

Students and faculty participate in Ice Bucket Challenge

DECA organizes event, raises \$7,500 for ALS research, increases awareness

By Devon Musgrave-Johnson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

When the “Ice Bucket Challenge” to help spread awareness for ALS went viral over the summer, multiple students in Dean Martino’s DECA class were inspired to make the challenge a part of the classes’ charity project at the start of the school year.

On Sept. 5, 380 students and teachers participated in a school-wide ice dump on the football field that raised \$7,500. DECA students were able to organize the event with 366 five-pound bags of ice, half of which were donated by Cape Pond Ice, and buckets donated by businesses such as Home Depot and Captain Dusty’s as well as various students and faculty members.

‘I’m happy that I could be a part of it.’

-JOHN FRATES

The class also filmed video footage of the event to release at a later date, challenging other DECA chapters to participate in the ice bucket challenge and support the endeavor to educate the general public about ALS.

“It’s really amazing that we have the opportunity to spread awareness about ALS and raise so much money to support the cause. I’m happy that I could be a part of it,” junior Chelsea Rose said.

John Frates, father of the man who inspired the challenge, Pete Frates, attended the event.

“We are always amazed with the support of the ice bucket challenge; we never thought it would be this viral. But to see the numbers today, this has to be the largest ice bucket challenge that we have ever been a part of, and we are so grateful for that,”



MUSGRAVE-JOHNSON PHOTO

Participants gathered on Hyland Field after paying the \$10 fee to enter in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge organized by DECA. Nearly 400 students joined in during the September 5 charity event

John Frates said. According to Martino, the event was organized like a business event, and the video documenting the challenge will be treated like a product.

The class will apply a “swot analysis application” to deter-

mine the whether or not their product is ready to hit the market place. The system looks at the opportunity to accomplish goals and the potential threats to these goals not being achieved.

“When you take on such a

large event, the planning phase is really chaotic, so I take my students to the place that we call success. We stand at the event, seeing what it looks like if it were successful; then we turn around and look back and see the path to get

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Principal articulates goals for school year

By Hannah Riordan
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Following her first year as principal, Patricia Puglisi said that the opening of school this year went smoothly. Assistant Principal Paul Murphy agreed that school opened with a “seamless transition” between summer and fall.

Murphy identified changes to the morning drop-off system and the removal but quick return of the bells in between classes as two areas in which progress has already been made.

“I thought that the students would like the fact that there were no bells, but apparently that was wrong. Getting that rectified was a major accomplishment. There was a lot of compromise between the middle and high school,” Murphy said.

Puglisi said that the faculty’s energy regarding professional development and the increase in student spirit have gotten her “psyched” for the upcoming year.

The faculty’s consistent ability to work in a productive manner is an area of further focus this year; Puglisi said she has mapped out the agenda for each Wednesday faculty meeting and the scattered professional development days.

Both Murphy and Puglisi said they are proud of the current school culture, including the active fundraising and involvement of each class in events like Spirit Week and Homecoming.

“I think in the senior class we have a lot of leaders, and that’s fantastic because it’s a good example for the younger students. Not only is it an academic class, but it’s a class that has a very good sense of humor and wants to have fun,” she said.

Based on her experience as an administrator and teacher,

Puglisi said that each year’s graduating class sets the tone for the year, and that the senior leadership will “flow down” to the juniors and underclassmen.

Murphy said that being a small, high-performing school can bring pressure, and that stress reduction for faculty and students could improve the school culture surrounding academic and extracurricular commitments.

According to freshman Kevin Albertazzi, the high school workload is actually less than he expected it to be based on what was communicated to him during middle school.

“I like that the teachers are very open to helping

students after school,” he said. “We want to create an environment here of tolerance and people respecting other people’s opinions and backgrounds. We’re very proud of the fact that we have good kids that treat each other well,” Murphy said.

‘We want to create an environment here of tolerance and people respecting other people’s opinions and backgrounds.’

- PAUL MURPHY

Removal of bells upsets student body

By Avery Shaw
INDEPENDENT STAFF

At the beginning of the school year, high school students and faculty reacted strongly against the removal of the bells between periods.

In an attempt to help the middle school gain a homeroom this year, administrators created a new middle school schedule that varied from the high school schedule. This resulted in the need to remove the bells between periods, according to high school Principal Patricia Puglisi.

“The middle school is really trying to promote a true middle school model, and in doing, that you need to have a home base/homeroom,” Puglisi said.

In addition to the lack of bells, the school clocks were not synced, causing even more

confusion, according to staff.

“I had a tough time knowing when to start and when to stop class. I think how the clocks aren’t matched was also a problem because some teachers were letting the students out earlier and some were keeping them later. We [the staff] didn’t know when the right times were,” social studies teacher John Mullady said.

The response from the student body to the lack of proper clocks and bells was mainly negative.

“I hated it. It made me unorganized, and I’m glad they are back because now I can be prepared for my next class,”

sophomore Ethan Ketchum said.

The staff saw the disorganization resulting from the absence of bells negatively affect the student’s concentration.

“I saw that my students seemed more frazzled and

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News Briefs

School improves WiFi

To match the rising number of devices students now use, the school has decided to improve its Wi-Fi network capacity.

According to Principal Patricia Puglisi, although the Wi-Fi was installed relatively recently, students' increased use of wireless technology for educational purposes has forced the school to adapt.

Puglisi said that after new access points are added, well over 60 people should be able to get online in the auditorium alone.

Access points will be added to each end of the hallways on the first, second, and third floor of the high school.

Morning drop off

To protect students crossing the front crosswalk to school in the morning, the school is now diverting drivers away from the exit on Pleasant Street and discouraging parents from driving through the faculty lot.

Cones have been placed between the front circle and crosswalk so that parents must circle back around and leave the premises via Lincoln Street. A police officer now stands by the cones most mornings to ensure student safety.

"The system that we have is the system that was in place when the building was built ... but over time we've kind of broken down," Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

"One of our biggest concerns is the safety of the kids, particularly the kids coming off the busses and the kids walking across the cross walk," she said.

New bus pass policy

In an attempt to meet its budgetary needs and ensure safety, the school has adopted a new policy: students must now have "bus passes."

While bus riders who live over a mile and a half from the school can receive the pass for free, students who live within that range must pay \$180 for the year – a dollar a day.

"The bus passes came up as part of last year's budget process through central office... We also want to account for who's on the buses, so central office has asked each of the schools to find out which route... each student lives on," Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

All students must carry these passes and show them to the driver upon entering the bus.

Science department welcomes new physics teacher

By Natasha Statz-Geary
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Following the departure of previous science teacher Philip Logsdon, Josh Wladkowski is joining the science department as a freshman and AP physics teacher.

Wladkowski attended the University of Massachusetts Lowell for both his undergraduate and graduate education, and he previously taught at Winthrop High School as a math teacher for four years.

"When I was in high school, I always was being asked to tutor science. My guidance department literally made me tutor kids, and I found that I actually enjoyed it and wasn't that bad at it," he said.

After college, Wladkowski aspired to be an engineer to "make millions and millions of dollars," but quickly he realized "that kind of lifestyle" did not suit him, so



NATASHA STATZ-GEARY PHOTO
Physics teacher Josh Wladkowski.

instead he decided on teaching.

"Mr. Wladkowski is a great teacher that encourages student participation, and his relaxed teaching style makes learning fun and easy," senior Lucas Martz said.

Freshman Samantha Booma shares this sentiment.

"Science is one of the more challenging subjects for me,

FUN FACTS

- Favorite food is tacos
- Favorite color is purple
- Loves lacrosse
- Favorite season is autumn
- The coolest place he has traveled to is Halifax, Nova Scotia

but Mr. Wladkowski makes his classroom such a welcoming learning environment that I feel comfortable to ask questions and better my learning," she said.

Outside of the classroom, Wladkowski is working as the freshman class adviser with new math teacher Kara Brown, with whom he taught at Winthrop.

"I've become heavily involved with this position already, and I think we're going to come up with some great ideas to raise money for the class," Wladkowski said.

In addition to raising money, Wladkowski hopes to bolster the school spirit and cohesiveness of the class.

"We're planning a dance for the freshmen and the sophomores to give them an outlet to get to know each other, and we also want to get class shirts to unite the class," he said.

As for Wladkowski's school spirit, he says he has already attended a football game and a soccer game and expressed a good first impression of the school.

"Manchester Essex is a really good place for me to be. The respect the students have and the sense of community are rare to come across in other schools. I really like it here so far," he said.

New foreign language teacher wants students to love languages

By Maddie Conway
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In the foreign language department, last year was marked by the retirement of Julia Gross, but the school year began with the entrance of Georgia Jarrell, the new foreign language teacher.

According to Jarrell, French captivated her for several reasons. "I like the way [French] sounds, and I love the fact that literature is a big part of French, and I love the art. And, of course, I love the food," she said.

"I think I wanted to teach because I wanted other kids to love French," she said.

'Everyone's not the same, and yet we're all people and so we do things differently, [and] we say things differently.'

-GEORGIA JARRELL

Jarrell said she taught in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Vermont before she came to this school.

The most important topic Jarrell said she wants to pass onto her students is to appreciate other cultures. "Everyone's not the same, and yet we're all people, and so we do things differently, we say things differently, but it's nice to know how somebody else does something," she said.

In addition to French and Spanish, Jarrell speaks some Italian and took Latin and German in school.

"My desire is more with the Romance languages," she said.

According to Jarrell, she has traveled to France and



MADDIE CONWAY PHOTO
Spain many times and lived in Italy for three years when she was in high school.

Her students said that all of her experience teaching and her zest for the Romance languages lends itself to a great first impression.

"She seemed energetic," sophomore Nellie Boling said.

"She looked like she was fun and knew what she was talking about. I'm excited for the year," sophomore Julia Przesiek said.

FUN FACTS

- Dream vacation is to go to Paris, France
- Enjoys reading in her free time
- Likes to go on walks
- Enjoys spending time with her pets in her free time
- tortoises
- Biggest pet peeve is when people say "I'm doing good" instead of doing well."
- Loves Greek food

Math department hires new teacher from Winthrop High School

By Courtney Fraser
INDEPENDENT STAFF

New teacher Kara Brown filled the open position in the math department that was held by former math teacher Sarah Deluca.

Prior to Brown's arrival, she taught at Winthrop High School in Massachusetts as well as Chat-a-ho-o-chee High School in Georgia.

In comparison to the former schools she taught at, Brown explained that the Manchester-Essex community is unique.

"The students in Manchester are respectful and kind; there is a sense of community. A lot of schools are very cliquey, but that's not the case here," Brown said.

'I think Ms. Brown is a very organized teacher. She shows a strong passion for teaching, too.'

-KELLY FINNERTY

Brown has not only worked with students in classrooms but also on the volleyball court. In past years, she has coached volleyball collegiately at Villanova University and Wheaton College.

Brown said teaching has not always been her top priority. Before she turned to education, Brown was involved in the engineering program at Georgia Tech.

While in college, Brown made the decision that working with children as opposed to engineering was the career choice she wanted to make.

"I really enjoyed coaching verses making a career out of engineering, and decided I would rather be happy in life than make a lot of money," Brown said.

After deciding to be a teacher, Brown moved to a small state school known as Kennesaw State

FUN FACTS

- Dream vacation: Italy
- Favorite ice cream: mint chocolate chip
- Favorite team: Bruins
- Favorite season: Fall
- Favorite restaurant: Jack-Tar American Tavern



COURTNEY FRASER PHOTO
New math teacher Kara Brown.

where she specialized in education.

With the change staff, the math department expressed a positive outlook towards the remainder of the school year.

"We have a great staff this year that's always willing to go the extra mile. I have every reason to believe Ms. Brown will be filling Sarah Deluca's shoes very admi-

rably and capably," math department chair Dan Lundergan said.

In the halls and in the classrooms, students have met Brown and have had the opportunity to get to know her.

"I think Ms. Brown is a very organized teacher. She shows a strong sense of passion for teaching, too. It's exciting to see new faces in the hallways at school," junior Kelly Finnerty said.

SENIORS: CLASS OF 2015

Presidents: Meghan Conway, Andy Creighton, and Devon Musgrave-Johnson
Vice President: Lauren Coogan
Treasurer: Jackson Haskell
Secretary: Olivia Lantz
Advisers: Mary Lumsden and Eric Magers

Goals: To increase class unity and participation and to raise \$11,000
President’s Quote: “We are really looking forward to seeing what this year brings and can’t wait to make this year the beset for the Class of 2015 through successful fundraisers and a fun Senior Week,” Conway said.

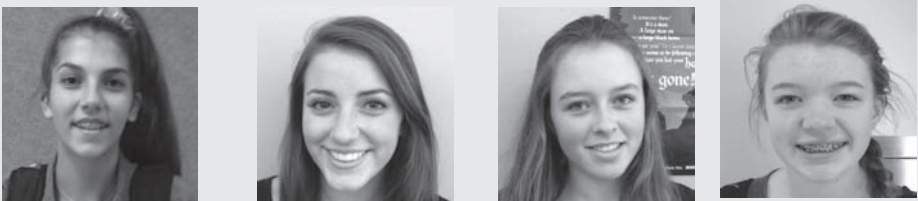


Andy Creighton, Devon Musgrave-Johnson, and Meghan Coway from left to right.

JUNIORS: CLASS OF 2016

President: Sarah Williams
Vice President: Susie Buck
Treasurers: Maddy Surrette and Olivia Tyler
Secretaries: Cassandra Gonser and Lydia Parker
Adviser: Tom Durfee

Goals: To increase the frequency of school dances and to raise \$13,000
President’s Quote: “I felt I had some good ideas that I would share with the rest of the student government and the determination to accomplish many tasks,” Williams said.



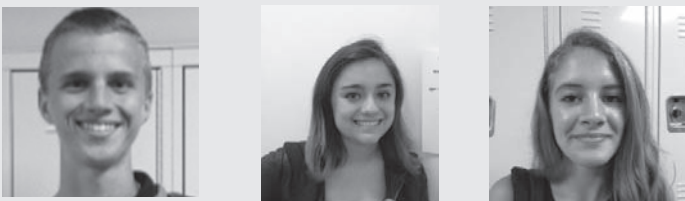
Cassandra Gonser, Lydia Parker, Sarah Williams, Maddy Surrette, Olivia Tyler, and Susie Buck from top left.



SOPHOMORES: CLASS OF 2017

President: Will Heslop
Vice President: Zoe Brown
Treasurer: Nellie Boling
Secretary: Isabella Schmidt
Adviser: John Mullady

Goals: To make up for a lack of previous fundraising and to raise \$4,000
President’s Quote: “I would like to work with the class and use their ideas as well as my own in order to have a sucessful fundraising campaign that will set us up for senior year,” Heslop said.



Will Heslop, Isabella Shmidt, Zoe Brown, and Nellie Boling from top left.



FRESHMEN: CLASS OF 2018

President: Abigail Fitzgibbon
Vice President: Will Cole
Treasurer: Michael Conlin
Secretary: Faith Palermo
Advisers: Kara Brown and Josh Wladkowski
Goals: To be involved in the community and to raise \$18,000
President’s Quote: “My goal for this year would be to make enough money so that we can ... be able to have fun during our senior year,” Fitzgibbon said.



Abigail Fitzgibbon, Michael Conlin, Faith Palermo, and Will Cole from left to right.

New director of guidance joins staff

Former college administrator adapts to high school workload

By Charlie Davis
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Newly hired guidance director Beverly Low said she has begun her first few weeks acclimating to her new position, getting to know the students and faculty, and formulating the plan and goals for the guidance department this year. Low graduated from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and obtained her Master’s degree at the University of South Carolina. Before arriving at Manchester-Essex, Low worked mostly at the post-secondary level, which prepared her for her new position in the high school. “I just finished 13 years as the dean of first year students at Colgate University. At Colgate that responsibility as dean of

freshman translates directly to my work in this office,” Low said. She has also worked Hamilton College as the Director of Student Activities. She said that both of these work experiences have helped become proficient at scheduling and developing relationships with students. Despite having prior work experience that has helped her to adjust to the high school atmosphere, Low said that a major goal for her beginning months is to master websites like Aspen and Naviance, which are specific to high school. Due to her former positions at the college level, Low will now assume the duties of college counselor for the student body; in fact Low said that Director of College Counseling has been added to her title of Guidance Director. Junior Nathan Evans is con-

fident that Low’s experience at the college level will help students of all ages be more prepared for the application process. “Ms. Low will provide valuable insight to students who are applying to college, which will be a strong addition to the guidance department,” he said. Guidance counselor Gillian Polk agrees with Evans, adding that Low’s time spent working at colleges and universities will also benefit the guidance staff. “Coming from higher education, she brings a perspective which is great for all of us,” Polk said. Low added that teamwork within the department will be an initial goal for the guidance staff. “One goal is to [share] responsibility and to make sure that we are all rowing the boat in the same direction,” she said.

CONTINUATIONS

ALS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
to that outcome,” Martino said.

According to Martino, the event was a huge success and has a great deal of potential for future awareness and funding

BELLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I think it made it harder to start class when people were at a tough spot,” Mullady said. Puglisi addressed the faculty’s concerns. Teachers felt stressed because they felt like they had to

keep looking at the clock as class went on, to gage the time, whereas a bell just signals the end of class,” she said. The complaints generated change, and the school bells returned in a matter of days Puglisi said. “It ended up being temporary. Realizing the stress it was putting on faculty and students, it really wasn’t achieving what we hoped to achieve,” she said. Puglisi said the issue was resolved by reinstating the original middle school schedule and adding a slight modification of using the first five minutes of first block as a homeroom. As a result, the bells in both schools returned to the same schedule.

Health Matters



Thigh gap trend pressures teens to be thinner

By Charlotte Freed
INDEPENDENT STAFF

For many teenage girls all over the country, the thigh gap has become a new body obsession.

A ‘thigh gap’ refers to the space between one’s legs, and the concept has spread throughout the Internet and is posted in magazines. As a result, teenage girls have taken on the task of becoming so thin that their thighs do not touch.

Body obsessions such as the thigh gap are prominent throughout social media, in fashion magazines, and in advertisements.

This body image does not represent fitness or a thin body and can often be unhealthy, said Ellen Williams of the Huffington Post in an article discussing the fad.

“This moves beyond weight, which is a matter of health and is managed with diet and exercise, and moves on to the way girls’ skeletons are built, something they can’t change,” Williams said.

She said this body image is a widespread, unhealthy, and usually unachievable obsession.

Fitness inspiration, or “fitspo,” which is posted on social media, displays very thin women and encourages others to look the same; these standards contribute to the distorted body im-



HUFFINGTONPOST.COM

Models and fashion icons are often unhealthily thin and have thigh gaps, causing some teenage girls to want to lose weight too.

age that many teenagers have.

Dr. Vonda Wright, an orthopedic surgeon and fitness expert said in an article from the Associated Press that the space be-

tween one’s legs is mainly due to genetics and body type. In order to achieve a thigh gap, people have to be both thin and very wide-hipped.

Plenty of people have thigh gaps simply because of their skeletal structure, but the romanticized portrayal of this body type being a necessity perpetuates the problem. “It isn’t a goal worth chas-

ing. Most fit people won’t have a thigh gap because their thighs are muscular enough that they touch,” Wright said.

Senior Annie DeConto expressed similar beliefs. “I don’t personally want a thigh gap because I am an athlete, and I want my thighs to be as big as possible because that means they are strong,” DeConto said, “but I think if I wasn’t, then I would be more inclined and feel more pressured to have one.”

DeConto also said that constant body obsessions, including the thigh gap, are unhealthy for both the body and the mind. “I think it is very degrading and inaccurate that having a thigh gap signifies beauty and health, because neither of those things are true,” DeConto said.

Body image does not represent fitness or a thin body and can often be unhealthy.

Rachel’s challenge garners negative response from student body

By Maddie Conway
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Rachel’s Challenge, an organization founded 9 in the memory of the first victim of the Columbine shootings, Rachel Scott, presented to the students and staff on September 22.

According to students and faculty, the organization came into the school and began presenting with the right ideas of kindness and compassion but were soon more focused on blaming people for the murders at Columbine and idolizing Scott than making a difference.

Five pillars were given to the audience as suggestions on how to live their lives: Look for the best in others, dream big, choose positive influences, speak with kindness, and start your own chain reaction.

Students say that the intentions and the broader ideas of these pillars were fine, but when the presentation tried to tie the pillars into Rachel’s life, they became unnecessary and offensive at times.

During the presentation, Scott’s picture was shown alongside those of Anne Frank and Martin Luther King Jr.

“It felt like propaganda, how they showed Anne Frank and Rachel Scott side-by-side throughout the presentation, posed the same way,” foreign



RACHELSCHALLENGE.ORG

Rachel’s Challenge encouraged students to take on five different pillars in order to lead a more kind life and to treat others better.

language teacher Erin Fortunato said.

Rachel’s Challenge told the audience that Scott was like Anne Frank because Hitler killed them both. It was Hitler’s birthday, April 20, when the Columbine massacre took place.

“It’s unfair to say that Rachel Scott was the same as Anne Frank because Anne Frank lived her life in fear of the Nazis, and as we were told, Rachel was okay with the fact that she might die young. The life and words of Anne Frank and MLK made them famous, but Rachel became famous by her death,” freshman Rebecca Braimon said.

Students were also upset by the tactics that the organization used to convey their message.

“They should have required

permission slips at least, or just given us a warning. Seeing the pictures and videos of the shooters inside the school as they were carrying out their killings was too much,” sophomore Lillian Schrafft said.

“I think that [Rachel’s Challenge] knew their message of kindness and compassion was clichéd, so they used terror and fright to get our attention and make us believe them. They used the 9-1-1 call from the trapped teacher in the library, and that was absolutely meant to scare us,” Braimon said.

Listening to the comments made by the students and faculty, Principal Patricia Puglisi agreed with them and said she “would not recommend [the program] to another school.”



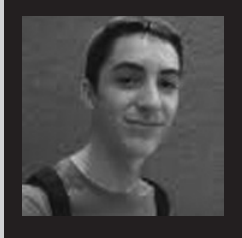
Freshman
Anika Martz:
“Signs”



Freshman
Lake Fleming:
“Sinister”



Sophomore
Amber Shaw:
“The Conjuring”

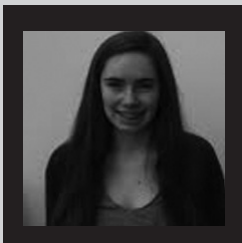


Sophomore
Jacob Callahan:
“Inception”

Student
Speak

What
is your
favorite
scary
movie?

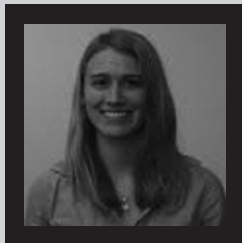
Junior
Kelly Finnerty
“Arachnophobia”



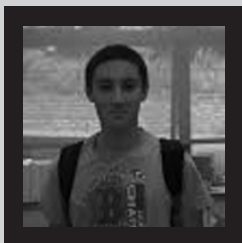
Junior
Nathan Evans:
“The Shining”



Senior
Hayley Malloy:
“The Mummy”



Senior
Troy Ciarametaro:
“The Birds”



Students embrace cultural differences working abroad

By Hannah Riordan
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

In an adventurous spirit typical to summer, several students decided to travel abroad to do community service, learn about other cultures, and even practice speaking a second language. Senior Carly Sheriff traveled to South Carolina to work with underprivileged kids during summer 2013; she decided to do a similarly service-oriented trip this past summer in Costa Rica. “For the first 16 days that I was in Costa Rica, I was in a town called La Fortuna running a summer camp for about 20 children. The other high school students on my trip and I taught them basic English words and did tons of different activities with them,” Sheriff said. Sheriff traveled with Rustic Pathways, a program that connects youth with community service travel programs, as did junior Quinn Dunbar. Dunbar went to the Dominican Republic for nine days. “We went up to this village called Lolamita, and we dug a trench for an aqueduct and then put the aqueduct in. We were actually lucky enough to be there the last two weeks that the project was going on, so we got to see



RUSTICPATHWAYS.COM

Teenagers visit Costa Rica on a community service outing through Rustic Pathways, a company that organizes service trips which several upperclassmen went on this past summer.

the aqueduct turn on,” he said. Junior Olivia Tyler, like Sheriff, traveled without her family for the second consecutive year. Tyler went on a Youth to Israel trip that organizes Jewish students from the greater Boston area in an aim to connect these students with their heritage. Tyler’s older brother went on the same trip several years ago, and she said that his recommendations about the trip were what convinced her to go. Due to the tumultuous con-

ditions in Israel, however, the group had to avoid many of the dangerous urban centers; they flew home several days early to maintain safety. “Although we didn’t get to do a lot of the original things we planned, like sleep in the desert or ride camels, we found ways to still have a great time. In the end it was just fun making new friends,” Tyler said. Sheriff, Dunbar, and Tyler all said that they would recommend similar trips to interested students, and that they hope to travel in future summers. “Although it was hard to adjust to living in a wooden hut without any electricity, it definitely made me realize that you really don’t need too much excess in life,” Sheriff said.

‘Although it was hard to adjust to living in a wooden hut... it definitely made me realize you don’t need too much excess in life.’

-CARLY SHERIFF

Green Team discusses important goals

By Courtney Fraser
INDEPENDENT STAFF

This summer, Green Team students discussed goals for the upcoming school year and participated in several hours of community service projects. For seven weeks, Green Team members worked together to do six daily hours of community work. According to the leader of the Green Team Eric Magers, “This summer we got eight more community partners as long with several different projects. Our program has also grown significantly with 50 students for the first semester of school.” Magers explained that students are working with organizations such as Sea Side Sustainability, Black Earth Compost, the World Wildlife Project and the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team. Green Team event-coordinator Isabella Hickey encourages students to join the club. “If students want to be able to do student led projects, make a change, and have more independence than other classes, then I recommend them joining,” Hickey said. Magers said that one of the upcoming projects for the Green Team is the formation of a middle school Green Team Club, in-



COURTESY OF MEMO/OLIVIA LANTZ

Green Team members Ruby Aldrich, Lauren Coogan, and Meghan Conway advertise for last year’s “dumpster dive.”

volving not only the high school but also younger students in the fight against climate change. As of last year, the Green Team has been added to the science department in the school community. The program gives students a broader feel for environmental science and enlarges the science department as a whole, according to Erica Everett, science department chair. Everett highlights the impact the Green Team has on students in the school. “I strongly believe in project-based learning. The experiences students get with Green Team Scholars will help them with college and beyond,” Everett said.

“It would be great to have more environmental science taught as a regular academic class to complement the project-based work Mr. Magers does. With the addition of the Green Team to the science department, students are growing more involved with science,” she said. Magers stressed the importance of keeping the planet healthy and said one person can make a large impact on the world we live in. “Without a doubt, climate change is caused from human activity. With students living healthier lifestyles and learning waste management, small changes can be made to help the environment in enormous ways,” he said.

STUDENT PROFILE

Nina Williams



By Lydia Parker
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Do you play any sports?
Yes, I play field hockey and basketball.

What is your favorite genre of music?
Either rap or alternative.

Do you have a favorite artist?
Yes, either Kanye West or Vampire Weekend.

What is your favorite color and why?
Yellow, because it is so vibrant and warm.

What is your favorite movie?
“Life of Pi.”

What is the best vacation you’ve taken?
My trip to Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands.

What is your biggest fear?
I’m scared of the dark.

What is your favorite animal?
Cats.

What is your favorite TV show?
“Bring it on” or “Modern Family.”

What do you do in your free time?
I play the piano and do art.

Do you have any siblings?
Yes, Sarah, a junior.

Tran reintegrates after maternity leave

By Lydia Parker
INDEPENDENT STAFF

History department teacher Jessica Tran has returned to work this school year after taking a maternity leave with her baby, Charlotte.

Charlotte is 9 months old, and according to Tran, she has started crawling and enjoys playing with her older brother Colin’s toys.

During Tran’s time off, she focused on adjusting to life as a mom of two. “It was awesome. It was really great to be home with her [Charlotte]. I was also home with her by myself three days a week, and then I had both kids on Thursdays and Fridays,” Tran said.

This school year Tran is teaching freshman world history, debate, and AP psychology.

“I have lovely students, and I missed the camaraderie of my department,” Tran said.

She said teaching the same classes as last year made her transition easier.

“I have got a lot of stuff going on. In my private life, I am trying to learn to balance having two kids and working full time, and all of that. But it feels like I never left,” Tran said.

She is trying to have a sense of humor about the stresses of being both a teacher and a mother.

“If I seem a little scatter-

brained, it’s because I never sleep anymore,” Tran said.

Tran is busy buying her first house with her husband, and she says balancing life and work is a challenge. “It has been a smooth start to the school year with everything the administration has done, and the students were ready to start learning,” she said.

She is looking forward to being able to teach a full year of AP psychology this year, with history department teacher Lauren Dubois, for the first time in four years.

History department and debate teacher Jennifer Coleman has worked with Tran for three years. “Mrs. Tran’s absence was personally hard for me because she is really important in helping to run the debate program. With Mrs. Tran being gone, it was challenging last year, so it’s good to have her

‘It had been a smooth start to the school year with everything the administration has done, and the students were ready to start learning.’

-JESSICA TRAN



LYDIA PARKER PHOTO

History teacher Jessica Tran has returned to teaching after taking the second half of last year off following the birth of her daughter.

back,” Coleman said.

Students are happy to have Tran back, according to Junior Julia Mitrano, a student in Tran’s debate class.

“The first few weeks have gone well, and I have learned a lot already with Ms. Tran as my teacher,” Mitrano said.

Mitrano said she is looking forward to competing in debate tournaments this year with Tran helping run the debate program again.

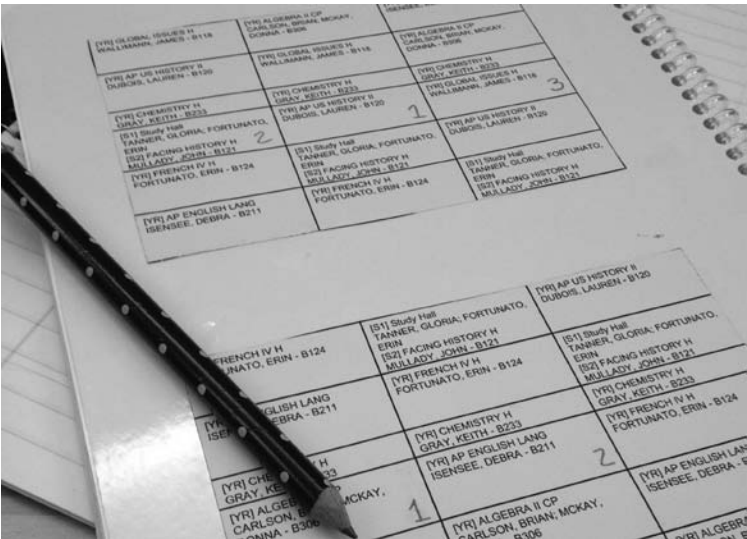
Two new classes introduced in the history department

By Sarah Williams
INDEPENDENT WRITER

New courses are making their way into the curriculum this year in the history, math, and science departments.

There are seven new classes this year one of the new ones is AP Statistics, which is being taught by Rick Brown. In the math department, Josh Wladkowski brought back robotics and CAD design (computer aided drafting), which helps to develop how phenomena may be laid out in real life.

The teachers are creating the curriculum for their classes. “It was hard to decide what the most important things to cover were because I wanted to make it a rigorous class, but I also wanted



SARAH WILLIAMS PHOTO

This year, students will have the ability to take a multitude of new classes, ranging from statistics to “Facing History in Ourselves.”

students to enjoy it a lot, so I kind of am hoping that the students will guide the curriculum a bit by indicating what interests them the most,” said Abigail Donnelly, the sociology teacher.

“The teachers thought that they could create a course that would be really engaging to all levels of students and really just provide something different for students to learn and that could be applicable to their daily lives today,” principal Patricia Puglisi said.

In the science department, Caroline Epp is teaching two classes of anthropology, which is a subject she majored in during college.

In the history department, John Mullady is teaching Facing History in Ourselves which is about the Holocaust, and Abigail Donnelly is teaching sociology,

which is the study of society, “looking at things like social class, gender roles, crime deviants, the way that our society works,” Donnelly said.

The students also love the new classes. “I definitely say it’s worthwhile. This class should be a main mandatory course in order to educate everyone on real world issues we will all experience later on and even now,” junior sociology student Tess Hosman said.

“We are excited about finding new courses and ways to engage students in their learning that might be an old traditional style of core curriculum,” Puglisi said.

‘We are excited about finding new courses and ways to engage students.’

-PATRICIA PUGLISI

Northshore Community offers students opportunities for STEM education

By Amber Paré
INDEPENDENT STAFF

North Shore Community College and the high school have partnered to offer free STEM-focused college courses as a dual enrollment opportunity this year for sophomores, juniors, and seniors attending high schools across Cape Ann.

STEM courses are classes in Science, Technology, Math, and Engineering. Courses offered range from Anatomy to HTML and are taken in addition to a regular load of classes at high schools. Dual enrollment classes are taught at both the Lynn and Danvers college campuses. Credits earned by students are transferable to select four-year colleges.

North Shore Community College received a STEM grant from the state. The grant will allow them to offer these free courses to students. The amount of time that courses will be taught depends on the college’s

ability to maintain this funding.

According to Principal Patricia Puglisi, dual enrollment is available to students of all learning levels and provides them an opportunity to get firsthand experience of what it is like to be on a college campus.

“Dual enrollment engages students who may not be fully engaged in the high school experience and gives them the confidence that they will be able to matriculate into college,” Puglisi said.

Director of Guidance Beverly Low said that this partnership provides students with both academic and social benefits due to

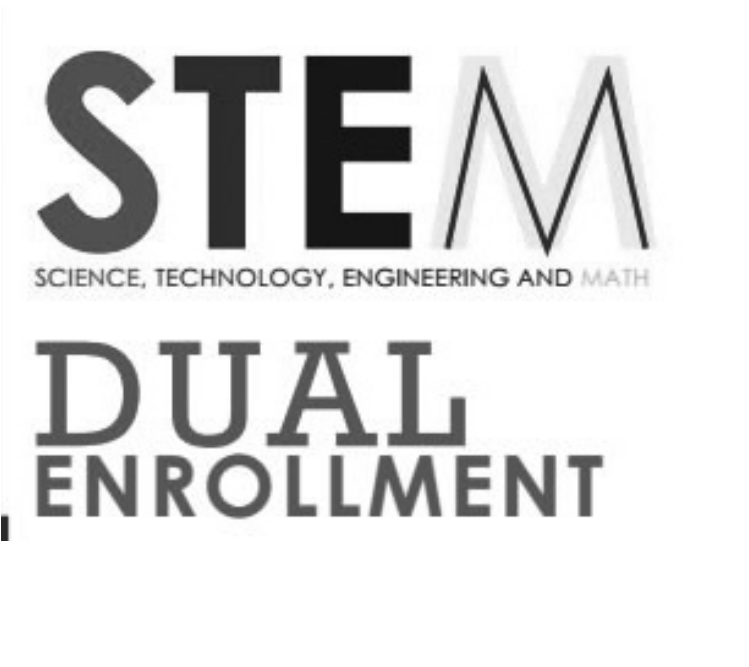
the fact that they will be attending classes with people ranging in both academic ability and age.

According to Low, interested students must have strong commitment to these courses. Students must provide transportation to and from the campuses and attend the classes, which take place in the afternoons and early evenings.

Students see the benefits of taking dual enrollment classes. “The courses are perfect for people who may not have time in their daily school schedule for an AP class but still want to take a class at an elevated level,” junior Mara Franklin said.

‘Dual enrollment engages students who may not be fully engaged in the high school experience and gives them the confidence that they will be able to matriculate into college.’

-PATRICIA PUGLISI



NORTHSHORE.EDU

Northshore Community College is offering a number of dual enrollment programs in a variety of different STEM courses.

A total of seven students are taking advantage of the courses, and members of the guidance department have encouraged students to take advantage of this opportunity.

“The more experiences [a student] has, the larger [his or her] backpack of ideas is when [he or she] goes on in life,” Low said.

Advisory

Should advisory groups change?

Pro

Julia Bonaccorso

Boring, annoying, useless...call it what you want, but advisory is a necessary part of high school, not a social event.

The announcement of an advisory day is almost always met with a chorus of irritated sighs. You would think that a break from classes for half an hour once or twice a month would be a happy event in high school, but no. Students dread advisory like the first day of school not because nothing gets done during the meetings but because not all the students have advisory groups comprised of their select group of friends.

The idea of changing advisory groups every year is popular among students, but what they fail to see is that the meetings are not a time to hang out with friends.

Advisory is held for the purpose of providing students with an outlet to discuss school, life, react to assemblies, and address changes they'd like to see made around them. Students need to be able to express themselves and their thoughts in an environment where they don't necessarily know every person.

Advisory should also provide students with a faculty member that they feel comfortable going to with a problem or complaint. By changing advisors every year, this system would be rendered completely useless.

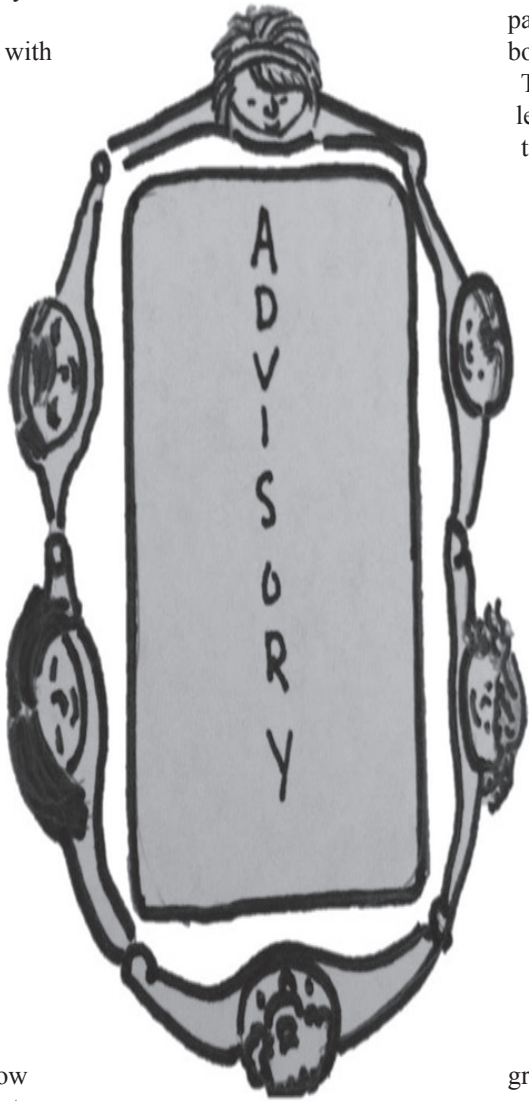
It takes time to forge a strong student-teacher relationship. Keeping advisory groups consistent throughout high school allows these important relationships to grow.

The relatively new advisory seems to be working well the way it is currently run.

Though the cafeteria doesn't sell McDonalds, and there still isn't a nap block, advisory is still responsible for some positive changes in the school proposed by students.

Students with a study hall in the auditorium, for example, now have the option of going to a quiet classroom after expressing to advisors their inability to focus in such a noisy, cramped environment.

Why tamper with something that is finally beginning to work? The best way to keep the positive change coming is to keep advisory groups as they are.



ETHAN ANDERSEN ILLUSTRATION

Con

Ethan Andersen

Advisory groups went under renovation last year, and for the most part the new and improved system was well-received by the student body.

The new groups were formed from students within the same grade level, which is definitely a better way to make a more interactive setting opposed to the old groups.

However, the system is still far from perfect. The groups should have been re-arranged for this year. Students would be allowed to get to know a different assortment of classmates and teachers.

Advisory's purpose is, according to Principal Patricia Puglisi, to provide each student with an adult connection for all four years.

The purpose seems fantastic, but the groups have become stale. Especially for those students who do not particularly enjoy their advisory, advisory will not be fun for four years. Rotating the advisory groups lessens the risk of creating a difficult environment that a student would have to endure. Also, students gain the opportunity to meet new people.

Students would not just meet different students. The student body would get to meet new teachers and staff that they otherwise would not have for a certain class.

A new adviser would help freshen up the process and allow for more connections between teacher and student. With recommendation letters on upperclassmen's minds, they would prefer having more relationships over few.

An adviser should be someone who is approachable and ready to help. This is often true of the staff, but why limit that role to one person?

Teachers are mostly willing to help, and by getting to know more teachers, student can receive more assistance when they need it. Re-arranging advisory would benefit the growth of these relationships.

Creating a fun environment is important too. Being in an advisory group without friends is difficult, which is why students should have some say in creating their group. At the very least, they should be allowed to choose one peer to accompany them.

Advisory is important for students to receive schoolwork help. The group should inspire students to work and excel in a welcoming yet interesting environment, not a familiar one.

Removal of senior parking lot privileges aggravates students

By Hannah Riordan
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Another year, another removal of a senior privilege. Despite some temporary issues with tables getting removed from the senior room, the most pressing point of contention for the senior class has come in the form of parking spaces.

On August 6, 2014, the senior class advisers sent an email to the entire

Class of 2015 alerting seniors of several agenda items and administrative details. The second out of four items on the list said that spots were available to those who gave administrative assistant Mary Lumsden \$75, their license, and the registration for the car they would be parking.

The phrase "first come, first park" finished off the short blurb

about parking spots. If only we were warned that a significant amount of juniors and underclassmen would be allowed to buy spots before many seniors were even aware of their availability. While the request for payment and proof of a license and car is reasonable, opening

the parking lot to non-seniors before the end of the first school week suggests to me and other seniors that using the once-

called "senior lot" is no longer a privilege.

Our wonderfully hardworking class advisers do send a high volume of emails; those students who aren't inclined to read all the way through every one missed their chance to buy a spot.

Several students assumed that spots would be available only to seniors at least until the first



HANNAH RIORDAN PHOTO

Seniors are forced to park on side streets such as Arbella because administration has not prioritized giving parking spots to the seniors before the juniors. This has enraged the senior class.

day of school; those seniors who were traveling during the last few weeks of August and were not conveniently able to get their information to school were wrongly (and possibly unintentionally) punished for it.

As a class, seniors must acknowledge that many of us parked in the senior lot last year.

In fall 2013, however, non-seniors with parking spots had to wait until all seniors who sought parking spaces had secured them.

By definition, privileges are not rights. But after three years of being varying degrees of subordinate to the graduating classes, every senior class deserves at least one substantial perk.

As I watch some of my fellow seniors make the trek to Arbella and leave their houses significantly earlier to park there, just as I did last year, I can't help but wonder what happened to class hierarchy and the mere existence of rewards for seniors who have worked their way through the ranks of high school.



Senioritis begins to set in, affects application process

By **Natasha Statz-Geary**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Amidst talk of ebola and the new respiratory virus EV-D68, many students are ignoring one of the most pressing and threatening illnesses sweeping the hallways: senioritis.

As a senior myself, I’ve noticed the symptoms slowly creeping in: lack of motivation to do anything productive in study hall, logging onto the Common Application sporadically and uncontrollably, wearing yoga pants to school for three days in a row, etcetera.

This sickness could not come at a worse time, with college application deadlines and first quarter grades looming over all of our heads.

The disease is spreading quickly and has left many questioning its causes.

Lucky for everyone, I have the answers.

I first began studying senioritis two years ago when my brother was battling it, and during that time I gathered important clues as to what breeds this deadly illness.

Here’s the vicious cycle: seniors want to spend time with each other before they leave for college, so in order to do so, they compromise doing their homework and sleeping. .

After a few weeks of not putting in full effort or sleeping, seniors just completely give up on their erudition and time-management.

By the time college decisions roll in, seniors cease to be students; they’re just bodies going through the motions of being a student.

Luckily, my symptoms aren’t serious yet.

Right now all my ailments are spurred by the copious amounts of stress I’m under.

Being productive in study hall is virtually impossible after a sleepless night and four AP classes in a row.

As the senior class gives the final push through first quarter, I urge all of us to fight senioritis as much as we can.

I enjoin all of us to at least open our backpacks during study hall, and if things go well, then we can attempt to do a subject of homework.

Although these next few weeks are certain to be grueling, we are all in this together.

We will continue to turn a blind eye when fellow peers begin to look and act like the walking dead. We will continue to commiserate in the senior room. We will continue to study into the wee hours of the morning, and we will overcome this.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students grow dissatisfied with library closings

Library availability has decreased due the sixth grade literacy class that now occupies the library three blocks a day.

To deal with the size of the current sixth grade class, which is made up of about 130 students, administrators decided to hold a literacy class taught by library teacher Sue Krause in the library during C, D and F block in first semester and two blocks second semester.

During these blocks, high schoolers do not have the option to go to the library and do homework during their study hall.

Despite the convenience of a literacy class being taught in a place where there is an abundance of reading materials, the setup is not ideal for high school study hall students.

Due to the closing of the library, the auditorium is now home to all high school study halls. While the auditorium is beneficial because it can hold a lot of students, the space is not well equipped to hold a full, well-functioning study hall due to lack of desk space, computers and printers.

Although the administration is trying to compensate for the



OLIVIA BONACCORSO PHOTO

Students are upset with the new library closings caused by sixth grade literacy classes being taught in the library during C, D and F block. Administrators are working to reallocate library resources.

lack of library access by improving the Wi-Fi and possibly getting an auditorium printer, it still seems impractical for a sixth grade class to be taught in the library, which is meant to be a convenient study spot and resource hub for all students at any point in the day.

There are other vacant rooms that the literacy class could be taught in, such as any of the computer labs.

Furthermore, there are other vacant rooms that the literacy class could be taught in such as any one of the computer labs or even the sixth grade pod area. Of course it makes sense for a literacy class to be taught in the library but

it seems that this convenience is at the expense of study hall students who cannot complete work in study hall that requires a printer, a school computer or a library book due to lack of library access. While the auditorium may someday have better Wi-Fi and a printer, nothing can replace the comfy chairs and spacious tables that students utilized as convenient work spaces during their study halls in previous years.

Urban Outfitters offends many with controversial sweatshirt

By **Devon Musgrave-Johnson**
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Fashion designers and vendors often push the limits, trying to come up with the next big thing; but Urban Outfitters has once again gone too far with their “Vintage” Kent State sweatshirt.

The controversial sweatshirt appears to be splattered with blood, reminiscent of the horrendous events of May 4, 1970 when four students of Kent State were gunned down by the National Guard during a protest concerning the war in Vietnam.

This clothing piece was not just in bad taste-- it was down-

right offensive and distressing. The backlash that would follow from various social media outlets was more than deserved and the following apology from company CEO Dick Hayne was haphazard at best.

In a companywide memo, Hayne stated that the item in question was purchased from a flea market as part of their “sun-faded vintage collection” and had no connection to the Kent State Shooting.

Even if no design skill was put into this item, that doesn’t excuse the lack of thought put into its release online. It is outright astounding that not a single employee at Urban Outfitters was able to identify that the



URBAN OUTFITTERS PHOTO

sweatshirt could be extremely offensive.

Furthermore, this incident is not the first time that the company had come under fire for

inappropriate themes in their clothing. In early 2014, a crop top covered in the word “Depression” caused controversy, and a V-neck telling people to “Eat Less” made the public equally upset. Urban Outfitters has overstepped their boundaries on numerous occasions by exploiting the fears and insecurity of teenagers everywhere. Depression and anorexia are very serious mental illnesses that take many lives each year and are not to be trivialized. The Kent State sweatshirt is only the latest in a long line of mistakes for which Urban Outfitters needs to make a genuine apology.

the **INDEPENDENT**

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BOYS’ SOCCER

Coach: Robert Bilsbury
Captains: Seniors Parker Edington, Oliver Hull, and Winston Feuerbach
Record last year: 5-2-4
Record this year: 4-10-3
Goals: To finish with a competitive record and enough momentum to carry them into the state tournament.
Impact players: Seniors Parker Edington, Oliver Hull, and Winston Feuerbach and juniors George Lantz and Henry Rohner.
Coach’s quote: “They are just an awesome bunch of boys. They get along well together, they work hard for each other, and it’s just a really nice situation in terms of team chemistry.”
Captain’s quote: “We want to finish the season strong and hopefully make some noise in the tournament. We’ve started off really well.” -Senior Winston Feuerbach



Oliver Hull



Parker Edington



Winston Feuerbach

GIRLS’ SOCCER

Coach: Bryan Shields
Captains: Seniors Carly Sheriff and Phoebe Biggar, junior Bella Mastendino
Record last year: 2-12-4
Record this year: 0-11
Goals: To better both individual and team skills. Improve record form last year.
Impact players: Senior Carly Sheriff, junior Bella Mastendino, sophomores Bridgett Kiernan and Courtney Holley, and freshmen Hadleigh Richard and Maggie DeLisio.
Coach’s quote: “The biggest thing we need to improve on is finishing around the net and also the communication piece.”
Captain’s quote: “We need to play more like a unit and develop our skills. It is important for us to play as a team, because once we improve in that regard, we will be able to win more games.”
-Junior Bella Mastendino



Carly Sheriff



Phebe Biggar



Bella Mastendino

GOLF

Coach: Jane McConnell
Captains: Seniors Ben Bichet, Cam Tuttle, Michael Fuca, and Troy Ciarametaro.
Record last year: 14-2
Record this year: 7-1
Goals: To return as league champions and excel at States.
Impact players: Each player holds an important role in the team.
Coach’s quote: “This record and this performance is a culmination of the progress of the last four years. Our records have steadily improved, as well as our players.”
Captains’ quotes: “We need to focus on playing well at States. In the past we have not played our best and I hope that this year is different.”-Senior Ben Bichet
“I think we will definitely be able to achieve these goals since we have seven seniors starting and our team has never been stronger.” -Senior Cam Tuttle



Ben Bichet



Cam Tuttle



Michael Fuca



Troy Ciarametaro

FOOTBALL

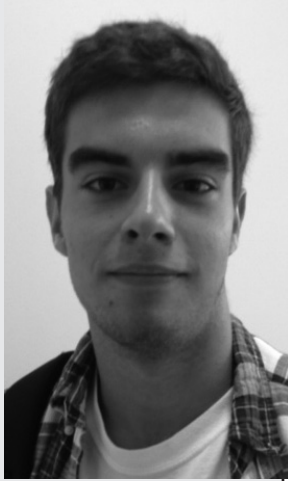
Coach: Mike Athanas
Captains: Seniors Bret Williams, Craig Carter, and Teddy Economo
Record last year: 6-5
Record this year: 0-4
Goals: To regain full strength in roster after being weakened by injuries and win games once the roster is back in full.
Impact players: Seniors Craig Carter and Bret Williams, juniors Chris Carr, Jack Hennigan and Jake Rich, and freshman Andre Hantzopoulos and Robbie Sarmanian.
Coach’s quote: “Our main goal is to make playoffs, hopefully we can get a win and get that ball rolling.”
Captain’s quote: “A major challenge that we are facing is playing against teams that are bigger than us. We have a lot of young guys without varsity experience who have never faced such massive teams before so that’s a key point to focus on.”-Senior Bret Williams



Craig Carter



Bret Williams



Teddy Economo

CROSS COUNTRY



Cameron Holley



Charlie Davis



Tucker Evans



Samantha Woodman



Maura McCormick



Olivia Lantz

Coach: Andrew Migonis and Mark Dawson
Captains: Seniors Cameron Holley, Tucker Evans, Samantha Woodman, and Olivia Lantz, junior Charlie Davis, and sophomore Maura McCormick
Record last year: 8-3
Record this year: Girls’: 6-1, Boys’: 5-2
Goals: Win the Cape Ann Small League, and even possibly win the Cape Ann Large
Impact players: Senior Olivia Lantz, Cameron Holley, Parker Malarkey, and Campbell Fackre; juniors Meghan Clark, Nathan Evans, Charlie Davis, and Connor Senay; sophomores Spencer Feuerbach, Maura McCormick, and Niamh Dalton; Freshman Patrick Guinee; and eighth-grader Eve Feuerbach
Coach’s quote: “We have tons of talent, which usually means a good season. We’re in a good spot where all of our runners impact results”-Andrew Migonis
Captain’s quote: “We have a lot of returning members which will help us a lot regarding depth and experience. We hope to place top five in the league”-Senior Olivia Lantz

FIELD HOCKEY

Coach: Kara Beauregard
Captains: Seniors Meghan Conway and Annie DeConto
Record last year: 18-2-1
Record this year: 2-4-5
Goals: To qualify for the tournament, to win the Cape Ann Small League, and possibly win the Cape Ann Large.
Impact players: Seniors Annie DeConto, Meghan Conway, and Hayley Malloy; Freshman Chanel Bullock
Coach’s quote: “We lost eleven players last year, so now the bulk of our team is underclassmen. It shouldn’t be too much of a challenge, but we will have to give the younger members of the team time to adjust to playing varsity field hockey”
Captain’s quote: “what we have seen so far is that even though the team is young, there has been a huge amount of improvement. We both think that there is a lot of potential in the team and that we will come out of the season with a lot of success” - Meghan Conway



Meghan Conway



Annie DeConto

Sport fees should vary based on individual sports

By Maura McCormick
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With the new increase in student athlete fees, the need for change in the athletic payment system is obvious. Varying the price of individual sports is one way that could make the fees system fairer. With the current fee system, students who play a sport that requires less equipment and school funding pay to supplement the cost of other more expensive sports. Athletic director Kelly Porcaro supports the current system. She said that she would not want students to choose their sport based upon how much it costs. But look at it from a different angle. One could say that all fruit should cost the same so that people do not choose what fruit

With the current fee system, students who play a sport that requires less equipment and school funding pay to supplement the cost of other more expensive sports.

to buy based on the cost - or that all clothing should cost the same. But the varied prices of these items are due to variances in the costs required to create them. Less expensive sports cost less to function yet are listed at the same price as other sports. Is that fair? It may seem difficult to put a plan that varies the prices of sports into action. But Gloucester High School has already successfully put one into place. The price of cross-country and track and field for Gloucester is \$70 less than other sports. This new take on sports fees would not only positively impact sports like cross-country and track. Another sport that would benefit would be football. The money that the football team acquires through ticket sales currently goes into the cu-



COURTESY PHOTO

Students who participate in less expensive sports such as cross-country pay the same \$400 athletic fee as students who play football and other sports that require more equipment. the football players, thus lowering the cost of their individual sport. This system would also limit the school’s ability to give a disproportional amount of money to certain sports. Individual budgets would ensure that the amount of money each sport used came directly out of that individual sport’s budget.

Anthology format solves many of TV industry’s problems

By Zack Even
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Television has been trying to catch up with cinema for years, but movies seem to have every advantage possible. As a result, television has suffered. Surprisingly, little has been done to change these circumstances; outside of adapting to the increasingly online setting of the new millennium, which hasn’t been completely successful, the format for television has changed very little since it first became popular. Finally, TV shows are starting to understand how to combat the problems they face: by becoming more like cinema. In the past few months, “anthology” series, or shows in which each season contains a succinct and complete story with new characters and settings connected by a certain theme, have become increasingly popular. The format, which originally gained attention in

“American Horror Story,” has been perfected by series like “True Detective” and “ Fargo.” These two excellent new series have both intelligently used their new format to their advantage. Noah Hawley, showrunner for “ Fargo,” even described the first season as a “10-hour movie.” Both were able to attract excellent and famous actors (Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson in “ True Detective” and Billy Bob Thornton in “ Fargo”) because these stars were excited to take part in unique new shows and could commit their time given they’d only have to stick around for one season. Typically, the large salaries, increased exposure, and sometimes acclaim films can offer, which cannot be found in the television industry, attract a much larger percentage of stars or simply talented actors. Having well-known names in these shows paid off. The familiar faces undoubtedly attracted viewers as well as awards (McConaughey, Harrelson, and Thornton



FXNETWORKS.COM

Billy Bob Thornton stars in “ Fargo,” FX’s new anthology series, which finished its first season last spring to universal acclaim. In anthology series, each season contains its own independent story.

were all nominated for Emmys). These series can spend their budgets more freely; with the short seasons of this new format, which usually last less than 10 episodes, the shows can afford more expensive visual effects that actually stand up when compared to movies. Because of this, the visuals of “ True Detective” and “ Fargo” were noticeably superior to those of other popular dramas. Anthology series also remove any fears of cancellation for fans, as even if a show is ended prematurely, the planned season finale should satisfy.

alt-J explores wild, natural themes on solid sophomore effort



ALTJBAND.COM

On their second album, British group alt-J avoids classification by bouncing between an eclectic group of genres and influences, improving on their debut with a varied yet cohesive set of songs.

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

“This Is All Yours” is the latest album from the alternative group alt-J. Hailing from England, the group mixes multiple genres like Irish folk, electropop, and indie rock for their new LP released on September 23 that proves to be even stronger than their previous projects. The album eases the listener in with “Intro,” an upbeat serenade of vocals consisting of a simple “la la la” with soft bells to keep beat, then transitions into a richer song backed with full orchestral sound. The two halves of the song reflect the lighter and heavier sides of the album. Three tracks are centered on Nara, a mystical place that hints at a forest atmosphere. The nature-centric tracks come at the beginning and end of the album, while there are others throughout such as “Garden of England

- Interlude,” “Hunger of the Pine,” and “Warm Foothills.” “Hunger of the Pine” takes on a mainstream influence with a Miley Cyrus sample of the line “I’m a female rebel” and horns that reflect the Kanye West and TNGHT-produced “Blood on the Leaves.” “The Gospel of John Hurt” gives the listener the feeling of running through the woods with a jungle-like drum beat and hand-clap, wrapped up by an ending xylophone riff. This track reflects the fast-paced face of the album. “Bloodflood pt. II” is a well-crafted synth-pop ballad mixed with a background horn and percussion beat that surrounds the vocals. It serves as the album’s climax right before the listener “leaves Nara.” “Lovely Day” is a bonus track

which serves as an extra bit of listening that didn’t fit quite right in the overall story of the album. The light and high-octave instrumentation represent their departure from the woods and the immersion in the outside world again. The second half of the LP, starting with “Hunger of the Pines” and ending with “Lovely Day,” comes together to complete the journey as the beginning half is the main period of exploration and experimentation. Each song throughout the whole album is an adventure that changes course unexpectedly, with all parts coming together to assemble a cohesive journey that is the album. Their Gotye-esque sound summarizes the contrast between the relaxing and energetic nature of different tracks.

One song gives the listener the feeling of running through the woods with a jungle-like drum beat and hand-wrapped clap, wrapped up by an ending xylophone riff.

Fall fashion trends encourage comfortable, androgynous clothing

By Sarah Williams
INDEPENDENT ASSISTANT EDITOR

One can sometimes feel like she is always chasing after the latest fashion trends, but with this quick update, falling behind in the style world will no longer be a problem. First, the bad news -- just in case you were about to hit the “purchase” button, don’t quite yet. The time has come to chuck the UGGs. UGGs have run their course in the style world, and despite their possible comfort, they are not doing anyone any favors this fall, so just stay clear of them. Instead, possibly look into a comfy pair of moccasins from Target called Chaia Moccasin for \$20 or get what could be considered

the new UGGs for shirts. From a company known as the Southern Shirt Co., this long sleeve shirt is taking the South by storm and has made its way up North. This purposefully colorful loose shirt with either your town or team written across the back can be the new go to comfort wear to be thrown on with some tan boots and black leggings to set definition to your figure. The long sleeve normally costs about \$55 depending on where it is sold. That was the only Band-Aid I had to rip off for the fashionably sane -- now on to the good stuff. The overall style theme this fall is girl meets boy. It is time to brave the invisible barrier and head over to the boy part of the store because that is where the best stuff is.



UGGAUSTRALIA.COM

PACSUN.COM

SOUTHERNSHIRT.COM

Fashion trends this fall include ditching UGGs boots for moccasins, V-neck baseball jerseys, and long sleeve, loose-fitting, and colorful tops from the Southern Shirt Company, which cost around \$55.

Already seen flooding the school hallways is the comeback of the flannel shirt from the ‘80s. A nice flannel is most essential to invest in because it can be paired with practically anything, whether it is leggings or a little black dress. Go to nearby thrift shops to get the good quality ones for cheap. Another thing to steal from your brother’s closet is his baseball jerseys and crew neck fleeces. Pair these shirts with a pair of leggings and knee high boots or statement black ankle boots. Of course, one doesn’t want to look too masculine. To offset these typically guy statement pieces, invest in some knee-high socks to wear with the crew neck and a black skirt.

Riff Raff’s album ‘Neon Icon’ is surprise hit of the summer

By Oscar Heanue
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

For hip-hop fans, 2014 may be the most disappointing year in recent memory. From 50 Cent’s lackluster comeback “Animal Ambition” to The Roots’ underwhelming “Undun” follow-up “And Then You Shoot Your Cousin,” this year has seen most hyped-up albums come up short.

Despite all the let-downs that the year has produced, a few lesser-known artists have delivered with some serious surprises. In what may come as a shock for hip-hop heads around the world, one of the biggest gems of 2014 has come at the hands of Houston’s most popular novelty act, Riff Raff.

The album, “Neon Icon,” is his first mainstream project since he signed with EDM giant Diplo’s record label, Mad Decent. Under the watchful eyes of Diplo, who executive produced the album, Riff Raff shocks the hip-hop community by delivering a project that is as cohesive and refined as it is laid-back and humorous.

In the opening track, “Introduction to the Icon,” Riff gives listeners a perfect idea of what he stands for, calling Diplo out for his concern about the lack of lyrical content on the project with a sample of Diplo in a meeting saying, “You need to focus on the lyrics on your songs. A lot is riding on this album.”

Riff continues to display his complete disregard for the



JODYHIGHROLLER.COM

Album ‘Neon Icon’ is artist Riff Raff’s first mainstream project.

standards of lyrical content and storytelling in hip-hop on one of the album’s stand-out tracks, “Wetter than Tsunami.” The track, in which Riff proclaims “Step inside the club and I’m smelling like Miami/ Ice on my wrist and I should’ve won a Grammy,” was produced by British remix king Raf Riley. The song embodies the irreverent and unique Southern trap style that has gained Riff one of the largest cult followings in rap music.

However, the album isn’t without flaws. Several of the guest artists take their verses far too seriously, destroying the laid-back and nonsensical mood that is cultivated throughout the album. Perhaps guiltiest of all is Childish Gambino, who attempts to outshine Riff on the track “Lava Glaciers” rather than embracing the low-effort rap style that Riff brings to the table.

Welcoming Riff Raff’s stylized rapping techniques is what makes Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller’s guest verse the most stand-out verse on the album.

Miller appears on and produces the album’s most noteworthy track, “Aquaberry Dolphin.” In his verse, Miller runs away with the unusual stream of consciousness style of lyricism pioneered by Riff himself. Staying true to the simple and nonsensical spirit of the album, Miller compares himself to Jesus, Vince McMahon, and pink lemonade all in the same stream of thoughts.

The album finally comes to a satisfying conclusion with the original and remixed versions of the project’s lead single, “How to be the Man.” Featuring a beat from hip-hop’s hottest producer, DJ Mustard, Riff pulls through with a combination one of his catchiest hooks and multiple verses loaded with his signature irreverent punch lines.

Though “Neon Icon” may not have been taken particularly seriously by most hip-hop listeners prior to its release, Riff Raff shows throughout the album that he has the power to stay a prominent force in hip-hop for years to come..

WEBsurfer

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT STAFF



Forgotify.com

Forgotify fills in the “gap” of Spotify, finding the nearly 25% of songs that have never been listened to by anyone and giving them attention. Unlike Spotify, there is no account creation -- just a button on the front page that says “Forget Me Not.” Once you click this, a random song will play out of the 4 million unheard tracks, and you will have the option to share or go to the next song if it is of no interest to you. Although it is not an official subset of Spotify, the footer on the main page says “Much love to Spotify.”

ThisIsWhyImBroke.com

This Is Why I’m Broke is an online shopping center that has all the quirky, novelty items you have ever wanted. The site displays a plethora of different items from a large scale products such as a hamburger bed all the way down to pencils engraved with quotes from Anchorman.

If you want to save your purchases for later, you can make an account for that occasional craving to buy novelty items. Just as there is a wide range of items, there is a vast range in prices: cheap and affordable to not-in-your-lifetime expensive, but the value of the items is priceless.

Rdio.com

Rdio is another website similar to Spotify, but it runs better in whichever Internet browser you use. Downloading the desktop app is not necessary to enjoy your favorite music. A beneficial feature of the website is the You FM station (the site is comprised of stations, hence the name’s similarity to “radio”) that takes into account the genres and artists you listen to and creates a station, almost like a Genius playlist on iTunes. Acting as a combination between Spotify and Pandora, the Rdio listening experience will surely please any music listener.

What to...



Watch:

TED Talk -- Ken Robinson

“How to Escape Education’s Death Valley”

The American education system has been at the forefront of debate for many years, and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 continues to be a topic of controversy. In his TED Talk, Ken Robinson tackles everything from standardized testing to the looming dropout rate with an incredible amount of wit and poise.

Any student, teacher, or administrator could benefit from taking the time to watch this video on YouTube.

Documentary -- Louis Theroux

“The Most Hated Family In America”

Though this BBC documentary came out in 2007, it still remains interesting today in the wake of various scandals and outrages concerning the infamous Westborough Baptist Church.

The film documents time Louis Theroux spent living with members of the church and following them through their daily lives. Theroux provides an invigorating insight on these people through various interviews and a look inside their services and preparations for protest.



Listen To:

“I’m Only Joking” -- KONGOS
and remixes

Though the song “I’m Only Joking” by KONGOS ended up on most peoples’ iPhones because Starbucks customers a free download, the upbeat song has found a new claim to fame through the website Remix Comps.

The site gives users access to different instrumental pieces of the song and challenges them to create their own original remix. New and interesting versions of the song have already been uploaded to the site and are free for everyone to listen.

“Shake it Off” Cover -- Meghan Trainor

Meghan Trainor’s debut single “All About That Bass” can be found on almost any radio station these days, but it’s her cover of Taylor Swift’s “Shake It Off” that truly deserves a listen.

What started as a radio challenge for Trainor to sing Swift’s song to the tune of “All About That Bass” became a really fun song that shows off her stunning vocals.



Read:

“Egghead” -- Bo Burnham

In the wake of his successful comedy special “What.” Bo Burnham, a native of Hamilton, released a book of his poetry, “Egghead or You Can’t Survive on Ideas Alone.” The book sold out of Barnes and Nobles within a month and gained massive popularity online.

While retaining the hilarity and bluntness that gave him his claim to fame, Burnham’s poetry covers a wide variety of topics such as Boston accents and the plights of growing up, making his book a quick and very enjoyable read.

By Devon Musgrave-Johnson, Independent Editor