

# the INDEPENDENT

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## New principal anticipates becoming member of community

### Puglisi facilitates smooth opening of school year, contributes to positive energy

By Sofia del Valle  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

New high school principal Patricia Puglisi greeted students and teachers as she stood outside the entrance on August 28, the first day of school.

Unlike previous years, this year there were minimal scheduling issues, which is why, according to Assistant Principal Paul Murphy, "this was one of the best openings of school" he had seen in 19 years.

"Ms. Puglisi's positive energy could be felt throughout the building," he said.

Puglisi, who grew up in Topsfield and attended Masconomet Regional High School, was one of three final candidates interviewing for the job.

"Her enthusiasm for kids was apparent," Murphy said.

During the interviewing process, a committee of high school students was chosen to meet and talk with prospective principal candidates.

"I could tell right away that Ms. Puglisi was well qualified," said senior Sarah Lewiecki, a member of the former committee.

Before starting her position as principal, Puglisi formerly taught history and was a social studies department chair at Masconomet, as well as assistant principal at Reading High School.

She graduated from Boston College with a major in history and a minor in secondary education. Puglisi later received a Masters of Arts (MAT) in Teaching History from Salem State University, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) in Educational Leadership, and completed the National Institute

**'Ms. Puglisi's positive energy could be felt throughout the building.'**

-PAUL MURPHY

tory from Salem State University, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) in Educational Leadership, and completed the National Institute



SOFIA DEL VALLE PHOTO

New high school principal Patricia Puglisi joined the school community this year. She said her goal for this year is to develop the teachers' extended Wednesday program to improve student learning.

School Leadership (NISL) program, receiving a designation.

She was also selected by the College Board to travel to China as a part of a delegation of school administrators from across the country.

"The highlight of the trip was a banquet held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing," Puglisi said.

Because of her "impressive and varied background," Murphy said he believes the two will make a good team and that

they complement each other well

Less than two months into the school, teachers already have positive things to say about Puglisi's performance.

"She is efficient, organized, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Advisory overhaul met with appreciation

By Rebecca Even  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As a part of her certification to become an administrator, math teacher Sarah Deluca has transformed the advisory program not only to build a sense of community within the school but to provide students with the skills necessary to balance the various aspects of their lives. To gain her administrator certification, Deluca

needs 300 hours of in-school involvement outside of teaching. She decided to spend her time making



REBECCA EVEN PHOTO

Sarah Deluca speaks to parents about the new advisory program at open house. Deluca reorganized advisory for this school year as part of her efforts to obtain her administration certification.

changes to the advisory system.

Alongside a committee of teacher volunteers, Deluca designed a schedule for advisories, put students into groups, and worked out the kinks of the old system. Unlike the old advisory, groups were made with the intent of mixing groups of students

**Unlike the old advisory, groups were made with the intent of mixing groups of students from the same grade who do not normally see each other.**

from the same grade who do not normally see each other.

"The goal was to make [the groups] pretty heterogeneous," Deluca said.

According to Deluca, each grade will focus on different topics. Seniors will discuss college preparation while freshmen will focus on navigating high school.

Students appreciate the new grouping system, according to senior Liz Warren.

"Now, since we're all in the same grade, we want to share more," she said.

The meetings are also more CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## DuBois hired as social studies department chair

By Landon Komishane  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After teaching for nine years, social studies teacher Lauren DuBois was hired as the social studies department chair this summer.

DuBois replaces former department chair Dan Jewett, who accepted a job as Triton's district

coordinator of curriculum, instruction and assessment. DuBois said she had previous conversations with Jewett about applying for the job.

"After having several conversations with [Jewett] about what the job entailed, I decided just about before the end of last year that I was at least going to give it a try," she said.

DuBois has a bachelor's degree

in history with a minor in education from Bates College. She has a master's degree in history from Salem State College and is in the middle of her master's of secondary education from Salem State.

According to DuBois, she went through two rounds of interviews. The first one had a panel of student and parent representatives along with high school Principal Patricia Puglisi, middle school Principal Steven Guditus, and social studies teachers Jessica Tran and Jennifer Coleman. The second round of interviewers included Puglisi, Guditus, and curriculum director Scott Morrison.

"I was very impressed by [DuBois]," Puglisi said. "She is a very passionate educator, and she seems like she CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

**'Pushing students to challenge themselves and think critically is something we as a department are trying to do.'**

-LAUREN DUBOIS

### News

New teachers  
-page 2-3

### Features

Signs of stress  
-page 4  
Global Issues  
-page 5

### Opinion

Pro/Con: Tattoos  
-page 7  
Athletic meetings  
-page 8

### Sports

Fall sports briefs  
-page 9-10

### Arts

Fashion show  
-page 12

News Briefs

Classes elect officers

Class elections were held for the senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman classes.

The freshman class elected Avery Shaw and Robert Carter. .

The sophomore class elected Chelsea Rose for her second year as class president.

Instead of electing one class president, the junior class elected three. Andy Creighton, Meghan Conway, and Devin Musgrave-Johnson are the representatives of the class. According to class adviser Mary Lumsden, the three of them decided the race was so close that they'd work together to avoid hard feelings.

Erik Rajunas was elected senior class president; this will be his second term, the first being his sophomore year.

Band replaces Canada trip with New York City

In the past, the high school band has invested in many trips to Montreal and Quebec; this year, however, they are staying inside the country. The class is heading to New York City to reward members with an exciting adventure, band director Joe Sokol said.

Sokol said the group plans to go see many famous attractions such as The Empire State Building, Times Square, Rockefeller Center, and the 9/11 Memorial. They plan to do fun activities such as ice skating at Rockefeller and going to see "Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway. He said this year will be pleasantly different than past trips. "I would say it's non-stop fun, but all the band trips have been really great. It will be different but good," he said.

New adjustment counselor meets students

By Isadora Decker-Lucke  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Holly Brabson left her position as a long-term sub at Memorial School and is now the part-time school adjustment counselor, focused on helping students at a "higher, more in-depth level than the other counselors," Sherri Lewis, director of guidance, said.

Brabson graduated from Connecticut College with a bachelor's degree in psychology. After working at the County of San Mateo job training agency helping parents on welfare find work for several years, she received her master's in social work from Simmons College.

**'[Brabson] is very upbeat, positive, friendly, and fun.'**

-GILLIAN POLK

The guidance department as a whole, including Brabson, has been meeting with freshmen and sophomores, and connecting with students at these meetings. When students meet with Brabson one-on-one, they work on social and emotional health with school-related issues, Lewis said.

Brabson said she enjoys her work. "It's been excellent so far... There are so many kids that I'd like to see," she said.

Brabson says she has other goals as well. "It seems like the community is really important in this district, and I want to become a part of that...I want anyone to be able to come and feel welcome here," she said.

Gillian Polk, the new guidance counselor, has worked with Brabson in the past while they



ISADORA DECKER-LUCKE PHOTO  
**Brabson speaks with students.**

FUN FACTS

- **Has traveled to New Zealand**
- **Favorite movie is "The Sound of Music"**
- **Loves hiking**
- **Favorite book is "To Kill a Mockingbird"**
- **Enjoys Italian food**

were both guidance counselors in elementary schools in the area.

"She's very upbeat, positive, friendly and fun. She has a good sense of humor. I was excited we both ended up working here," Polk said. Brabson has noticed several differences from working at the elementary school.

"Some of the problems are

more complex than those at Memorial School, but the students are much better at communicating their problems with me...I'm amazed by how involved kids are in academics and extracurriculars," she said.

Brabson is at the school all day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Incoming history teacher becomes freshman class advisor



NATASHA STATZ-GEARY PHOTO

**Mullady engages with students while teaching American History.**

FUN FACTS

- **Enjoys Coffee**
- **Heath Bar ice cream**
- **Has been to South Africa**
- **Loves Bruce Springsteen music**
- **Likes tortoises**
- **Watches "Indiana Jones" films**

By Natasha Statz-Geary  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Following the departure of department chair Daniel Jewett, the history department welcomed John Mullady, a candidate for Beverly City Council for Ward Four, as the new US history, world history, and debate teacher this year.

Mullady, who received his undergraduate degree from Marist College and then received his Master's in history

at Simmons College, previously taught high school at St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington, New York, before becoming a history teacher at Wellesley Middle School.

"I'm really happy to be back working with high school students," Mullady said.

"Mr. Mullady has a great way with his students. He does a wonderful job of relating to them and engaging them," history department chair Lauren DuBois said.

In addition to teaching three different classes, Mullady is also the freshman class adviser.

"At my old job, I wasn't as able to be actively involved in extracurriculars, so when I heard there was an opportunity, I wanted to hit the ground running," he said.

Mullady's students appreciate his relaxed manner in the classroom.

"Mr. Mullady is very understanding and aware of the stress that his students are under," soph-

omore Sarah Burnham said.

Sophomore Charlotte Freed shares the same sentiment.

"I look forward to going to Mr. Mullady's class...[He] makes the material fun," Freed said.

Within the debate program, Mullady is working with history teacher Jennifer Coleman to assist the novices and freshmen debaters.

In addition to being involved in numerous programs and classes at the school, Mullady is also running for Beverly City Council for the second time in Ward Four.

If elected, Mullady says he plans on increasing transparency by creating open ward town hall meetings and taking residents' input.

"One of the reasons why I ran is because I'm a teacher, and I teach about civics and being an active participant in a democracy, so I thought that I should do what I preach," he said.

Essex Elementary guidance counselor transitions to high school

By Sarah Beckmann  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

New staff member and former Essex Elementary counselor Gillian Polk is working in the guidance department this year to help meet the growing number of students' needs.

Polk, a graduate of Lewis & Clarke College in Portland, Ore., is familiar with the district. Growing up in various parts of Massachusetts, she spent 13 years as the sole counselor at Essex.

FUN FACTS

- **Previously owned a fish named "Bruiser"**
- **Loves to pass time jogging**
- **Enjoys mint ice cream**
- **Has a nephew and two nieces**
- **Never visited the Lewis and Clark College, the college she would later attend**
- **Likes spending time with family**

When the Essex school psychologist changed from a part-time to a full-time position, the School Committee decided to hire part-time adjustment counselors to replace the role of full-time counselors like Polk. Thus, a timely opportunity opened for her in Manchester, according to guidance director Sherri Lewis-Sholler.

"We added additional staffing to the guidance department because, over the years, the number of students that we're working with has increased," Lewis-Sholler said.

"We were fortunate enough to get an extra counselor this year." Even though she had to switch towns, the transition was overall relatively smooth, Polk said.

"I



SARAH BECKMANN PHOTO

**Polk has taken on only freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, but still offers her assistance to seniors who are applying to colleges.**

didn't have to update my resume at all," she said. "I must say, it's funny to see all the old Essex kids stretched out and [speaking] in deeper voices!"

Currently situated in the former office of middle school guidance counselor Kevin O'Maley, Polk straddles similar grade levels in order to better distribute students; specifically, Polk advises half of the eighth-grade, along with a number of students

scattered throughout the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades.

Freshman Dewey Komishane is under the guidance of Polk this year.

"I haven't known her for that long because I went to Memorial in Manchester as an elementary school student," he said. "But she's really nice, and she's helped me get my schedule organized since I transferred schools from last year."

# Eighth-grade teacher transitions into ninth grade

## Landry collaborates with special education, freshman English classes

By Jenny Cochand  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Moving up to a new grade occurs annually for students, but this year special education teacher Anne Landry got to experience the transition to high school herself.

Landry has been teaching for 20 years, and 15 of those were with this district.

Previously she worked specifically with eighth-graders. However, she never acquired any high school teaching experience.

According to Landry, changing positions in the district was aimed towards helping the students cope with the freshman transition year.

“I thought it was a great idea for the students, but I was a little apprehensive because I had always been in middle school,” Landry said.

After some time on the job, she said she is happy regarding the adjustment.

Part of her new daily routine involves co-teaching a

class with English teacher Elizabeth Edgerton.

Although they often switch back and forth during the class, Landry also has opportunities to lead entire lessons by herself.

According to Edgerton, co-workers already respect Landry’s teaching style.

“She is funny. She is definitely kind of no nonsense. She is focused, and she definitely has the desire to learn something that she doesn’t necessarily know how to do,” Edgerton said.

Relationships between teachers and students exist in every classroom setting, yet Landry has an entire previ-

ous year of connections with her students, as well as memories from the annual eighth grade trip to Washington D.C.

“She knows all the students from last year, which is great. It’s nice to have those personal relationships,” Edgerton said.

Since

Landry extensively worked in the eighth grade, she is also familiar with most of the students in the high school.

Switching her position also has a purpose for the middle school because according to director of student services Al-

lison Collins, Landry will most likely move back to



JENNY COCHAND PHOTO

Anne Landry teaches a ninth grade English class during her first year as a high school staff member instead of middle school.

the eighth-grade next year.

“The advantage to students is that they will have a special education teacher who already knows them from eighth grade, who’s moving up to ninth grade with them, who knows their

needs, and can help them navigate the high school. It also gives Ms. Landry an opportunity to learn firsthand what the transition from eighth to ninth grade is like for students and what they need,” Collins said.

# Athletic trainer Jill Levine becomes physical education, health teacher

By Devon Musgrave-Johnson  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In addition to serving as the athletic trainer, Jill Levine has been hired to teach two blocks of physical education and health this year.

Levine has been an athletic trainer for four years. She worked at Georgetown High School before coming to Manchester Essex. She majored in athletic training at Endicott College.

Before the start of this school year, the school administration discovered that, due to scheduling errors, two blocks of physical education and health had no teacher assigned to them, so



DEVON MUSGRAVE-JOHNSON PHOTO

Trainer Jill Levine teaches two blocks of physical education. She said accepting a teaching position was a natural decision for her.

an opportunity for the position was offered to Levine.

According to Principal Patricia Puglisi, many individuals from both the athletic department and the school administration spoke very highly of Levine and suggested her for the position of teacher.

Puglisi set up an interview with Levine to determine if

she would be a good fit for the position. Soon after, the teaching job was offered to Levine.

“She was very impressive. I was happy to give her those two blocks to teach for the entire year,” Puglisi said.

When offered a position as physical education and health teacher, Levine decided to accept as well as continue to serve as athletic trainer. Accord-

ing to her, the decision to take the job was not a difficult one.

“I come from a family of educators, so it was something that I was considering anyway, but it opened up, and they asked me if I was interested,” Levine said.

The physical education and health department is also undergoing changes in curriculum this year. Classes will concentrate on educating students about the components of fitness as opposed to the elements of game play.

According to Levine, students have focused on understanding their own physical limitations by testing themselves in a series of activities centered around cardiovascular, circular, and weight training.

Levine looks forward to the upcoming year and the changes that it will bring for her and students.

“I think that she is amazing. We are lucky to have her as our teacher,” sophomore Toni Rerisi said.

### FUN FACTS

- Favorite season is winter
- Favorite animal is dog
- Favorite sport to play is figure skating
- Favorite sport to watch is football
- Favorite ice cream flavor is cookie dough

## CONTINUATIONS PUGLISI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 and genuinely cares for people, most importantly students,” social studies teacher James Wallimann said.

“She encourages teachers to take chances and think differently about education,” he said.

Though the majority of students have had minimal interaction with Puglisi thus far, some students, such as senior Kevin Iwata, met with Puglisi to make changes to their schedules.

“She was incredibly approachable,” Iwata said. “I felt like I was talking to a friend rather than a principal,” he said.

Various students have also acknowledged Puglisi’s concern for students’ interests.

“She really seems to care about our opinions,” Lewiecki said.

According to Murphy, Pug-

lisi communicates well with high school students because she “understands teenagers.”

She even listens to similar music as some students, specifically Rihanna and dance music. “It’s upbeat and energetic,” she said.

Students have also noted the “trendy” outfits Puglisi sports to school each day.

“I’d like to point out how well she dresses,” Lewiecki said. “I like her style.”

“I do enjoy shopping,” Puglisi said, “particularly with my daughter, who is quite the fashionista.”

For her first year as principal, Puglisi said she hopes to further develop the teachers’ extended to focused on goals targeted to improve student learning.

She said she has a passion for curriculum and instruction development.

“I’m kind of a geek,” she said.

Puglisi said this year she wants

to learn as much as she can about the school, the students, and attend as many student events as possible; she has already been to numerous home games.

“It’s encouraging to see her cheering on our sports teams,” Lewiecki said.

“I’m happy to be here, and I’m happy to be a Hornet,” Puglisi said.

### ADVISORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Deluca said she fully intends to follow a newly created schedule. There are 16 scheduled meeting times, usually for half an hour on Wednesdays.

In addition to those 16 basic meetings, Deluca has also scheduled four TURBO advisories. These are 120 minutes long.

“The first one is teambuilding,” Deluca said. Groups will participate in Project Adventure activities.

The next TURBO advisory is

called Workshop Wednesday. In these two hour time slots, students have the opportunity to sign up for everything from salsa dancing to leadership seminars, according to Deluca. There will be one in December and one in March.

According to English department chair Debra Isensee, teachers also appreciate the system overhaul.

“I not only like that it’s grouped by grade... but I also like that... we have a great curriculum now, which ... is relevant and organized,” she said.

Isensee added that she enjoys working with her advisory group and appreciates the program.

Puglisi said DuBois was one of six finalists for the job out of 24 initial applicants.

“I thought it was great to sit down with [Puglisi and Guditus] and get a sense of what their values were,” Dubois said. Dubois said she is excited

to run a cohesive department. “We as a group are very lucky to be working with one another,” she said. “We have teachers who are excited to be here and want to be as engaging as possible.”

### DUBOIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Puglisi expects that DuBois’ leadership will be evident this year and beyond. “I believe that she has strong leadership abilities,” she said. “I think she will be able to bring the social studies department forward and help them to evolve and change and bring a more global focus.”

“We are focusing on how to improve our students,” DuBois said. “We need to have student engagement in the classroom. Pushing students to challenge themselves and think critically is something we as a department are trying to do.”

Health Matters

Stress causes lifelong health issues

By Kendall McCormick  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

As the final days of summer begin to fade, relaxation time, for many students, quickly becomes replaced with hours of schoolwork, sports, extracurricular activities, and responsibilities. The new school year often amounts to an incredible amount of stress for students, but finding a way to cope with these new pressures is of the utmost importance.

Stress may seem like just an annoyance that affects many students who are extremely busy; however, a Stanford University study recently found that stress may have severely negative effects on the human body.

Not only does stress immensely weaken the immune system, clearing way for illness and disease, but it also can make an individual more prone to developing high blood pressure and heart conditions. According to Professor Robert Sapolsky, even neural functions such as learning, memory, and judgment can be impaired by stress.

Through his studies regarding stress in non-human primates, Sapolsky found that stress is a primal instinct inherent in most animals. The immediate effects of stress—an adrenaline rush, clearer perception, the mobilization of memory—were originally meant to help humans or other animals survive a life-



UNDER30CEO.COM PHOTO

The human body is not built to handle stress effects for a while. threatening situation.

However, the effects of stress were never supposed to last longer than a few hours at most. The human body was not built to yield these effects for months or years as they do today; therefore, stress has become harmful.

There is no clear-cut solution for eliminating stress, but methods of reducing it do exist.

A key component to reducing stress is upholding a balanced lifestyle that includes work and rest. Too much of either can hugely spike up stress levels. Especially in high school, when students participate in an endless list of activities, time for rest and relaxation is vital.

For many students, taking a break every once in a while is essential toward reducing stress levels and maintaining sanity. There is nothing wrong with designating a few hours for being unproductive to benefit a student’s health.

Of course, completing school-

work and applying to colleges are still necessities for many students, so another way to reduce stress is time management. Putting off anything until the last minute can result in unnecessary stress.

Organization can additionally help students stay on top of all assignments and activities.

Sapolsky cites happiness and self-esteem as two important factors in reducing stress. He makes a point to say that happiness is not necessarily defined by success. With all of the social and academic pressures that exist among high school students, maintaining confidence and self-assurance can help students cope with their mounting obligations and maintain a positive outlook.

Probably the most important way for students to relieve stress is to remember that high school does not define the rest of their lives, and many times, they create the stress from which they suffer.

NHS members attempt to boost attendance of tutoring program

By Oscar Heanue  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

National Honor Society members are focusing on improving the tutoring program this year. They have chosen to open the program up to a wider audience by including the middle school.

In light of last year’s poor attendance, NHS members have taken a new approach to getting the word out to students who could use the help offered by the program, according to NHS adviser Maria Burgess.

“Last year was the first year, so attendance was low,” Burgess said. This year, it was advertised at the middle and high school open house, and at staff meetings.

The NHS will also be advertising the program by posting flyers on the boards in the main hallways and by announcing the program in the morning.

To help boost attendance and improve quality, the program will be receiving assistance from tutors at the Sylvan Learning Center, Burgess



REBECCA EVEN PHOTO

NHS officers have an additional meeting on Tuesday mornings once every month, where they work on planning programs.

said.

“We corresponded last year with Sylvan. They were going to have a training session for the tutors that would give them a general format for tutoring, so that there’s some consistency to it. It didn’t happen last year, but it’s in the

works now,” Burgess said.

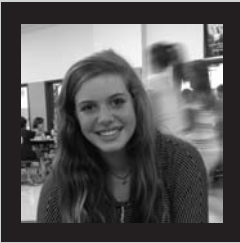
According to NHS president Rebecca Even, the program will

offer tutoring across all of the major subjects. This will also include certain electives that have been taken by NHS tutors.

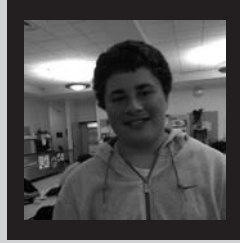
NHS students are excited to begin the revamped tutoring program.

“I think it’s going to be a great program, both for the kids being tutored, who are able to get help in key classes, and for the students who are actually tutoring. The program serves a dual purpose,” junior and new member Parker Malarkey said.

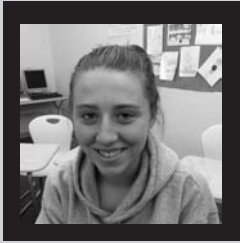
According to Even, students can begin signing up to receive tutoring on the second floor NHS bulletin board. Tutoring sign-ups will begin the week of Sep. 30.



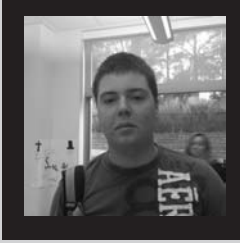
Freshman  
Avery Shaw:  
I once was a sheep.



Freshman  
Tim Grimes:  
When I was a banana.



Sophomore  
Mara Franklin:  
I was a mermaid. It was a one-piece outfit with a sparkly green top.

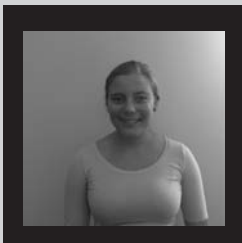


Sophomore  
Mckenzie Woodman:  
I was a dinosaur.

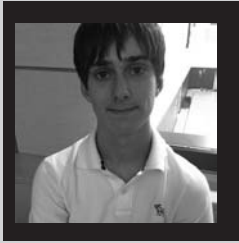
Student Speak

What was your favorite Halloween costume?

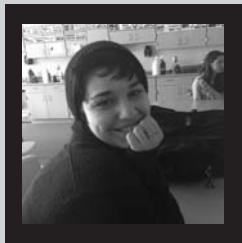
Junior  
Katie Glidden:  
Spongebob. My mom hand-made the costume.



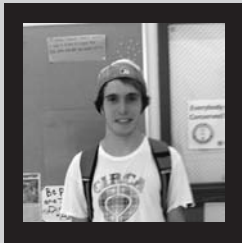
Junior  
Tyler Duda:  
When I was the Cat in the Hat and my brothers were thing 1 and thing 2.



Senior  
Athena Venetsanakos:  
When I was 8, I was Sully from ‘Monsters Inc.’



Senior  
Peter Cottingham:  
One year I was a blue Power Ranger.



# Global Issues’ Gardner Project focuses on reducing hunger

By Hannah Riordan  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Global Issues classes recently chose hunger as the cause for the third annual Gardner Project, a yearlong student-led fundraising initiative created by Class of 2011 graduate Megan Gardner.

In past years, classes have worked to provide access to clean water in underdeveloped countries and to rehabilitate the lives of victims of sex trafficking. The charitable component is often what attracts students to the class.

“I wanted to take a class with a purpose,” junior Global Issues student Eliza Logue said.

According to Global Issues teacher James Wallimann, this year’s students expressed their interest in alleviating the prevalent hunger problem in America; they recently partnered with the non-governmental organization Stop Hunger Now.

“We’re going to make packaged meals and send them to countries who don’t have enough food,” junior Global Issues student Fraley Morton said.

“Every 25 cents you raise, you are able to buy a packaged meal to feed one person,” Wallimann said.

The class goal is to raise \$10,000, which is enough to provide 40,000 packaged meals.



HANNAH ROIRDAN PHOTO

**James Wallimann assigns students volunteer jobs on the board while discussing the next fundraiser. Students will work collectively and individually outside of the class to raise money.**

Wallimann said part of what compelled the Global Issues classes about Stop Hunger Now was that students eventually package the meals themselves at the school.

“Our goal is to get the community involved, get past students from the Gardner Project involved, get ourselves involved, get a huge assembly line on the football field or in the gym, and package roughly 40,000 meals,” he said.

Throughout the school year, while studying the Global Issues curriculum about modern current events and foreign affairs, students will work to raise money for their cause.

During class, students volunteered to help with several different fundraisers such as a dodgeball tournament, teacher talent show, penny wars between the elementary, middle, and high schools, restaurant nights, and a haunted house around Halloween.

One class period in every six-day schedule cycle is devoted to working on the Gardner Project. Additionally, Wallimann said students will work both collectively and individually outside of class to plan fundraising events to help them reach their goal of helping those in need of basic sustenance.

**‘Our goal is to get the community involved, get past students from the Gardner Project involved, get ourselves involved, and package roughly 40,000 meals.’**

-JAMES WALLIMANN

# New adviser joins Student Council, aims to increase student involvement

By Emily Jaworski  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Representatives of the Student Council are excited to welcome a new adviser. History teacher Abigail Donnelly has replaced former adviser Sarah Deluca.

Setting several central goals, Donnelly joined Student Council to work with students and convey to them that community service is important and that it is key to have activities that encourage student involvement she said.

Deluca decided to hand the position to a new leader, concluding that she brought the program to a point where a new chief would be beneficial and that it was time to have a new leader.

Donnelly is eager to achieve several goals, explaining how “fostering more school spirit” will enhance direct student action day to day, which according to Donnelly, is very significant. She hopes to emphasize school in-



EMILY JAWORSKI PHOTO

**Student council advisor Abigail Donnelly’s goals for this year are to enhance direct student action and promote community service.**

volvement, to have more fun activities, and push class officers to think of ways to let fun merge with productivity.

“Be a nag, give constant reminders, and let them fall,” Deluca said as a piece of advice to Donnelly.

According to Deluca, Donnelly should demonstrate how important it is to let the students experience downfall to help them learn for the future.

**‘She will be a very satisfactory new leader and will have a positive impact.’**

-DELANEY BYRNE

## STUDENT PROFILE

Liddy  
DeConto



By Isadora Decker-Lucke  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

**What is your dream vacation?**  
Fiji.

**What is your favorite movie?**  
‘The Devil Wears Prada’

**Who is your celebrity crush?**  
Ryan Gosling.

**What is the best nail polish color?**  
Coral.

**What is your most embarrassing moment?**  
Falling down in my ski boots at a ski lodge.

**Where did you go to middle school?**  
Brookwood.

**Favorite soda?**  
Coke.

**Who is your favorite professional athlete?**  
Paul Rabil.

**What is your favorite month?**  
June.

**What is your favorite sport to play?**  
Lacrosse.

**What is your favorite subject?**  
English.

Where are they now ?

Lisa and Sarah Goddard

By **Natasha Statz-Geary**  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

On the surface, it may seem that twins Lisa and Sarah Goddard share much in common: both are seniors at Brown University, are double majoring, and were considered for Fulbright scholarships to teach English in Taiwan and France, respectively. But these 2010 graduates each have their own niche within Brown, chose Brown for different reasons, and have very different future plans. “I chose Brown because of the open curriculum (we don’t have requirements to fulfill besides completing a major), because it was close enough to home but not too close, and because out of the schools I got into, it felt like the best fit,” Sarah said.

Lisa was attracted to Brown because of its diverse and talented student body. “Brown attracts a very interesting student body --everyone does a hundred different and unique things. Everyone has something new and exciting to offer the rest of the community,” she said. Both Goddards agree that studying abroad was one of the highlights of college. “My study abroad experience in Edinburgh, Scotland, and a 6-week program in Salamanca, Spain, were definitely some highlights. I met a bunch of really cool people from all over the world and gained invaluable travel skills,” Lisa said. Sarah, who studied abroad during her junior spring, is majoring in Community Health and Architectural Studies, has applied for a Fulbright to teach



COURTESY OF LISA GODDARD

**Lisa and Sarah stand in front of Versailles in France during their trip to Paris this passed spring.**

English in France and is planning on applying to numerous graduate programs. “I’ll be applying to a few different graduate programs--one in Behavioral and Social Sciences Intervention at Brown, one in Architectural History at University College London, and probably one in Urban Planning and Public Health at Columbia,” she said. Lisa, who is double majoring

in Language and Social Behavior, is considering a variety of different plans for the future. “I also took a graduate course while abroad in Edinburgh, and would like to go back there to finish my master’s degree in Applied Linguistics. I have spent some time working with children at the Beverly School for the Deaf and would love to spend a year or two working in a classroom there (and get to use my

ASL!). Eventually, I am thinking about law school to study discrimination law,” she said. Guidance counselor Karen D’Amour says that the Goddards’ success comes as no surprise. “The Goddards were always very thorough when doing their homework. They treated it not as a task to get done but as an opportunity to further enhance their education,” D’Amour said.

# Historic downtown home preserves Gilded Age legacy

By **Sara Stanton**  
INDEPENDENT WRITER

On the road to Singing Beach, a cottage sits on the right hand side of the intersection of Masconomo Street and Beach Street. Looking back a century, though, an enormous hotel stood there instead. In 1867, an actor named Junius Brutus Booth Jr. and his actress wife, Agnes Booth, came to Manchester and bought a property. Originally, the house they built was used as a summer house. As time went on, the Booths believed that the house was becoming too small for them and their actor and actress friends that visited. To accommodate the numerous amounts of people they invited over, they decided to build



SARA STANTON PHOTO CREDIT

**Current property owner Goerge Smith poses with the main building, once a part of the Masconomo Hotel.** a hotel. During the summer of 1878, the hotel opened for business and was a hotspot for actors and actresses to interact. Some major actors and actresses at the hotel were Junius Brutus Booth

Jr. himself, Agnes Booth, Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth, the man that killed President Abraham Lincoln. “The most famous feature was the plays out here. Those were big deals,” said George Smith, the current owner of the house. These plays, typically held in the lawn, were executed by the Booth family and their friends. Two of the plays held on the lawn were “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “As You Like It.” The hotel also offered dances, parties, and concerts. Sports offered on the hotel’s eleven and a half acres of land included swimming (in the ocean), lawn tennis, billiards, bowling and boating. In 1883 Junius died. Then later, in 1910, Agnes died. The house was then bought by a John

R. Schoeffel, who continued to run the hotel. Around 1915 he died and the hotel was given to one of his friends, Isabel Sullivan. She continued to run the hotel, but in 1919 the hotel caught fire. After the fire, the cottage part of the hotel was restored and became a house once again. The property was then sold to the “Singing Beach Trust” in April of 1931. Thirteen years later, a smaller portion of the property was sold to become a private residence. People today can see what remains of the once grand hotel, along with a few small cottages that stretch as far back as Blossom Lane. “The most outstanding physical feature is obviously the location,” Smith said.

# Class teaches students how to transition from high school to real world

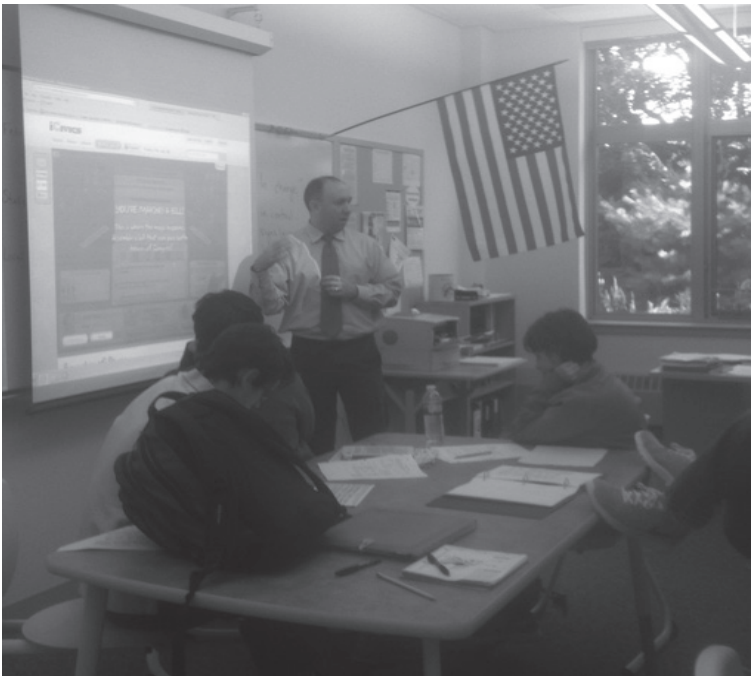
By **Lila Hughes**  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Transitioning out of high school is difficult for anyone, but the student services department has created a class to help students with special needs to be prepared for whatever lies after high school. Whether students choose to go to college, become part of the work force, or live independently, the transitions class was created so that students could be “their own best advocates,” transitions teacher David Vehling said. The class is set up as a two-year program starting junior year. In these two years, the curriculum is broken up into three main topics: daily living skills, self-determination and interpersonal skills, and employment skills. According to Vehling, the class is currently focusing on how government works on all levels and also how to be a good citizen. More specifically, they are learning about the responsi-

bilities with voting and jury duty. “My favorite things we have done so far in transitions is learning about budgeting and how to balance a checkbook,” junior Ellie Higgins said. The class also focuses the kinds of resources students will have available to them after graduation. According to Vehling, transitions classes are currently a “hot topic” within school districts and the department of education because of how beneficial the class is. Furthermore, they are in the process of creating a special licensure program for transitions specialists because there is such an emphasis on the benefits of the class. “We help kids pass MCAS and help them take tests, but in terms of living on your own,

practical life skills just get shoved to one side,” Vehling said. According to Vehling, five years ago the school got rid of coursework, such as home economics and woodworking, in favor of more challenging academics. With more challenging academics, districts are more competitive with one another and are able to make a name for themselves, which is to the detriment of a lot of students,” Vehling said. “Every school has many students who would derive benefit from vocational and prevocational classes. I would not describe these classes as easier than traditional academics but just focused on different skills,” Director of Student Services Allison Collins said. “It could be a great oppor-

‘It could be a great opportunity for students to gain skills where they don’t feel confident.’  
-DAVID VEHLING



LILA HUGHES PHOTO CREDIT

**David Vehling works with transitions students during class.**

tunity for other students to be involved in the transitions class, whether they can gain skills where they don’t feel confident

in, or even for increasing mentoring and partnerships to build relationships with students they don’t normally interact with,” he said.

# Tattoos

## Should tattoos be socially acceptable?

Pro

Emily Arntsen

Look at it this way: if 11% of the U.S. population has tattoos then 11% of the U.S. population is going to grow old with tattoos. And if 11% of the U.S. population grows old with tattoos, you'll be in good company when your skin sags.

Still not convinced? Put away a couple grand for laser tattoo removal when you're 65. You'll be fine.

Sarcasm aside, I do believe certain people look exquisite with the right tattoos. There's nothing sexier than a sailor with nautical ink or a coffee shop girl with pin-up tattoos.

Sure, I've seen some ugly tattoos, and yeah, there are a lot of stupid ones out there, but I applaud the person who can rock full sleeves. Let me paint you a picture.

If I look closely, I can see muted colors and shapes underneath her pale pink tights and her light tulle skirt. When she swings her back, pictures dance across her shoulder blades. On her arms, constellations are drawn between freckles. Boston Dance Company's principle ballerina, their Sugar Plum Fairy, has tattoos from her neck to her ankles. Perfect.

It's outrageous, and I admire it. The contrast between the harsh, black ink and her flawless, ivory skin is beautiful, and startling. How off-putting it is to see a tutu alongside tattoos.

Though her tattoos are edgy and interesting, some people's are not as successful.

Tattoos can be categorized into six sections: meaningful; beautiful; meaningful and beautiful; meaningless; ugly; and meaningless and ugly. The first three types are acceptable, sometimes even cool; they're unique, intentional, witty, and/or aesthetically pleasing.

The last three categorizes are home to the Asian characters with their English translation written in script underneath them. They're home to the butterflies, the dragons, the dates of deceased grandmothers, the names of previous lovers, the "I just turned 18" rebellion, the "I had a rough night" regrets, the religious symbols, the astrological signs, and the flags of distant nationalities. These aren't so cool.

Even though I don't think I'll ever get a tattoo, I do think they're attractive on the right person. It's the beautiful, pale-skinned, heavily-tattooed, 20-somethings, the walking, talking art exhibits, the gypsies and the pirates, who convince me that sometimes tattoos rock.

Con

Landon Komishane

Tattoos have become a prominent part of popular culture in the United States and the world. However, tattoos reflect badly on society as a whole.

The main argument against tattoos is the image of tattoos and how some people view them in society. Tattoos do not look good on people. The artwork may be appealing to the people getting them, but from the point of view of more conservative members of society, tattoos just look disgusting. The ink basically becomes the skin.

Putting ink on skin creates a distraction from the actual person. People will see a different color on someone's skin, and that will immediately detract from everything else on their body.

The tattoo image has earned a negative reputation in American society; people view them as criminal because they are impulsive. Having a tattoo can affect someone in the job world. If someone sees something like a tattoo on an applicant, that applicant will not be hired because of the reputation tattoos have in society.

Mistakes can also come when getting tattoos. If a girl foolishly decides to get a tattoo with their boyfriend's name on it, she will feel very stupid when that relationship ends.

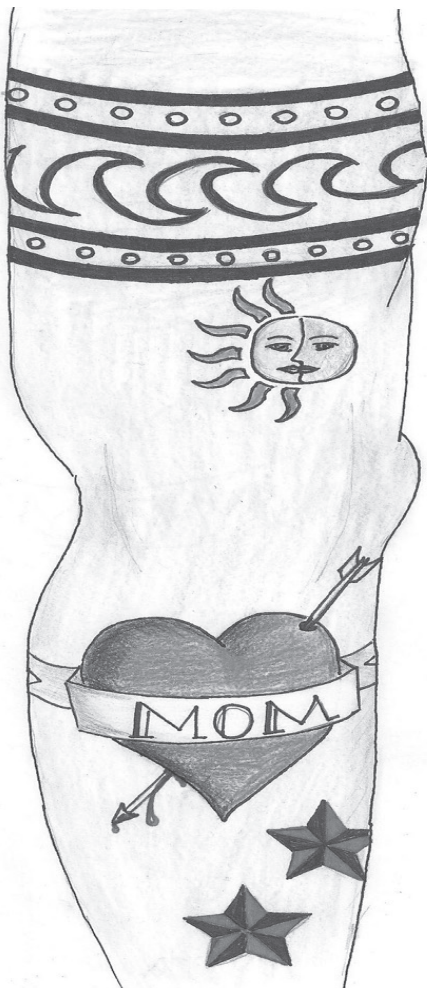
The quality of tattoos also varies. Even when someone gets a tattoo, tattoo artists who aren't experts can mess up, so that person will be regretting that decision when the tattoo artist spells a word wrong on their arm.

Tattoos are not only bad for an image, but health concerns come with tattoos. They are painful to get on and even more painful to remove. Even if people want to endure that pain, they have possible risks with their health.

According to the Mayo Clinic, diabetes, heart problems, and circulation issues are some of the health issues associated with the healing process of a tattoo. Tattoos can also produce skin infections in which the bacteria could result in tuberculosis.

Tattoos are addictive as well. Once people get one tattoo, they want more and will end up getting multiple tattoos.

The short-term effects may seem pleasant for the people who get tattoos, but they cannot escape the many negative long-term effects. Eventually, they will regret getting tattoos as the negatives keep piling up.



ETHAN  
ANDERSON  
ILLUSTRATION

## Seniors lack privileges, share outdoor seating with juniors

By Fiona Davis  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Each year, senior privileges seem to dwindle, and this school year is no different.

The senior wing and locker area disappeared after the move to the new high school building five years ago.

To accommodate the need for more classroom space, the school converted the senior study hall room into a classroom two years ago.

This year, seniors must share the outdoor lunch seating with the junior class.

Sharing is not the problem from the perspective of most seniors. The core of the issue is that starting in freshman year, students look forward to the privileges they will be afforded in the last year of high school, only to be

disappointed when those privileges do not materialize.

Sitting outside at lunch is one of the few privileges left to seniors, and arriving at lunch to find the benches on the deck filled by juniors is frustrating.

Often, seniors are relegated to the hallway or the community room where there is generally not enough seating for all of the seniors at a particular lunch.

After completing three difficult

**Sitting outside is one of the few senior privileges. Arriving at lunch to find the benches filled by juniors is frustrating.**



FIONA DAVIS PHOTO

**Underclassmen look forward to senior privileges such as sitting outside for lunch. Due to lack of space in the cafeteria, this privilege has been compromised, and juniors now use most of the space.**

years of high school, not to mention balancing a fourth year with the added stress of college applications, seniors deserve at least a small number of privileges as reward for dedication and hard work in the school community.

One solution to this issue is for

juniors to sit outside only if all of the seniors who want to sit outside already have seats.

Besides, the only time seniors will want to sit outside is in the early fall, when the weather is warm enough. In the spring, seniors will be on SCORE, and

juniors will be able to have the entire deck during lunches.

Senior privileges add to the overall morale and sense of community within the senior class, attributes that are increasingly important as the time they have left together begins to fade.



School fails to consistently enforce dress code

By Sofia del Valle  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

According to the high school student handbook, “the school supports individual expression in hair and dress styles, but set forth [dress code] regulations regarding modesty and appropriateness” to ensure that the school’s environment remains “respectful.”

This is a reasonable statement, but the inconsistency of implementing the dress code makes seemingly objective policies quite subjective.

Teachers, guidance counselors, and the nurse are meant to report to administration any person who violates the dress code, and in most cases the student will adjust his or her clothing to fit the rule. In extreme cases, a student will receive a detention if the offense is so severe. Dress code, though, should be less about the consequences and more about knowing how to present oneself in different settings.

Some students are more apt

High school girls are at a disadvantage in terms of dressing “appropriately” for school.

to be written up than others for a variety of reasons. The teacher who writes up the student may have taught him or her in class before, or the student may be outgoing and therefore more likely to be spotted by teachers in general.

In general, high school girls are at a disadvantage in terms of dressing “appropriately” for school. The handbook states that “a student may not wear shorts or skirts that are shorter than the length of one’s arm fully extended to his or her side,” but in reality, stores don’t sell Bermuda shorts anymore.

Shorts are less of an issue, however. Among female students in the high school, cropped or low-cut shirts are widely worn and considered stylish but are often distracting to students and teachers.

Though by no means is school the place to push fashion boundaries, the media’s pressure on girls may subconsciously influence the way they dress. While it is reasonable and necessary for teachers to monitor dress code, calling a student out for his or her outfit should be done privately and constructively in a manner that teaches the boy or girl rather than reprimands.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Mandatory athletic meetings become redundant

Student athletes attended their first mandatory athletic meeting of the school year on Sept. 7. Students later turned to Twitter, Facebook, and other social media to voice their discontent, as the meeting turned out to present the same information as it had in past seasons.

The athletic office requires parents and student athletes to sit through three of these meetings, one Sunday night per season, to hear about MIAA rules that never seem to noticeably change.

The meetings are approximately an hour and a half long; however, when added to the time athletes spend with their respective teams, the entire event takes about three hours.

While the meetings do not get in the way of any specific activity, students and parents constantly ask why they must be subject to this inconvenience three times a year on the same material.

This is especially inconvenient considering that the meetings are scheduled for Sunday night at the dinner hour, a time normally reserved for family.



CHARLIE DAVIS PHOTO

The three mandatory athletic meetings each year repeat the same material and bore the attendees. The material is repetitive and uninteresting to students, wasting everyone’s time on Sunday nights.

Athletic director Kelly Porcaro said she believes that the meetings are still necessary. “I understand that it’s a commitment and it’s hard for me to get to them too. But I think

Students... constantly ask why they must be subject to this inconvenience.

it’s so need,” she said. The redundancy of the

important for the program to make sure that everyone is on the same page and everybody has the information that they

meetings diminishes the impact of the message that the athletic department wishes to convey. The frequency leads many of the attendees, parents and students alike, to use their cell phones and whisper to one another while the information is being conveyed. One meeting is understandable, but three are too excessive.

Applicants’ race remains too significant in college admissions

By Kendall McCormick  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Many colleges today pride themselves in their increasingly objective admissions by boasting about their “need-blind” admissions process; however, I have yet to visit a single school that claims to be “race-blind.”

If colleges do not want to judge the competence of their applicants based on factors that applicants have no control over, such as their parents’ yearly income, then why do they still make applicants fill out their race on applications?

Affirmative Action, a precedent established in 1961 under John F. Kennedy, discouraged discrimination in employers/admissions committees by requiring

certain quotas of individuals from different races to be filled. Originally intended to compensate for racial injustices committed for decades, Affirmative Action still retains an active role in college admissions.

Though initially well-intended, this act is outdated and unfairly continues to compare the competence of individuals based on race.

The college application process is stressful and competitive already; students have no idea why they are accepted, waitlisted, or denied. For all they know, it could simply be because of their race.

There is no reason why an applicant’s race should be of any relevance to admissions officers. The fact that applicants still have to fill out a bubble defining their

heritage means that admissions officers must actually look at it when making their decisions, which is scary.

I cannot think of one viable reason why a person’s race should sway an admissions officer’s decision one way or another, but it sometimes does. Why else would the question remain on the concisely measured out common application? In today’s society, when race issues still remain an issue, the decision to keep widening the gap between races is inexplicable.

One of the main problems with the college admissions

process is how subjective and biased it is. There is no way to objectively measure only the qualifications of each applicant. However, the decision should never come down to a factor that the student has absolutely no control over, such as race.

Making decisions based off of race is almost as inappropriate as making decisions based on the color of an applicant’s eyes. Instead of focusing on being the most academically competitive student, applicants

peruse decades of family history in search of some way that they can avoid putting down any overly common heritage.

There is no reason why an applicant’s race should be of any relevance to admissions officers.

the INDEPENDENT

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The Independent reserves the right not to print letters and to edit the content for clarity and length. While letters can be critical of an individual’s actions, they cannot slander or libel.

The staff editorial may be considered the opinion of the staff of The Independent.

By-line opinions are written by individual staff members and should not be considered representative of the entire staff.

The Independent staff hopes that all Manchester and Essex citizens will take advantage of this forum. The paper is meant to serve the school community, and we are open to suggestions to help it better serve its purposes.

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FOOTBALL

**Coach:** Mike Athanas  
**Captains:** Seniors Chris Dumont and Nate Riehl  
**Record last year:** 3-8  
**Record this year:** 2-1  
**Goals:** Make the Division V playoffs and advance as far as possible. Improve as a team and win Cape Ann League games  
**Impact players:** Seniors Chris Dumont, Nate Riehl, Seth Cohen, Will Davis, Liam Logue, and Mike Davis, and juniors Craig Carter, Bret Williams, Dom Cirone, and Doug Rodier  
**Coach’s quote:** “Playoffs week starts Nov. 1, so obviously we want to make it that far. We have a good chance this year because we don’t have to win the league. We’re just trying to do the same old practices week after week to stay steady.”  
**Captain’s quote:** “Without the three [suspended] players, it’s kind of tough, but we’re getting through it. A lot of the guys stepped up We have seven more games to make it to the playoffs, so we’re just going to keep doing the best we can.”-Senior Nate Riehl



Chris Dumont



Nate Riehl

CROSS COUNTRY



Cameron Holley



Charlie Davis



Fiona Davis



Lindsey Duff

**Coach:** Andrew Migonis and Mark Dawson  
**Captains:** Seniors Fiona Davis and Lindsey Duff, junior Cameron Holley, and sophomore Charlie Davis  
**Record last year:** 5-5  
**Record this year:** 4-2  
**Goals:** Win the Cape Ann Small school division and qualify both teams for States  
**Impact players:** Senior Fiona Davis, junior Cameron Holley and Olivia Lantz, sophomores Charlie Davis and Nathan Evans, and freshmen Spencer Feuerbach, Julia Potter and Maura McCormick  
**Coach’s quote:** “I’m really excited that we have depth like we haven’t before. Our total roster this year is 54 runners, so hopefully we can weather injury and sickness and still have solid teams.”-Andrew Migonis  
**Captain’s quote:** “I’m really excited this season because we didn’t graduate any seniors, and we made States last year. We definitely want to do better this year and possibly win the Cape Ann Small and be a top contender for the divisional championship.”-Sophomore Charlie Davis

FIELD HOCKEY

**Coach:** Kara Beauregard  
**Captains:** Seniors Brittany Smith, Anna Heffernan, Sarah Beckmann, and Taylor Meek  
**Record last year:** 18-2-1  
**Record this year:** 9-0-1  
**Goals:** Make it to the Division II North final and possibly win  
**Impact players:** Seniors Brittany Smith, Anna Heffernan, Sarah Beckmann, Madeline Dahlin, and Taylor Meek  
**Coach’s quote:** “I would like to keep them on the track they’ve been on for the last few years. We have a lot of depth this year. Everyone contributes something.”  
**Captain’s quote:** “We will face numerous difficult teams in the upcoming weeks, so remaining undefeated will be a challenge. Hopefully we will continue communicating and winning, and it would be awesome to make it to North Finals like we’ve done for many years prior.”-Senior Anna Heffernan



Brittany Smith



Anna Heffernan



Sarah Beckmann



Taylor Meek

BOYS’ SOCCER

**Coach:** Robert Bilsbury  
**Captains:** Seniors Sean Gutierrez and Jack Freed  
**Record last year:** 8-8-4  
**Record this year:** 2-3-1  
**Goals:** To make States for the second year in a row and to compete in the state championship.  
**Impact players:** Senior Tao Sardonicus, juniors Parker Edington and Lucas Firme, and sophomore George Lantz.  
**Coach’s quote:** “I love that we are all equal. There are no superstars, but we are all good. There’s a parity with our team...I’m looking for all of us to step up this year.”  
**Captain’s quote:** “Our team chemistry is a key of our success. We have new people stepping up and scoring or saving goals for us.”  
-Senior Sean Gutierrez



Sean Gutierrez



Jack Freed

GIRLS’ SOCCER



Kelly Moore

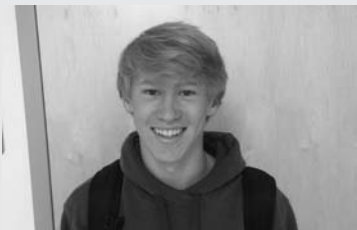


Sarah Lewiecki

**Coach:** Bryan Shields  
**Captains:** Seniors Sarah Lewiecki and Kelly Moore  
**Record last year:** 4-14-4  
**Record this year:** 0-4-1  
**Goals:** To be the first team in the program to make the state tournament.  
**Impact players:** Senior Rachel Daley, juniors Marissa Tiberii and Phebe Biggar, and sophomore Bella Mastendino.  
**Coach’s quote:** “We have a lot of returning players that are going to do some good things for us...we’re definitely making steady improvement.”  
**Captain’s quote:** “The team looks pretty solid in general. Defense is doing a good job. We just have to work on our offense some more.”-Senior Kelly Moore

GOLF

**Coach:** Jane McConnell  
**Captains:** Seniors Kevin Carter and Petey Morton, juniors Ben Bichet and Cam Tuttle.  
**Record last year:** 14-2  
**Record this year:** 7-1  
**Goals:** To make and perform well in States again.  
**Impact players:** Seniors Kevin Carter and Petey Morton, and juniors Ben Bichet, Cam Tuttle, and Michael Fuca.  
**Coach’s quote:** “I think we are every bit as strong as we were last year, and perhaps stronger. We graduated only one senior, so this year there’s an opportunity for all of our players to really excel.”  
**Captain’s quote:** “All of our players [have] a tremendous amount of skill and love for the game...[both] will propel our team to a better record than in past years.”-Junior Cam Tuttle



Ben Bichet



Cam Tuttle



Kevin Carter



Petey Morton

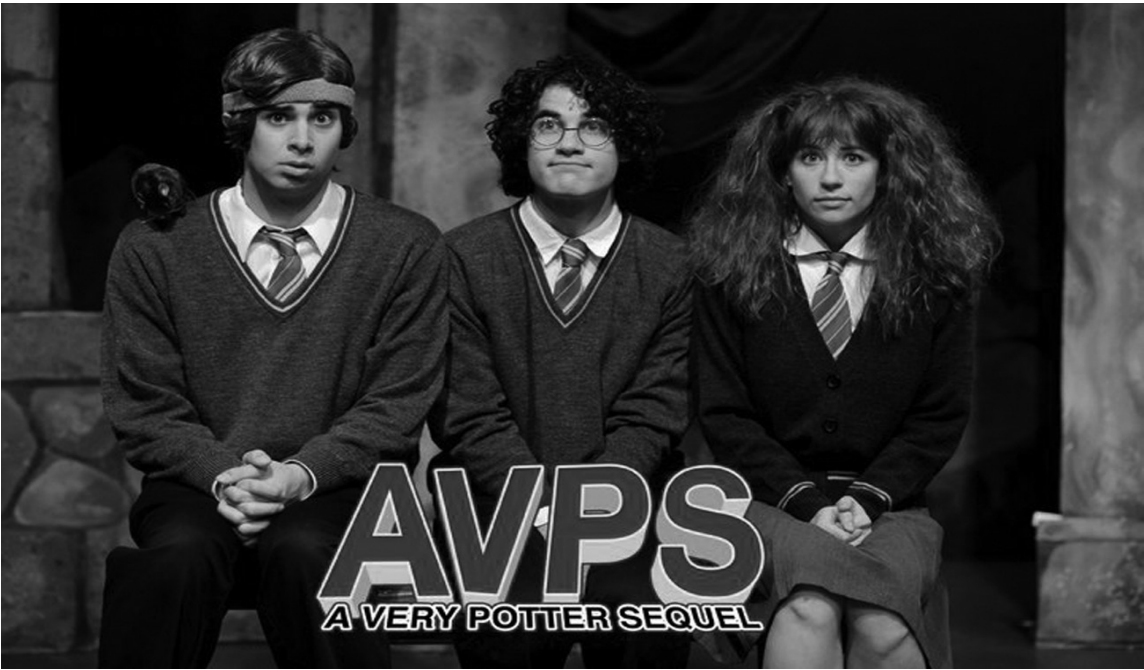
# You Know You Love YouTube

## Starkid Production Company prepares to upload new play

By Devon Musgrave-Johnson  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Starkid Productions, most well known for their parody-play “A Very Potter Musical,” has started the production of their seventh play, “Twisted.” The company began as a college theater group at The University of Michigan. But after uploading their play “A Very Potter Musical” to YouTube, Starkid began to gain a large following on the Internet. Their fans, called “Starkids,” grew with each video that the company released. Their YouTube channel has accumulated over 345,000 subscribers since

their first upload four years ago. Among their plays is the “Very Potter Series,” a trilogy poking fun at the “Harry Potter” book and movie series. Each play is uploaded in several 10-15-minute scenes, making up a full length play. Other popular plays released by Starkid Productions include “Holy Musical B@Man,” a spoof of the cheesy Sunday morning Batman cartoons, and “Star-ship,” a comedy about an alien planet. The cast of each play varies as students who graduate may not stay with the company and new members join each year. They have also completed two concert tours across America, performing popular songs from each of their plays. In July of this year, “Twisted”



STARKID PRODUCTIONS YOUTUBE.COM

**A college theater company from the University of Michigan advertises their new parody video “A Very Potter Sequel,” a follow-up to their first internet claim-to-fame, “A Very Potter Musical.”**

appeared briefly on stage in Chicago. “Twisted” has not, however, been uploaded to the Starkid YouTube page. Little is known about the actual plot of the play. A short teaser trailer for the play was released during the on-line premier of “A Very Potter Senior Year” in March of this

year. “Twisted” will center on the untold story of the royal vizier, Jafar, from Disney’s “Aladdin.” A few members of Starkid Productions have moved on to roles in popular TV shows. Darren Criss, who plays Blaine Anderson in the hit FOX TV show “Glee,” played Harry Freakin’

Potter in the “Very Potter Series” and wrote music for other plays put on by the company. Starkid Joey Richter has secured a role in the Disney Channel original series “Jessie,” and other Starkid members have toured as part of the comedy act “Airport for Birds.”

# Students walk the runway at seArts fashion show



REBECCA PACCONE PHOTO

**Seniors Julia Paccone, Vanessa Kelly, Emily Arntsen and junior Hannah Thorne model in seArts runway show in Gloucester.**

By Lila Hughes  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Strutting down the runway, students showed off their wearable art pieces in the seARTS fashion show hosted at the Gloucester Cruise Port on Sept. 29. The goal of the seARTS arts fashion show is to promote the arts, specifically up-and-coming artists and local art studios. seARTS, a non-profit organization, hosts the event every other year to help support artists all over Cape Ann. The four students who participated in the wearable art collection with clothing made out of unconventional materials were senior Julia Paccone, senior Emily Arntsen, junior Hannah Thorne, and junior Julia Whitten. Each student has participated in at least one art class throughout her high school career, including mixed media, art foundations, and portfolio. The event began with lo-

cal vendors selling their hand-made crafts, such as jewelry and scarves, before the runway show. The fashion show then took place for about two hours. According to senior Emily Arntsen, the fashion show was split up into specific themes. For example, there was a nautical-themed runway collection that included dresses made out of sails and navy and white striped clothing. There was also a fine arts clothing collection, which included painted silks and wool, and another made out of live plants made by Montserrat College students. “If I hadn’t taken the mixed media, class I never would have made that dress, and I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to model alongside local artists,” Arntsen said. According to Paccone, each

person modeled on a runway while someone described the piece and the inspiration behind it. Once they walked off stage, models would approach different tables so the audience could see each piece up close. “For me, it was physically uncomfortable to walk down the runway because my dress is very itchy, but it was pretty natural and easy to walk in front of a crowd,” Paccone said. “I wish I could be a model every day; we got our hair and make up done and I wish that was my life,” Arntsen said. out of all the clothing in the fashion show, Thorne ended up winning the best dress award for her pencil shaving and paper dress called “Thought Process.” “It was the first time I’d ever walked in a fashion show, and it was a really fun night. It was also inspiring to see all the art created by artists in the area,” Arntsen said.

**‘It was a great experience to model my art in person.’**

-JULIA PACCONE

# Shake Shack offers simple menu, comfortable atmosphere

By Fiona Davis  
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Shake Shack, a simple burger and shake joint that opened its first location in 2004, is a unique fast-food chain. Unlike McDonald’s, Burger King, or Wendy’s, Shake Shack does not engage in any advertisement campaigns. Even without advertisements, the franchise has expanded from its first location in Madison Square Park in New York City to locations across the Northeast. With a store in nearby Chestnut Hill, Mass., Shake Shack is a great destination for an outing to Boston, and the open-air stand makes a great night out in New

York where there is outdoor seating under the lights of the city. Though the lines tend to be long, the food is worth the wait. Shake Shack’s menu includes burgers, hotdogs, French fries, and several varieties of ice cream. The five burger options range from traditional, to vegetarian, to burgers with bacon and ranch dressing. The burgers cost between \$3.75 and \$8.95. Shake Shack is known for the “black and white” milkshake, made of half vanilla and half chocolate ice cream. Traditional milkshakes cost \$5. Another staple of the dessert menu is the concrete, which is custard that, once topped with several candies and sweets, costs \$4.50. A bonus for customers who only wish to order desserts is

the desserts express line that moves more quickly than the regular line. Shake Shack offers both eat in and takeout options, and they have bags with boxes in the bottom for easy carrying and food transportation. The chain also sells T-shirts, hats and other merchandise with the Shake Shack logo, so customers can commemorate their trip to a Shake Shack location. Shake Shack’s modern architecture and seating create a fun and comfortable atmosphere, making the restaurants great places to grab lunch with friends. The Chestnut Hill store that opened last spring is located at 49 Boylston Street, a convenient location for Boston shoppers and day-trippers.



FIONA DAVIS PHOTO

**Shake Shack opens new fast food restaurant in Chestnut Hill, Mass.**

# ‘The Way Way Back’ inspires bittersweet feelings in viewers



By Kendall McCormick  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Set over the course of one summer, “The Way Way Back,” directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, portrays the difficulties of a quiet, awkward teenage boy who struggles to cope with his recently divorced mother’s new relationship. Fourteen-year-old Duncan, played by Liam James, unenthusiastically accompanies his mother Pam (Toni Collette) and her boyfriend Trent (Steve Carrell) to Trent’s summer home on Cape Cod where they meet up with some of Trent’s friends. The friends are all very wealthy and excessively friendly, enlisting Pam into their endless array of extravagant activities. As Pam’s time becomes wrapped up in trying to fit in with Trent’s friends, people very different from her, Duncan begins to feel isolated. Moreover, Trent is verbally abusive toward Duncan, especially when Pam is not there



FACEBOOK.COM

Teenagers unenthusiastically bond over forced summer together.

to hear him, leaving Duncan to loathe both Trent and his beach house even more. Duncan’s continual segregation leads him to spend time exploring the town on a frilly pink bike that he finds in the garage. Eventually, Duncan stumbles upon a water park and befriends many of the employees, even taking a job himself. Duncan becomes very close with the owner of the water park, Owen (Sam Rockwell), beginning to view him as almost a father-figure. Though the film takes a generally dark tone, portraying a very difficult time for

an already socially awkward teen, comical scenes throughout the movie lighten the mood. The score, composed by Rob Simonsen, adds intensity to the more dramatic scenes, while brightening up the funny scenes. “The Way Way Back” emphasizes the universally important themes of growing up, independence, and self-discovery, leaving viewers feeling uplifted. Beside the fact that “The Way Way Back” is a fun summer movie, it also holds a special connection to Manchester, as Faxon is a Manchester native who still spends time there over the summer.

## WEBsurfer

By Connor Senay  
INDEPENDENT STAFF



## Arcade Fire Websites

Lately, there has been a general concept of interactive videos that has been popping up in a few noteworthy places on the web by music artists over the last few years. One band in particular, Arcade Fire, has put up three websites that house visually stimulating and psychedelic videos to promote their albums. Their newest and most noteworthy video, on justarefleksor.com, is a promotion of the recently released album and song named “Refleksor.” The video shows an African woman in a village living life and then struggling against a group of criminals in her neighborhood. You interact by moving your mouse to focus on certain parts on the screen and adjust the direction of the reflecting light, which makes you feel like you are a part of the video. The previous two videos on beonlineb.com (an anagram for “Neon Bible”) and thewildernessdowntown.com (referencing a line from their song “We Used to Wait”) were released a few years ago, but the recent one has brought more focus to them as it has been released in succession with their new album. Each video uses interaction from the audience completely differently. It makes a normal video all the more captivating.

## Complex.com

Complex.com, the website for a popular magazine that talks about shoes, music, and everything else under the sun is worth checking out. Complex Magazine was started in 2002 by Marc Ecko. Its “complicated” but easy to browse website covers a variety of topics ranging from music reviews to releases of new sneakers, helpful tips in life, controversial moments in sports and music history, and much more. The articles are opinionated, but they give good reason about their opinions on the topic (such as in music reviews). A good audience for this website would be high school kids or anyone who is extremely bored and is stuck searching online for something to do. It gives helpful advice about life in general, and its vast amount of articles and lists could entertain someone for hours on end.

## Apps of My Eye

Cool apps for a smartphone or tablet

By Rachel Daley  
INDEPENDENT EDITOR



## Duolingo

Interested in learning the basics of a new language before you go abroad? What if you could stay in the comfort of your bed while broadening your worldliness? Duolingo, a free app available for smartphones or tablets, offers an innovative way to learn Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Italian, and English at the palm of your hand. Duolingo, unlike other apps, is completely free of advertisements and fees. The app is divided into levels, easing the user into complex sentence structures, grammar, and words. Each language starts with a level called “basics,” introducing the accents of the language and common words used. Duolingo is addictive, turning learning into a tricky, interactive game. The activities on each level range from translating words from English to the language being learned to repeating full sentences back into the microphone, hoping that the phone can translate what you said into the target language. After each activity is accomplished, the app releases a very satisfying ding sound. However, like any game involving education, if you answer a question incorrectly, you will lose a life, or “heart.” Duolingo is a simple app which will have you ready for that school trip to France or Spain in no time.



## Kik Messenger

Tired of trying to have a group message with non-iPhone users? Kik Messenger, a free app for smartphones and tablets, brings together iPhone, Blackberry, Nokia, Android, and Windows users into a single messenger. Kik makes conversations come to life with sent, delivered, typing, and read notifications, which wouldn’t appear in a group text with mixed iPhone and non-iPhone users. The app is simple and visually attracting, making texting even more fun. Also, Kik does not display your phone number; instead, you must have a Kik username in order to interact with others, making texting a safer experience. Kik makes it fast and easy to share videos and pictures, and with 80 million users already, the app has proven its validity.