooding take on Superman in 2013, James Gunn gives a more people-saving orientated hero. Superman wasn't meant to be a character treated like a god; he was meant to show compassion in a faltering world. Through-

continued on page 6

Film Review: Superman Review

continued from pg. 5

by Mariah Lindsay Cueva

out the film, Kal-el is shown to put his safety in jeopardy for others. A classic example is when he thought his dog was kidnapped by Lex Luthor, he turned himself in without hesitation.

David Corenswet portrays Clark Kent as a mild-mannered, selfless, and trustworthy person. His Superman is strong, but has flaws. He wasn't able to beat Ultraman right away and had to return to his secret base. Clark Kent and Lois Lane's relationship is fractured. They had fights due to their different beliefs relating to the Boravia and Jarhanpur conflict. When Clark saw that people were in danger due to the invasion, he acted without thinking about the consequences. All he thought of in that dire situation was protecting the people. Clark can be naive and doubt himself at times, but this is what gives him humanity.

The film showcases characters from the comic books like Jimmy Olsen, Lois Lane, Cat Grant, Perry White, and Steve Lombard. These characters help Superman within their physical capabilities, through writing stories and standing up for the truth. This allows the Daily Planet to feel like a support system to the famous hero. Rachel Brosnahan portrays Lois Lane as a confident and driven journalist. Although Lois doesn't have superpowers, she does everything in her power to save Clark. Lex Luthor, played by Nicholas Hoult, is portrayed as someone who is so deluded into thinking that the existence of Superman means a society that will never have improvement. He believes that Superman's power to help everyone will lead to a world that becomes reliant on him rather than working out their own problems. Lex uses the media to paint Kal-el as the villain while he works behind the scenes to secure invasion plans. It's implied that Luthor has an inferiority complex against Superman because all of his achievements would never compare to Superman's raw power.

I would recommend this movie to whoever loves superhero movies, and not just the D.C lovers, but for those who love stories about personal growth and finding yourself. If you are looking for movies that feature Superman, I recommend Superman: The Movie (1978), Superman II (1980), Superman Returns (2006), Man of Steel (2013) and more.

Book Review: Fahrenheit 451

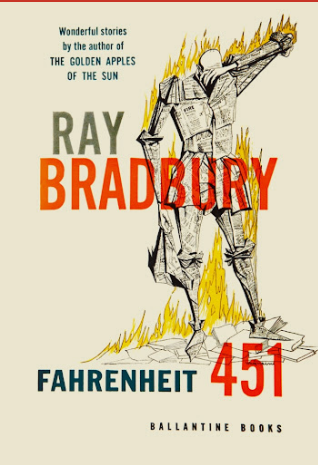
by Nicholas Cueva

Fahrenheit 451 is a dystopian fiction novel written by Ray Bradbury. The novel takes place in a dystopian city in the United States, where books are illegal and the public is trapped from thinking. This is because the entertainment is addicting and brainwashing. Fahrenheit 451 follows a "fireman", Guy Montag, trying to break free from the governmental restrictions that have been placed on books. Captain Beatty, the captain of the fire department, is the top enforcer of burning books. He is the antagonist of the book and tries to stop Guy's rebellion. Captain Beatty twists the meaning behind books and uses it in his favor. He and Montag have different views and ideas on the state of the world, and how it should be.

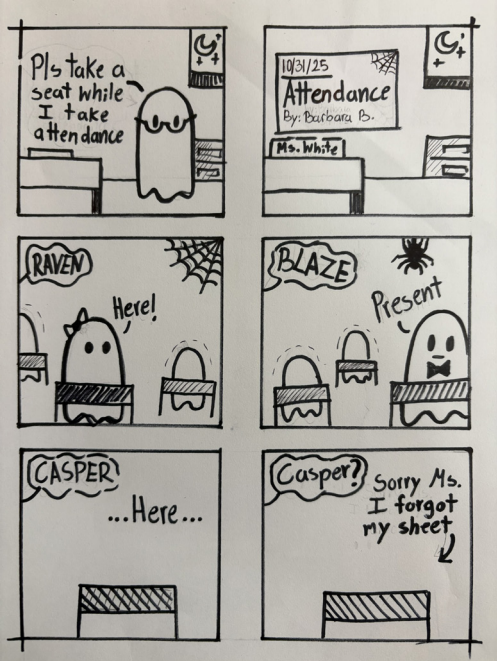
The story opens up with Guy Montag on a night patrol where they get an alert that there has been a book spotted in an apartment. Montag finds joy in what he does, even to the point where he says, "It was a pleasure to burn." In this world, the firemen don't put out fires; they start them, which sets the tone for the rest of the novel. There is a sense of hopelessness when you read these opening lines because the world they are living in is so bleak and depressing. Guy then meets a young girl named Clarisse Mclean, and she talks about how she loves nature and talking with other people. Clarisse is seen as an outcast because of how different she is. Clarisse would rather spend her time listening and interacting with others rather than being alone and watching a big screen, which is alluded to being a television. During her conversation, Clarisse asks Montag if he is truly happy. This does something to Montag, which makes him question himself and the purpose of his job.

Later that day, Montag comes home to his wife, who overdosed on sleeping pills. However, Montag doesn't seem to be afraid. Instead, technicians fix the problem instantly. This displays how advanced the technology of that time period is. Montag's wife, Mildred is constantly watching what the book refers to as "parlor walls". These "parlor walls" are huge screens that are built into the wall. Mildred is invested in these shows and calls the characters in the show her family. Mildred feels more attached to this fake family than she is to her own husband. The relationship between Mildred and Montag is non-existent because they barely spend any time together. At one point in the book, Montag admits that if she were to die, he wouldn't shed a tear. Mildred also wears tiny little seashells that are very similar to ear buds that allow her to listen to music, radio, and sounds. She reads lips instead of hearing what people are saying. Montag continues to do his job and starts to question the books he is destroying. He is devastated by the news when he finds out that Clarisse has gone missing, and he assumes that she was either killed or put into an asylum because she was seen as "crazy". While on the job, Montag has a traumatic experience where he sees a woman being burnt alive because she would rather be dead than live without her books. Montag is finally sick and tired of burning books. He sees the value that is in them and starts his rebellion against the government.

Fahrenheit 451 deals with many topics that are prevalent today, like how censorship and conformity could be harming us instead of protecting us. Fahrenheit 451 shows the importance of having books and keeping them conserved. History is doomed to repeat itself unless we study and learn from our mistakes. The novel is known to be ahead of its time due to its imagery that it has on technology. Many people today are like Mildred, who is addicted to her screens and would rather listen to people who don't even know her, than the ones that are the closest to her. Fahrenheit 451 is a book that is an essential part of English literature and is a reminder of what could happen if we focus on censorship and conformity. The book just keeps getting better from the introduction. I would recommend this book to someone who is looking for an action-packed and symbolic tale.



Comic



by Barbara Benitez



Autumn Nights
by Sarah Lee

The song of cicadas echoed through the morning
A summer breeze once again gone
What was once summer, now a memory
The reminiscence of hot days in June,
Another summer, once again gone
As we enter this longer autumn night
The leaves changing to red once again,
The aroma of lattes filling the air,
The warmth of an apple and pumpkin pie comforting my heart
The flock of birds migrating to a faraway land,
The laughter of children on Halloween
Another autumn, back once more
Until summer returns,
Will you still be here to smile with me?

Girls Flag Football, Softball Shine in 2025

by Knightly News Staff

The 2025 spring sports season might've ended months ago, but the Knightly News made sure to give the achievements of Glen Cove Flag Football and Softball their proper due. Often the inaugural season of a new team in a relatively young sport sees plenty of growing pains, but the GC Girls Flag Football failed to follow that script. Not only did the team sport a winning record, the girls also won a playoff game (a 25-12 victory over Roslyn) and lost in the Nassau County semifinal by a slim 13-7 margin to a Division team that blew them out earlier in the season. Departing senior Paulina Fonfara grabbed All-County, Offensive Player of the Year and First-Team All-Long Island Honors, while current senior Makaylaa Chestnut also grabbed All-County Honors. Diamond Golsby earned All-Conference and Gabriella Alvarado earned All-County Honorable Mention. Needless to say, anticipation will be high in 2026.



Not to be overshadowed, the Glen Cove Girls Softball team won their first county championship since 1985. Leading the way was current senior and Howard University-bound Brooke Simmons, who tossed a no-hitter in the playoff run and grabbed Tournament MVP and Nassau Player of the Year Honors in the process as well as All-Long Island recognition. On the coaching front, Coach Kessel won Nassau Coach of the Year Honors. Despite losing All-County catcher Alyssa Weigand to a season-ending injury, other players like Isabella Damiano and current senior Siena Scagliola stepped up to fill the void and keep the championship run going. Damiano made the selfless transition to catcher after Weigand's injury and Scagliola came through with a game-winning hit in Game 3 to beat MacArthur in the County Finals. With October being MLB playoff season, hopefully some of that fall postseason magic will be felt again in the spring of 2026. Great job girls!



Broadway Mall Shutting Down Making Way For A Newly Renovated Center

by Ibaad Naqvi

One of the most popular and nostalgic malls on Long Island, the Broadway Mall, is bit-by-bit, closing down. This mall has been slowly going away for years, but now it is officially closing. Many stores are starting to shut down operations such as GameStop, Cinnabon and the popular Showcase Cinema de Lux movie theatre due to many different reasons from declining sales to changing ownership and most importantly, the rise of e-commerce giants like Amazon.



The tradition of going to malls and buying from their stores has been declining for years, which was already economically suffering, because now people buy all their items from services and apps such as DoorDash, Amazon and other online entities. Opinions on the mall slowly disappearing are mixed as many are saddened by the mall they've gone to all of their lives going away and there being nothing they can do about it.

Glen Cove High School junior Shane Guzman says "I've been going there for years and it's definitely my favorite mall, so it sucks to see it slowly disappearing. I have high hopes for the renovations, but I

don't think it'll ever give that same feeling that I always felt when I used to go."

On the other hand, many believe that Broadway Mall wasn't that important as many other popular malls outshine it such as Roosevelt Mall, which may be a key reason for declining sales and fewer customers. Despite Broadway Mall slowly disappearing, there are still many big stores that are still open for business such as Target and Ikea, which are blue chip companies.

Despite this, there is good news for the mall though as under the new ownership, it is being redeveloped to be an open-air lifestyle shopping center that will be called "The Shops on Broadway". This is a very bitter-sweet revelation as the nostalgic old Broadway Mall is going away, but this also marks a rebirth for the whole center since it's being renovated to be bigger and better. These demolitions and reconstructions are expected to begin around late 2025, including the Macy's store, but the IKEA and Target stores are not a part of the demolition plan and will stay on the property.

Some parts of the former Sears building that had closed down years ago will be converted into a veterinary medical laboratory and a veterinary technology training center. The Broadway Mall closing down is a great example of just how much we rely on e-commerce in order to purchase items and how significant the effects of it are. Many businesses such as Amazon, DoorDash and Instacart make it easy for us to be able to get necessities such as food and items quickly with us having to do barely any work, which is very convenient for us and saves us time rather than traveling to the mall, finding the store, buying the items and going home.



Second-Half Surge Secures Glen Cove Win

by Knightly News Staff



photo: Lisa Viscovich

When Mason Foster lined up wide in the fourth quarter of a tie game, he knew the ball was coming in him. Sure enough, he slipped past the man covering the senior and grabbed the game-winning pass from quarterback Dylan DiMaggio for Glen Cove to win its first win of the season—a 38-22 triumph over Valley Stream to cap off an exciting homecoming week. The victory is even more impressive when you consider the Big Red was down 22-8 in the third quarter, but never wavered by scoring 30 straight points.

“I knew the ball was coming to me,” said Foster. “He (Dylan) looked and pointed at me and said ‘it’s coming to you,’ so I knew the pass was coming.” DiMaggio added “once he caught it, I knew he was going to score.”

Despite a pair of two-score deficits, Coach Brett Rubin felt his team never wavered. “I always felt we could come back and we have played much better than our record,” said the first-year head coach. “Our mistakes were mistakes that were fixable and we got turnovers that changed the game.”

Many visiting teams take exception to being chosen as the opponent for a team’s homecoming affair and Valley Stream was no different. The Eagles boasted an All-County quarterback in junior Evan Nelson and a quality receiver in Matthew Feaster—a junior who finished with 87 receiving yards, two scores and generally gave the Big Red secondary all night—something coach Rubin was aware of.

“Valley Stream has an All-County quarterback who is elusive and he throws and runs the ball very well,” he said. “Coach (Frank) Curatolo needed to devise a plan in the second half to shut him down and we did by outsourcing them with 30 unanswered points.”

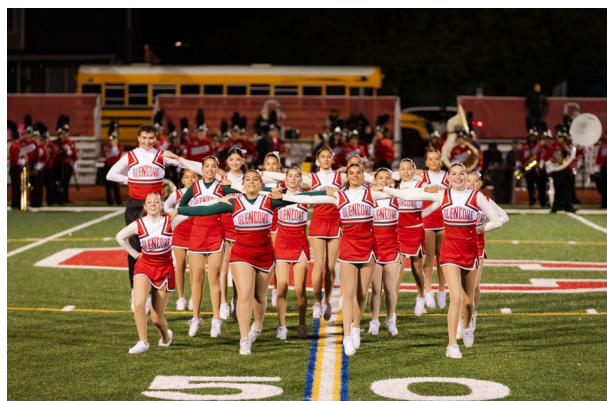
Failing to score in the first quarter, the Glen Cove attack came alive in the second quarter with a huge run by senior Gamar Letellier that set up a short touchdown run by DiMaggio. Letellier, who finished with 103 rushing yards and a score, thought he would reach the endzone on the big run. “I saw the hole and saw plenty of grass and thought I was gonna score. I was a little surprised I got caught,” said Letellier.

Even with Valley Stream scoring on the first drive to open the second half, the Big Red passing attack started to compliment the run with a pair of completions to Foster (5 catches for 102 yards) on the 3rd-quarter scoring drive by Letellier. Foster felt the momentum starting to turn. “I knew we could throw against them since I didn’t think they (Valley Stream) could defend the pass well.”

With the score notched at 22-22 to start the fourth, Glen Cove stiffened their run defense and forced two pivotal fumbles with senior Kay’Den Grier and sophomore Luciano Blanco making recoveries on promising drives by the Eagles. The turnover sparked an offense that found its rhythm with 321 yards of offense and a rushing attack that moved the ball at will, thanks to an offensive line that wore the Valley Stream defensive line down. Before anybody could catch their breath from Foster’s go-ahead score, Matt Jackson’s late 5-yard run and score sealed the deal after the Big Red defense turned Valley Stream over on downs, thus leading to the popping of the proverbial corks.

Capping off the huge win and the ceremonial dunking of water by Foster on coach Rubin was fact that the coach picked up his first victory at the varsity level. The coach took it all in stride. “It feels absolutely amazing. I feel good for the team as well as the staff, who put in long hours and deserve it as much as I do. It took 32 years for me to get into this position and I didn’t want to retire without getting this opportunity,” said Rubin. Rubin noted that he has been together with Mr. Curatolo for 25 years and that the win is as much a tribute to him as anybody else.

After all the hoopla faded, coach Rubin reflected on the win. “It was a phenomenal feeling. I have the game ball near my bedside and I look at it every chance I get to remind me why I love these guys so much. I always loved the team and the community. I had to thank my wife as well, because without her support and pushing me to take the job, it would never have come about,” he said.



photos: Lisa Viscovich