



FACULTY FEATURES

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KYRA'S AUTUMN WATCHES

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THE INLET

Vol. 14, No. 1

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2025

CELL PHONES ARE BANNED

BY JACKSON ROHRER AND ROSIE HANLEY

HOW IT BEGAN

In 2022, Shelter Island history teacher Peter Miedema began a “basket ban” – a classroom policy where students silenced their phones and placed them in a basket at the start of class. Throughout that year, teachers and students alike noticed an immediate drop in distractions. Local outlets such as the Shelter Island Reporter and Newsday spotlighted Miedema’s approach as unique in New York: a teacher-led, voluntary ban at the classroom level that suggested a larger-scale ban might be in students’ best interests.

The following year, more teachers followed suit with the basket ban. The year after, our administration purchased “phone boxes” for every classroom, as the school board moved to standardize the practice.

WHAT'S CHANGED

This year, Gov. Kathy Hochul (D-N.Y.) has rolled out a bell-to-bell phone ban in all public schools across the state.

While districts have some flexibility in implementation, the mandate applies to all school hours. At Shelter Island, the policy requires students to place their phones in a signal-blocking pouch, then store that pouch in their locker. Students with off-campus lunch privileges may retrieve their phones during lunch only, and violations trigger graduated consequences.

One important caveat: student compliance matters. The Board of Education has declared that students must reach at least 80% compliance by October 15. If fewer than 20% of students are caught with infractions, the policy continues as is. If not, the school will shift to a more centralized system – a single drop-off point each day.

Where phones might have been slipped out during passing time or between classes, today, students do not carry them at all from bell to bell. Phones remain in lockers, sealed in pouches, and largely out of reach. Checking devices for

notifications and scrolling through social media in classes has virtually stopped.

OUR TAKE

The Inlet’s editorial staff conducted polls and interviews across the school, to gauge how students are dealing with the ban. Surprisingly, 62.8% of secondary students said they oppose the ban, yet when asked if the ban benefits the school, 48.8% said it does. Despite concerns of compliance, students anonymously reported that only 14% are sneaking phone use during school hours; 86% said they do not. See our key analysis below.



WE ARE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THEM: THE PHONE BAN BY ROSIE HANLEY

Many students, including myself, have been surprised by just how positive of a change the ban on phones has actually been. While there are still several things to be unhappy with, for the most part issues surrounding grades, motivation, and AI usage have improved immensely. One 10th grader at Shelter Island High School claims that “without my phone I have been getting better grades” and pointed to the fact that she was no longer distracted by her phone during school hours as the cause. Upon her answer, another 10th grade student, entirely unprompted, commented that they also noticed that they and other students had also been less reliant on AI to get through their work, which resulted in them absorbing more information from their classes and assignments. Another unforeseen upside of the ban came in the form of stress relief. “I feel less stressed because I don't move my phone from

place to place every class,” said one 11th grader, which the group of students around us agreed with. After discussing it further, it became apparent that the room to room policy from last year, where phones were allowed to be carried but had to be turned in at the door of some rooms, was bothersome and upsetting to some students who worried about other students taking their phones or having them damaged in some other way. The final topic of our conversation circled around to exactly what we were having, a conversation. Students and teachers alike have noticed that the formerly silent downtimes have now been filled with laughing and chatting students who are no longer able to look at their phones. Overall, the total phone ban has worked surprisingly well in improving the lives of quite a few students at Shelter Island School.

GIVE US OUR PHONES BACK

BY JACKSON ROHRER

It’s no secret that phones can be distracting, but banning them outright isn’t the solution. Cell phone usage within the classroom has created productivity issues, leaving teachers feeling helpless when it comes to managing their students. That being said, the state-level ban might have good intentions, but it overcorrects the issue. Shelter Island’s previous phone policy already worked—it encouraged responsibility, allowed flexibility, and prepared students for life beyond high school. Because of this, numerous secondary students, including myself, believe the ban does not benefit our school. One 11th-grade student I interviewed said the ban restricts his genuine academic use of his phone. For example, in science labs, students used phone cameras to document experiments. Or in journalism class, students use phones to photograph school events and

record interviews. Students often need phones to upload files, submit digital work, or use other services only available on a phone, but the state ban restricts these uses. Additionally, one 9th-grade student said the ban restricts her use of music services, which prevents her from concentrating during independent work (see more on this from Abie Roig’s coverage). While granting access to phones during class time allowed students to use them for distracting, unproductive uses, the previous Shelter Island class-to-class ban the school board implemented allowed for a restriction on student use unless deemed necessary by a teacher, which was the perfect balance for our small school. Ultimately, the state-wide ban is too prohibitive for small schools like our district and creates unnecessary obstacles for our students.

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FAST FASHION

BY ROSIE HANLEY



By this point, I'm sure we have all heard the term "fast fashion" at least once and whether it was in a New York Times article or a TikTok, its meaning is clear. Fast fashion refers to the business practice where clothing companies are able to design, create, and sell items of clothing extremely quickly to keep up with trends. While it may seem from the outside like this model is perfect, cheap and trendy clothes with very little wait time, in reality the method of production and environmental impact of these clothes make it one of the most damaging and corrupt industries on the planet.

With companies going from a sketch to a product in only a matter of weeks, the clothes are naturally not given the most thought and care, however companies such as SHEIN, a well known fast fashion brand, seem to move so fast that it feels almost unethical, because it is. Fast fashion brands run off of sweat shops, a business model that started during the Industrial Revolution as a way of keeping

the masses supplied with ways to spend their newly available disposable income. While by our standards the sweat shops of the past moved quite slow, at the time their speed was unheard of and mass-produced clothing quickly became popular. Since then, fast fashion has only expanded and, obviously, gotten faster and a lot of this speed comes straight out of already small and still shrinking workers rights within their factories. Despite the fast fashion industry claiming about 60 million factory workers worldwide, only about 2% of them are given a livable wage. Even workers who do make livable wages are often subjected to long and grueling hours, unsafe working conditions, harassment, and even unlawful theft of their paycheck. Unfortunately, most of these factories exist in places like Bangladesh, China, India, and others which won't or can't crack down on these companies. Cases of abuse and even death within these factories are extremely common, but unfortunately as many of the countries I listed rely on fast fashion to keep their economy

afloat and, therefore, do not enact laws or protections for workers.

On top of mostly miserable workers, the clothes that come out of these factories are also quite sad. If you or anyone you know has ever ordered from a company like SHEIN or ROMWE then you probably know that the clothing you will receive is thin, very easily ripped, and just feels cheap on your body. This is because the materials actually used in making the clothing are more akin to plastic than fabric. While this makes production costs far lower, it also drives the environmental impact incredibly high. The cheap quality of the clothing forces people to let go of their clothing rather quickly due to wear and tear damage and because new clothing is so insanely available, people very often don't even attempt to mend them. While some of this discarded clothing ends up in the thrift stores of the world, for the most part it ends up in the landfill. The nearly plastic garments end up in our oceans and release microplastics into their

waters which make their way into our drains and drinking water and the fish and plants we eat.

Fast fashion is just about everywhere, while stores like SHEIN are truly the perfect example of the model, brands like Zara, Forever 21, and H&M also subscribe to the same business model. The damage this industry has done to our planet is nearly irreversible and while compounded upon the many other threats to Earth's health it may seem small, limiting your shopping habits around fast fashion can be an immense help. While it is not at all an easy thing to do, and certainly not a cheap one, many who are in the position to buy more sustainably don't, simply out of convenience or the lack of knowledge about the damage one order can really do. Habits like buying sustainable clothing or buying second hand are two of many easy and relatively cheap methods to stop putting your money into the wasteful and abusive industry of fast fashion.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

BY JACKSON ROHRER & ROSIE HANLEY

Entering its 14th year of production, The Inlet is proud to continue representing the Shelter Island student body. This year, we are excited to announce that our production is expanding digitally with the addition of a podcast and newsletter. Our staff, one of the largest in Inlet history, with 25 high school students, is more

dedicated than ever to producing high-quality storytelling for our fellow students and the Shelter Island community.

That said, our staff has faced challenges this year in capturing photographs without the use of cellphones. Having phones in past

years made taking high-quality shots easier for our reporters, but the new New York State school cellphone ban has restricted this (see coverage on pages 1 and 6). Our staff has been provided with point-and-shoot digital cameras as a solution, though their quality doesn't quite compare to phone cameras.

We appreciate your readership and understanding as our staff worked hard to capture strong photographic content with the equipment available. We sincerely hope you enjoy the first edition of Volume 14 of The Inlet!

THE INLET'S NEW PODCAST SERIES

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Exciting news—The Inlet is expanding beyond print with its first-ever podcast, co-founded by Jackson Rohrer and Nathan Sanwald. Jackson and Nathan, both juniors, are working behind the scenes producing and editing each episode, while Ryan Sanwald, a sophomore, serves as the show's on-air host.

During each episode, Ryan interviews students, faculty, and community members, asking personalized questions related to the specific organization or group each guest is part of.

The team recently profiled the school's television program, Shelter Island Television (SITV). In the pilot episode, The Inlet sat down with SITV advisor Christopher Conrardy, Executive Editor and senior Lauren Gibbs, and junior Henry Springer, a new member of SITV.

Check out the first episode by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Yp-bpMfTX10SKiC0foXNSdFEHxwrN2Xq>



We would love to hear from you!
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THE INLET is a publication by Shelter Island High School Journalism participants with the support of Dr. Brian Doelger and the Board of Education.

MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE

BY ELSIE MAE BRIGHAM

Starting this 2025-2026 school year, we have a new science elective added to the school called "Mysteries of the Universe." This is an all year class taught by Ms. Cavanaugh 6th period every other day. All high school students are eligible to take this class and the focus is learning and exploring the unknowns of our universe, so if you like things like space science, cosmology, astronomy, and things along those lines, this class is for you.

Ms. Cavanaugh says the reason she created the course is because there are so many, "curiosities about space and big questions science still doesn't have answers to." She

noted that this class is very meaningful to her because it combines her wonder for space with her love of teaching science. She wants to make sure people "don't forget that science is about questioning, exploration, imagination, and it is an evolving story with many chapters still unwritten." Ms. Cavanaugh also said that she has "always been fascinated by the unknown" and wanted to design a class where she could explore those mysteries with her students. Her hope for the class is to teach students and bring them along on a journey through cosmic phenomena, the origins of space and time, black holes, dark matter, and more. She also hopes that her class "sparks wonder, curiosity,

and deeper thinking." She wants her students to, "feel comfortable asking big questions, exploring different ideas, and connecting what we know about the universe with what we don't yet understand."

Ms. Cavanaugh plans to do this by watching documentaries, as well as films, then analyzing and discussing the information within them. She plans for the class to consist of thought-provoking films, engaging in collaborative discussions, and developing critical thinking. She hopes to delve into the vast mysteries that continue to challenge scientists and inspire curiosity. By the end of the year her goal is to have students

be able to "1. Be able to explain some of the biggest scientific mysteries we're investigating today, like black holes, dark matter, and the possibility of life beyond Earth. 2. Develop critical thinking skills to analyze evidence and form their own scientific questions. And 3. See science as a way of thinking about the unknown with curiosity and wonder."

So, if all of this course content sounds like your thing, join Ms. Cavanaugh as she tries to show students to have an open mind when it comes to science. Students who take this class will not only gain knowledge about the universe, but also develop the thinking skills necessary to question and explore the unknown.

WELCOME CALEB SPRINGER

BY JULIANA MEDINA

Twelve year old Caleb Springer has just joined the Shelter Island School's 7th grade. Before enrolling here he was a student at Our Lady of the Hamptons since his kindergarten year. His new class only consists of 15 students, which is an adjustment from his last class, in which he had around 40 students. Caleb has lived on the island for his entire life, so he is friendly with many of his classmates already and his 2 older siblings have already been going to SIHS for a few years, so coming here was not a very big change for Caleb. So far he is enjoying his school year, saying, "everything is going good." Currently he is participating in cross country and enjoys running very much, he also enjoys baseball and often plays with his brother and father. Caleb's favorite teacher is Mrs. Springer,

"obviously" (she is Caleb's Mom), but his favorite class is "either tech or gym class."

While attending his previous school there was an enforced dress code which required students to wear a set uniform every day which Caleb was not the biggest fan of. He shares, "I definitely enjoy not wearing a uniform." Outside of school, Caleb has various hobbies and interests that he partakes in. He enjoys spending time with friends and "loves all the video games that I play at home." During the summer, he "welds with his uncle" during his free time as a small summer job which he enjoys significantly. So far, his school year has been very successful and he is excited for the rest of his 7th grade year. We hope everything goes well for Caleb and wish him an amazing year here at Shelter Island.



PHOTO BY JULIANA MEDINA
CALEB SPRINGER ENJOYING HIS SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS.

WELCOME NOEMI!

BY MAEVE SPRINGER



PHOTO BY MAEVE SPRINGER
JUNIOR NOEMI TORRES SMILES FOR THE CAMERA.

Shelter Island High School is excited to welcome junior Noemi Torres from Greenport to join the class of 2027! Noemi shares that her transition into Shelter Island has been easier than she thought due to the fact that everyone has been extremely welcoming. Noemi also points out that Ms. Colligan and Mr. Theinert, as well as many other peers have been extremely welcoming towards her, which has only made this new transition easier for her. Although Shelter Island has fewer sports, people, and may seem unlike other schools, Noemi enjoys the fact that, "everyone here is close." When asked about school events, sports, and activities, Noemi shares that she is, "excited for basketball games, but is still on the fence about participating in our school's cheerleading team, and backstage for our drama club." Noemi's favorite classes so far have been Algebra II with Mr. Theinert and AP Literature with Ms. Colligan

because she loves reading about all different plays and actively reading them in class. Noemi does point out that Stars Cafe and the soda fountain at the Pharmacy are her two favorite places on the island to get food and hangout. A cool fact about Noemi is that she participated in ROTC at Greenport which led her to be able to go to South Carolina for an orienteering trip, and she tells us that her dream vacation would be to go to Hawaii because of its peacefulness and the beautiful scenery. Noemi's dream day would begin by going to a coffee shop, specifically Stars, buying her favorite latte, and going on a long walk around town. After this she would go to Barnes and Nobles, pick out some good reads, and then venture off to the mall, and end the day by going to the Cheesecake Factory. Overall, Noemi seems glad to be at Shelter Island, and if you see her in the hallway, be sure to give her a warm welcome!

MS. ZUMPOL: MST'S NEWEST ADDITION

BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI

Ms. Zumpol is the new teacher in the MST wing. She teaches Chemistry, Physics, AP Environmental Science, and a Global Guardian elective, which is similar to Environmental Science. When asked which was her favorite she said, "My favorite class to teach is Chemistry, Chemistry is my favorite science because I went to college for Chemistry!" Ms. Zumpol told me that grew up in Patchogue and went to college at St. Joseph's University, which is also in Patchogue, so she lived there for most of her life. After college, she worked as a chemist before taking the job here at Shelter Island School.

Since she teaches many classes, I asked Ms. Zumpol what the hardest thing to teach is when it comes to the curriculum. She replied, "The math in Chemistry called stoichiometry can be very difficult to teach." Yet, it is her favorite subject, so she doesn't mind it too much. As for the best part about working here so far, she

says, "The best part is definitely the students. The students here are amazing and lovely and wonderful. They have been making this school experience amazing so far." Ms. Zumpol especially likes "hands-on activities" and she "really wants students to be able to actively learn by doing science."

When not in school Ms. Zumpol likes to go to the gym and spend time with her family and friends. She likes to watch a lot of popular shows such as "The Summer I Turned Pretty," "New Girl," "Gilmore Girls," and "Love Island" (UK edition). At home she has a boyfriend and two dogs named Oakley and Cookie. "Oakley is a Shih Tzu-Yorkie-Rottweiler-Doberman mix. So, he's quite the bundle. Cookie's a Corso, so she's very large," Ms. Zumpol explained.

We are very excited to have Ms. Zumpol and her bubbly, friendly personality at our school. We hope that she has a great year!



PHOTO BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI
NEW SCIENCE TEACHER MS. ZUMPOL AT HER DESK.

MS. BOGASKI: A NEW FACE IN OUR HALLS

BY EVAN WESLEK



PHOTO BY EVAN WESLEK
MS. BOGASKI, OUR SCHOOL'S NEWEST PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE

Meet the newest member of the physical education department and permanent substitute, Ms. Bogaski. With a passion for helping kids and a love for small-town communities, Ms. Bogaski is excited to begin her new chapter at Shelter Island School.

Before joining Shelter Island, Ms. Bogaski taught at Mount Sinai, working as a pre-K teacher, as well as a substitute teacher. When asked what inspired her to become a teacher, she explained, "In undergraduate studies I did an internship in a child advocacy program, and working with the kids really resonated with me. I had a great opportunity to work with kids and help them." So, what made her choose Shelter Island School? She shared, "I live on the North Fork and I love the small town community. There's something very unique and special about a small town, so it's familiar for me."

Her first few weeks have been a positive experience. She states, "It's been really great, everyone has been so welcoming and I love to see how genuinely passionate everyone is about their school and the environment. The faculty and staff have been really supportive and nice," she said. When asked about her teaching style, she explained, "I always approach growing relationships because everyone interacts differently. I think that stems back to getting to know each kid, so when you build a relationship

with them it really defines what drives and motivates them, and you can tailor lessons to what the kids like to do and keep them engaged. Also, having an upbeat personality helps too." Her goal is to keep students motivated while making fitness fun at the same time. She grew up playing lacrosse and tennis before committing to horseback riding in high school, and Ms. Bogaski hopes to share her enthusiasm for sports with her students. When the conversation turned to sports, I asked Ms. Bogaski: "Who's your favorite athlete and why?" "My favorite athlete is an Olympic horse backrider, McLain Ward, an Olympic show jumper for the United States," she said.

Though she lives off-island, Ms. Bogaski is excited to spend more time on Shelter Island and become part of the community. "I think it's really special and unique and everyone feels so genuinely passionate about their community, which makes me even more excited to be a part of it," she shared. We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Bogaski to the Shelter Island School family.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. BASKIN AND HER HUSBAND, MR. BASKIN, ON THEIR NEW ARRIVAL, TESSA JANE! TESSA WAS BORN ON JULY 24TH AND MRS. BASKIN IS ALREADY BACK WITH US IN SCHOOL. MRS. BASKIN SAYS, "HAVING TESSA IS THE BEST THING EVER. SHE IS SUCH A SWEET BABY AND SHE LOVES TO SLEEP, JUST LIKE HER MOM."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. ERIN BASKIN
BABY TESSA JANE BASKIN IS READY FOR HALLOWEEN!

STUDENTS' MUSIC SILENCED

BY ABRAHAM ROIG

We all know that cell phones have been banned in school this year, but what is really leaving some students suffering is a lack of music. Many students (with teacher permission) listened to music on their phones while wearing headphones during the school day. This was usually when doing quiet work. Now, the music has stopped since we don't have access to our phones. I asked junior Jackson Rohrer how he feels about not being able

to use his headphones in school. Jackson said, "listening to music is helpful when you're working on independent work or certain projects, and it's difficult to connect my headphones without my phone or Macbook." Junior Ari Waife agrees, adding, "It's frustrating because you can't listen to it in your ear, and teachers have become stricter about it this year because of the phone ban." Both Jackson and Ari expressed that music

helped with stress, concentration, and down time entertainment. Fellow junior Kyra Schiacchitano "really hates not having headphones," especially during transitions between classes.

All of this being said, students do seem to be adjusting to the new restrictions, even if they don't like them. Daily routines have had to change, but as English teacher Mrs. Treharne has observed, "I

see students interacting more than ever. Without headphones in their ears during downtime or in the halls, they are having conversations and listening to each other. That kind of connection is great to see." So, maybe without our music connection, we are making real connections? We'll see...in the meantime, a lot of us miss our favorite playlists.

RISE OF DIGITAL CAMERAS

BY REGINA KOLMOGOROVA-WEISENBERG

With the new phone ban in school, digital cameras are coming back into the picture. Some say they just use them to capture more memories without their phones, but others truly love the vintage picture look. The price of the digital cameras can range from \$20-\$200. Most commonly around school, students are getting their cameras from Amazon

or TikTok Shop for only about \$30. They don't have the greatest quality, but easily can be transferred onto the phone and also can record videos. Lydia Brigham, a sophomore, has a digital camera and she shares, "I love having a digital camera. I've had it since the summer because they got very popular on TikTok. I kind of like being off the phone and they give an old

timey vintage look to my pictures." Kylie Kuhr, a sophomore, also has a digital camera. "I like having a digital camera because it allows me to capture memories in school since we can't have our phones and when I have a free period with my friends we roam and take funny pictures," she said. It seems like a lot of students actually bought their cameras prior to the

school phone ban because they began to trend on social media. The timing of this trend could not be better, because having a digital camera in school now means students can still capture memories even when their phones are locked away. Sure, some of our parents might cringe to think we see digital cameras as vintage, but we do...and they are back!

SHELTER ISLAND BUDGET CUT

BY JULIANA MEDINA

This school year began with some uncertainty due to significant cuts to our school's budget. These cuts had to be made after the budget failed the first public vote and left teachers and students alike wondering: what will school and extracurriculars look like now? Shelter Island school is a small school and despite our small enrollment, and maybe partially because of it, we have always been able to enjoy opportunities that bigger, more populated schools may not be able to receive. Field trips have always been a huge privilege that students here have been able to go on. For example, for the past two years, the Shelter Island faculty

worked hard to put together a New York City trip during which each high school class goes into New York City and spends a day visiting museums, monuments, and more. The idea of the trip was that with each year a student progressed in high school, their NYC experience would change. I went for the first time last year and the trip was an amazing bonding experience for the high school during which we learned so much, and it was such a privilege that we were able to experience it. It is trips like this that are on the line when budget cuts hit our school. We live in an isolated place and when we can travel off-island and experience life beyond our borders,

it is truly a gift. We just found out that this year the NYC trip will continue, but with continued cuts looming, it is never a certainty.

The budget cut not only affected high school students, but younger classes as well. Most notably, the Pre-K 3 program was completely cut, which has negatively impacted parents, kids, and teachers. Many parents/guardians relied on this program to provide a safe educational place for their kids to spend the day so that they are able to go to work, get some alone time, or just give their kids the opportunity to meet friends and have

beneficial interaction.

My biggest plea, as a student at Shelter Island School, is please consider the impact voting no to our school budget will have in the future. Yes, our school is small and that means that the cost per pupil is high. However, the school is so special because of how hard our teachers, administrators, and staff work to give us educational and life opportunities we otherwise wouldn't have. If these are not funded due to budget cuts, we lose...and we are the kids of this island. We deserve better.

FIELD TRIPS PRESERVED

BY LEXI AND NOEMI

This year, the school was forced to make some significant budget cuts. Students and faculty were told that all field trips would have to be reevaluated this year and none were guaranteed. Teachers had to resubmit all field trip requests in September and were asked to trim as much as possible, in hopes of having their field trips fun. Dr. Doelger explains, "In regard to field trips, we had asked all teachers to resubmit requests for trips

that had already been approved, with an emphasis on prioritizing those of greatest educational significance and identifying ways to reduce costs. Our staff responded thoughtfully and resourcefully. Many opted for walking trips, used school buses instead of coach buses, selected more affordable destinations, and made use of Jitney tickets rather than renting private transportation, among other cost-saving measures." This was not easy and took

creativity and concessions on the part of teachers planning field trips. Dr. Doelger continues, "Thanks to their efforts, and despite a significantly reduced budget, we were able to approve all but one trip in this second round of submissions. This outcome speaks volumes about the dedication and creativity of our educators. Even with the budget cut in half, we ensured that our students could still participate in meaningful and enriching

field experiences." This is great news to the student body, and from us, to our teachers: a big "thank you" for working so hard to try to make field trips happen so us students can have an opportunity to learn outside the classroom. We appreciate the opportunities to get off of the island and learn!

FALL SPORTS

By Lexi Jernick and Evan Weslek

Our student athletes were incredibly busy this fall sports season and have shown resilience, improvement, and a lot of heart. Their determination, teamwork, and positive spirit were on full display, proving that progress isn't always measured on the scoreboard.

For volleyball, it was a season of growth for the JV and varsity teams. While the win column didn't quite fill up the way we hoped for, the team's spirit, effort, and commitment to improvement were undeniable once again. JV showed steady progress, picking up two set wins and sharpening their communication with each game. Varsity also faced their fair share of challenges, often going up against more experienced opponents. But each game and practice they showed up with heart, hustle, and willingness to put in the hard work! Junior Juliana described the season as, "a time of improvement, working on better communication skills and skills in general." One of the highlights of the season was the Dig Pink game which brought the team and community together to support breast cancer awareness. The team as a whole described this as, "an amazing opportunity to play for something bigger than just ourselves." They raised nearly \$600 for this

cause. Behind the scenes, Coach Sweeney and Belt pushed players to stay focused, play smart, and support each other. We are looking forward to next season!

The varsity golf team earned their first team victory in four years. Defeating the Hampton Bays Baymen not only once, but twice! This year the team was led by Coach Matthew Dunning and assisted by coaches Father Peter DeSanctis and Jay Card. In high school varsity golf, team wins are earned by winning the majority of individual matches. If tied, total strokes from all players are used to decide the victor. While individual wins have come in recent seasons, the team had not secured a match victory since 2021. That changed when Jackson Rohrer, Jackson Surerus, Sebi Martinez, and Maeve Springer earned key wins to break the four year drought. This means that Coach Dunning has the most wins as a varsity coach this year, so technically he leads Shelter Island Athletics!

The Shelter Island High School JV soccer team had a strong 2025 season, and despite losing core parts of their team due to seniors who graduated, they were determined to make something of it. With a record of 3-10-1, and under the guidance of Coach Conrardy, the team

showed steady improvement, teamwork, and determination in every match. Sophomore Ryan Sanwald shared with us that a highlight of the season for him was, "Winning our first game was a great moment and a relief because we had a struggle to the start of the season." Standout performances came from Cayman Morehead, who unfortunately had a season ending injury, but still had great memories. This season a key player, center back Harry Clark, anchored the

hard work necessary to compete at the highest level. This season has been marked by strong individual performances, consistent team finishes, and a supportive team atmosphere. Whether it was difficult practices, challenging meets, or cheering each other on at the finish line, the Shelter Island Cross Country team has shown what it means to be committed, disciplined, and united. Captain Henry Springer



COURTESY PHOTO: ALL IN ON THE KICK. FRESHMAN LUCAS REITER, STRIKER FOR THE SHELTER ISLAND JV SOCCER TEAM, SENDS A POWERFUL SHOT DOWNFIELD DURING A HOME MATCH.



ADAM BUNDY PHOTO: THE JACKSONS LEAD THE VARSITY GOLF TEAM IN THE TOP TWO SPOTS. FROM LEFT, ASSISTANT COACH FATHER PETER DESANCTIS, JUNIOR JACKSON ROHRER, AND SEVENTH GRADER JACKSON SERERUS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FIRST TEE TO TAKE ON MATTITUCK EARLIER THIS FALL.

defense alongside Ari Waife. The team grew in confidence and skill with each game, laying a solid foundation for the years ahead. Coach Conrardy also noted, "It has been a great and insightful season, with new star players emerging when the team needed them the most." Overall, it's a season of growth, grit, and promise for Shelter Island soccer.

This year's fall cross country team has gone undefeated in the regular season! Congratulations to the team and Coach Green on their incredible season. The team saw a lot of growth and successes on the track this year. Although their regular season is over, they still have a month and a half left leading up to the state qualifier race. Despite their amazing record, they remain focused, putting in the

shares his favorite moment from this season was, "Running at Sunken Meadow and hitting a good time." With the post season ahead, best of luck to all the runners!

Despite some bumps in the road for this fall's sports teams, there's a hopeful energy for the future. When asked about what they love most about being on the team, athletes mentioned teamwork, fun practices, and personal growth. One common goal echoed throughout, "becoming better athletes and even better teammates." With young rosters, strong coaching, and a community that continues to rally behind them, Shelter Island's student athletes are determined to keep pushing forward, one game, one practice, and one win at a time.

DO YOU KNOW MRS. DOREEN CLARK?

BY MAEVE SPRINGER

Shelter Island School is fortunate enough to have an amazing school aide on our hands. Mrs. Doreen Clark began working here nine years ago when she discovered an opening in our school district, and was especially intrigued because she knew how good our school district was. Mrs. Clark works as a student aide with the kindergarten and PreK 4 classes and especially enjoys being with them every day. Mrs. Doreen Clark grew up in Riverhead as a part of a farming family, and later moved to Greenport with her husband where she raised her two daughters and currently resides. Mrs. Clark tells us that her favorite part of the day is "putting smiles on everyone's faces." Although leaving the students at the end of the school day is sad, she knows she can look forward to her job, students, and the teachers the next day. While Mrs. Clark

enjoys working with everyone in the Shelter Island School staff, Ms. Regan especially lights up her day when they work together in the classroom teaching the kindergarten, which also happens to be one of her favorite classes. In her free time, Mrs. Clark, "loves to shop, watch football, and go out to dinner at Legends and Red Rooster in Cutchogue." When asked if she could go anywhere in the world, Mrs. Clark tells us she would, "love to go to Hawaii or Ireland because I love the scenery, peacefulness, and appreciate the beauty of both places." Overall, Mrs. Clark believes that Shelter Island School is her second family, and we are forever grateful that she is here!



PHOTO BY MAEVE SPRINGER
STUDENT AIDE DOREEN CLARK

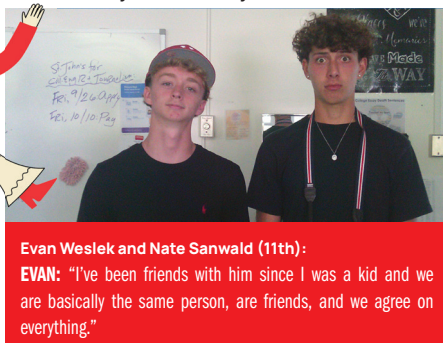
SHELTER ISLAND DUOS

BY RYAN SANWALD

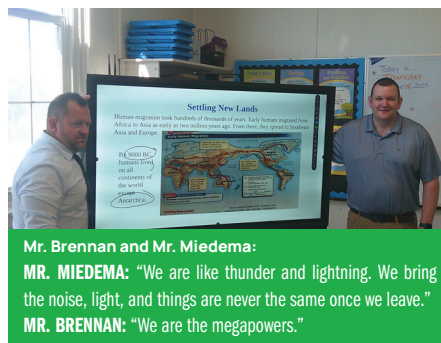
It is undeniable that here at Shelter Island School we have some very dynamic duos. I wanted to find out who they are and what makes their bond so strong. So, I asked them to tell me why their duos work so well. Here's what they had to say:



Juliana Medina (11th) & Regina Kolmogorova (9th):
JULIANA: "We've known each other for almost their whole lives."
REGINA: "We are polar opposites, but opposites attract."



Evan Wesiek and Nate Sanwald (11th):
EVAN: "I've been friends with him since I was a kid and we are basically the same person, are friends, and we agree on everything."



Mr. Brennan and Mr. Miedema:
MR. MIEDEMA: "We are like thunder and lightning. We bring the noise, light, and things are never the same once we leave."
MR. BRENNAN: "We are the megapowers."



Natalie Mamisashvili and Lexi Bartilucci (10th):
NATALIE: "We were born in the same hospital a day apart. It was bound to happen. We are the same person in a different font."



Zach Hermosura and Jackson Surerus (7th):
JACKSON: "We both play the same sports together and we're in the same class."



Chase Leonard and Hudson Payne (3rd):
CHASE: "We get into fights a lot and we play soccer on the blue wall together."



AN INSIDE LOOK AT BOCES

BY LILY BRIGHAM & RYAN SANWALD

This year, Shelter Island School has five students studying different topics at BOCES. BOCES stands for Boards of Cooperative Educational Services. BOCES are public organizations in New York State that provide educational programs to schools. Programs include career and technical education, special education, adult literacy programs, and professional development. At Shelter Island, our BOCES students leave school at 10:12am everyday to attend their programs in Riverhead. Students who attend BOCES do so for different reasons and we were interested to find out more about their programs and why they made the choice to pursue a technical education.

Victoria Hernandez is a senior and in her second year at BOCES. Victoria says, "I decided to join BOCES because I want to become a radiology tech, so last year I joined to become a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) and I got a certificate with mastery." Victoria emphasized that she has always wanted to do this because she likes helping people and the biology she learned has been very interesting. Victoria graduated from her CNA class last year and this year she's in a CMA (Certified Medical assistant) class. Victoria's schedule consists of attending Shelter Island school until about 10:30, when she then leaves for BOCES in Riverhead. At 12, she goes to her CMA class, where she removes all her jewelry and ties up her hair for class. Victoria stated, "We look at things like vitals, and things you would do for a checkup. Right now we are learning about blood so we can start to take blood from people." Victoria's day is a long, busy day, so they don't get a lunch break. "For us, it's a super strict class and everything has to be completely perfectly and on time. We have very hard homework and tests that are harder than last year, especially harder than the Shelter Island school tests," she said. Sometimes Victoria's assessments are pen and paper and sometimes computer work, but they also have a lot of hands-on assessments,

like taking blood pressure, vitals, and getting familiar with needles. Victoria included that she thinks it prepares her very well for the future, because she already knows basic nursing skills, which she wouldn't know if she were to start after her senior year. Victoria knew she wanted to become a nurse as soon as possible, so she could start learning her dream job and career

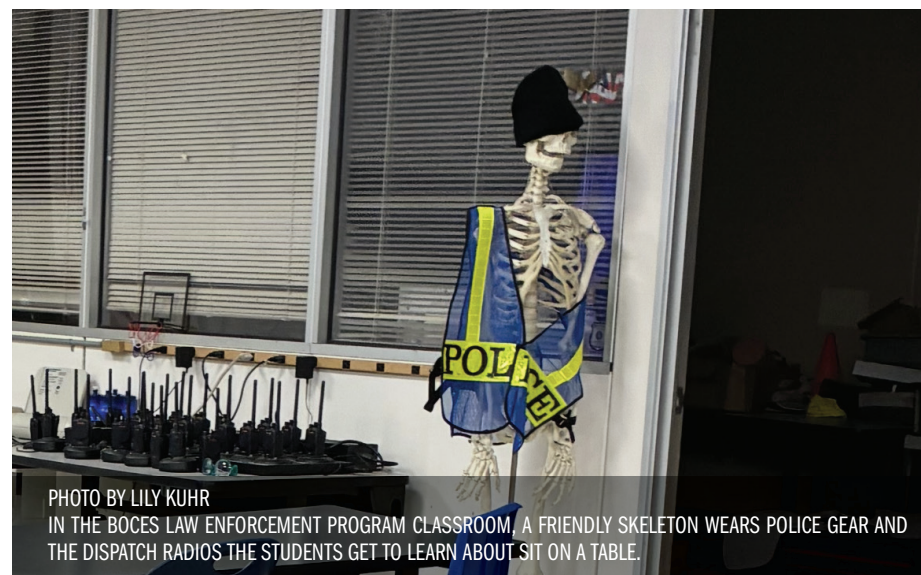


PHOTO BY LILY KUHR
 IN THE BOCES LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM CLASSROOM, A FRIENDLY SKELETON WEARS POLICE GEAR AND THE DISPATCH RADIOS THE STUDENTS GET TO LEARN ABOUT SIT ON A TABLE.

and this is why BOCES was the perfect path for her.

Junior Lili Kuhr also attends BOCES and she is studying law enforcement. Lili explains, "I've always been interested in law enforcement and serving, whether it's in the army or police, and my grandpa has been a big inspiration for me." Lili also starts her class schedule at 12, where she quickly gets ready by putting on her navy blue shirt or sweatshirt uniform and prepares her pens, notebooks, and folders for roll call. After going through a "do now" with her class, they either spend some time outside if the weather is nice or continue learning inside, depending on the teacher's plan. Around 1 to 1:30, everyone gets a break to eat lunch and socialize while the teachers decide what to do for the rest of the class. She says, "I think the class is very

hands-on and the instructors work hard to make it fun, but also serious, so we learn not to make mistakes if we want to continue in this field." Lili mentioned that nothing feels too difficult because her teachers are willing to help them if anyone struggles. Although she hasn't had real hands-on experience yet, she's watched a lot of YouTube videos and documented crime cases,

but she enjoys seeing how everyone at BOCES is involved in different activities, which she finds fascinating. Looking ahead, she hopes to find her path for the future after finishing her time at BOCES.

Kaden Gibbs is a junior attending BOCES for law enforcement. Kaden admits that at first he really was not sure about attending BOCES, but then he agreed to go on a field trip to the BOCES campus. After his visit, with the help of Guidance Counselor Mrs. Prior, Kaden met some of his future program advisors and it was then that he realized that BOCES could impact his future career and he should pursue the valuable opportunity he was being offered. On a typical day, Kaden goes to class and has the chance to learn new things everyday. He also gets to do hands-on training. One big challenge that is hard for Kaden in this program is "Physical Friday." This is when he and his group do workouts, running, and obstacle courses throughout the day. It is exhausting. Kaden knows his program will help him reach his goals because he has always wanted to become a police officer when he is older. As soon as he graduates from BOCES, Kaden plans to get a security guard license, which will make him eligible to become a security guard. This could eventually help him to achieve his real dream of becoming a police officer.

These BOCES students are determined to pursue their future aspirations after high school and the paths they have chosen are leading them there. Shelter Island Students are fortunate to have the option to pursue career education at BOCES. If you think you might be interested in learning more about BOCES, this year's BOCES informational field trip will be on February 4th, so be sure to put it on your calendar.

Senior Keili Osorio shared her experience at BOCES; she describes it as a valuable opportunity, especially since she's unsure about attending college and still. Her usual day starts early, getting ready and attending three classes before boarding a bus at 10:30 that takes her to the South Ferry, then another bus to Long Beach, and then one more bus that brings east hampton school to BOCES as well. She attends the nursing program at BOCES, which she decided on because she finds it very interesting. Keili says, "the tests are the most challenging part [of her program], because it's very important to keep good grades to avoid being kicked out." Keili also mentioned that she hasn't decided on a specific career path yet,

and from what she sees, they are pretty similar to what she learns in class.

SADIE'S FALL GUIDE

BY SADIE GREEN CLARK

Now that the summer is over, it is officially autumn: the time of pumpkin spice lattes and cozy sweaters. Personally, I think fall is one of the best seasons...just think about it, perfect temperature, pretty leaves, and Halloween! So, here are some ways to do fall right. Long Island is known for its pumpkin patches, so of course my first must-visit place is Harbes Farm. Though it is very expensive, it is a cute pumpkin patch with games, animals, and lots of treats. This place is good to go once a year, so splurge, because it sure is festive. The second place you can't skip is Gateway's Haunted Playhouse which is located in Bellport. This haunted house is known for their crazy themes that change each year. So, if you've been before, don't worry, it'll

be different this year. Gateway's is filled with a ton of scares and crazy prosthetics, making it a hotspot for thrill seekers. Third on the list is more mellow: Aldo's coffee company in Greenport. This cute cafe is located on Front Street. Here the coffee is roasted fresh and is sure to make everyone's taste buds happy. The vibe inside is warm and cozy, making you want to stay for a chat with your friends. Now on to number four: the Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge located in Sag Harbor. This is a little different from the other places on this list because it is a wildlife refuge, but this one in particular is worth your while. In this refuge, bird feeding is very common, so much so that when you put your handout with just one seed, ten birds will come

right to you. For me, this is always a treat during the fall season because it is a nice walk through the woods, with the golden leaves. And, feeding the adorable chickadees allows you to connect with nature on a deeper level. Next on the list would have to be the Mill Neck Manor Apple Festival, which is located in Mill Neck in Nassau county. This festival focuses on apples rather than pumpkins, like at Harbes. This has been a tradition for over 6 decades and the festival features apple snacks, baked goods, and dried meats. There are also plenty of local vendors and children's activities. Overall, it is a great way to spend a day during the fall season.

As a whole, Long Island is a very good place to spend time during the fall, between the nice

weather, beautiful foliage, and overall cozy atmosphere. So, check some of these places out! You will not regret it!



NATALIE'S FALL RECIPE REVIEW: SOFT PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE COOKIES

BY NATALIE FERNANDEZ

It's cozy season and I was looking for just the right cookie to represent all of my favorite fall flavors. When I came across Lindsey Goldschmit's "Simply Ubeeetable" blog recipe for soft pumpkin spice latte cookies, I knew I had found the one. I gathered my ingredients and got to work. This recipe yields around 10 cookies in total, yet don't

let this amount fool you, the final product is the opposite of thin and they have a sweet espresso buttercream frosting on top, so they are hearty and filling. In the blog's recipe, it notes that the cookies should take approximately 25 minutes to prep and 12 minutes to bake. Yet, for me these cookies were a 90 minute project. The buttercream

frosting, in particular, was a bit tricky, and I recommend using an electric mixer. When they were finally done baking, the flavor surprised me. They had barely any pumpkin taste at all, so next time I would either up the pumpkin spice measurement or maybe try adding some canned pumpkin instead of milk. The texture of the cookies was very dense. I will

say, however, that the buttercream did end up saving the recipe, it was worth all of the effort for the icing. Overall, I would give this recipe "as is" a 4/10. With some tweaks and an understanding this is a lengthier project than the recipe says it is, that rating could improve.

Try it yourself and let me know what you think!

Cookie Dough

INGREDIENTS:

2 Egg Yolks

3/4 Cup Cane Sugar

2 Tbsp Brown Sugar

1/2 Cup Unsalted Butter

1 Tbsp Whole Milk

1.5 Cup All Purpose Flour

1/2 tsp Baking Powder

1/2 tsp Salt

1 tsp Pumpkin Spice Seasoning

Espresso Buttercream Frosting

INGREDIENTS:

1 Cup Unsalted Butter, room temperature

1 Tbsp Brewed Espresso, chilled

1/2 Tbsp Vanilla Extract

2 Cups Powdered Sugar

The first step is to preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Next, brown the butter; this adds depth to the cookies. Use one stick of butter and put it in a pan over low-medium heat. I recommend adding a few drops of vanilla extract to create a more flavorful experience. Continue stirring butter until it has a light brown color.

After this, combine and add your egg yolks, brown sugar, cane sugar, vanilla extract, and milk. Add your browned butter to this bowl but make sure it has cooled so it doesn't start to cook the eggs. Whisk until combined, then add flour, baking powder, pumpkin spice seasoning, and salt to the same bowl.

To help the texture, refrigerate the dough for half an hour in the refrigerator. Once chilled, roll into balls — around three tablespoons of dough each. Place on a lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Press down until 1/2 an inch thick and bake for 12 minutes.

While these are cooling after removing from the oven, start to make the buttercream frosting. Add room temp butter to a bowl and cream it with either a hand or stand mixer. Add powdered sugar, vanilla, and chilled espresso and mix until incorporated.

Now get to frosting! Use either a piping bag or a knife to spread on top of your fall-flavored cookie. ENJOY!

STUDENT COUNCIL'S: "EVERYWHERE GOES" RETURNS!

BY ARI WAIFE

"Everywhere Goes" is making its return this year! This year we will see the return of the escape room, but it will be bigger and better

and classes will have a full period to try to solve the puzzles and make their escapes. Grades 9-12 will be participating in a series of games to

see which class gets crowned this year's winner. Games will include charades, reverse trick or treating, athletic events and more. The Student

Council hopes to see everyone dressed up and participating! Thanks to the administration for allowing this fun annual event.

Kyra's Autumn Watches BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

With fall in the air, these films are perfect for chilly, cozy nights. Wrap up in a blanket, grab a friend and let these movies set the mood for the season.

Donnie Darko: Sci-fi/Thriller, R ★★★★★ (5/5)
(older teens and adult movie)

Donnie Darko is a film set in the 1980's which follows Donnie, a troubled teenager who escapes a freak accident and begins to see visions of a mysterious figure in a giant rabbit costume named Frank. As the movie progresses, we see Donnie grapple with mental illness and hallucinations which all lead to a haunting climax. If you enjoy coming-of-age dramas with Sci-fi elements, then this is the movie for you.

Gummo: Comedy/Drama, R ★★★★★☆ (4/5)
(older teens and adult movie)

Gummo is an unsettling drama that depicts the chaotic lives of residents in a small Ohio town through a documentary-like filming style. Throughout the film it explores poverty, abuse, and the rather disturbing ways people find to cope with despair and grief. If you are interested in movies that are more focused on mood, visuals, and themes than plot, I recommend you watch Gummo.

Bubble Boy: Comedy/Adventure, PG-13
 ★★★★★☆ (3/5) (family movie)

Bubble boy is a unique comedy which follows a boy born without an immune system who has spent his entire life sealed inside of a plastic bubble. When he finds out the woman he loves is about to marry someone else, he constructs a portable bubble suit and goes on a chaotic trip to stop the wedding. If you enjoy early 2000s comedies, this is the movie for you.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind: Sci-fi/Romance, R
 ★★★★★ (5/5) (older teens and adult movie)

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is an emotionally powerful romance drama about a couple who undergo a procedure which will erase each other from their memories only to rediscover the challenges of love and heartbreak. If you like bittersweet thought provoking films I recommend you watch this.

HIGH SCHOOLERS' HALLOWEEN COSTUME PLANS BY KYLIE KUHR

Since Halloween is coming up quickly, I thought it would be a good idea to see if anyone has decided on their costumes yet. It seems that Shelter Island high schoolers are planning ahead, as many know exactly what they plan to be. Read on for a preview.

REGINA KOLMOGOROVA (FRESHMAN): "I'm going to be Dumb and Dumber characters with Juliana Medina because the character's colors are blue and orange, which are our favorite colors, it's also just a fun costume idea for duos."

MAEVE SPRINGER (SOPHOMORE): "I'm planning on being Thing 1 and Thing 2 with Makayla Cronin because we are best friends and haven't matched yet."

LEXI BARTILUCCI (SOPHOMORE): "I'm going to be the Mad hatter, because I want

MR. THEINERT (MATH TEACHER): "I'm going for a couples costume: Master

Splinter and Scumbag because we love Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

NATALIE MAMISAHVILI (SOPHOMORE): "Paddington because he is cute and I watched the movie a week ago."

LILY BRIGHAM (SOPHOMORE): "I'll be dressing up as Rapunzul because I want to be a Princess and I have long blonde hair."

ROSIE HANLEY (SENIOR): "This year, I'll be Dracula because I have loved her since I was a kid."

HENRY SPRINGER (JUNIOR): "I'm doing a couples costume with Lily Potter: Bugs and Lola Bunny from Space Jam because it is a cute costume and we both really like Space-Jam."

HALLOWEEN WITH THE PRE-K BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

It's always fun to stop into the Pre-k and visit. I recently went down to the Pre-k to ask them about the fall season and some of their favorite things about it. They were quick to share about Halloween, so they decided to first share some of their favorite Halloween activities. Then some kids shared what they would like to be for Halloween. Check out what they said below:

THE PREK'S FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT FALL:

Kiprian Needham: "Going trick or treating."

Samantha Bavaro: "Getting to be with all the people at their houses."

Easton Young: "Chasing kids."

Jamie Kestler: "Getting candy."

Scarlett Lechmanski: "Going to people's houses to get candy."



WHAT SOME OF THE PREK ARE PLANNING TO DRESS UP AS ON HALLOWEEN:

Waverly Hovekamp: "A ghostbuster."

Jamie Kestler: "Ron Weasley."

Scarlett Lechmanski: "A police officer."

Addelyn Kehl: "A paw patrol puppy."

Easton Young: "A puppy."

River Thackrah: "Wolverine."

Kiprian Needham: "Winnie the Pooh."

Caroline Bavaro: "A princess."

Samatha Bavaro: "A Halloween cat."

Primrose Overstreet: "A butterfly."



ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE: A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

BY LEXI JERNICK

ALA Girls State is a prestigious leadership and citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary offered annually in all 50 states. It is designed for high school juniors and provides a hands-on, immersive experience in government, politics, and civic engagement. Over the course of a week, participants simulate the workings of state and local government by campaigning for elected office, drafting and debating legislation, and running mock political campaigns, and through this, girls gain a deeper understanding of the democratic process and what it takes to be an active and informed citizen. The program fosters not only political knowledge, but also leadership, teamwork, and personal growth. One of the most impactful aspects is the sense of sisterhood built among participants. Surrounded by other high achieving, passionate young women from across the state, lifelong friendships are formed. Each state hosts its own version of the program, typically held on a college campus. At the end of the week, two

delegates are selected to represent their state at Girls Nation in Washington DC. Girls Nation is a national level extension of the program where participants meet with U.S. Senators, visit historical landmarks, and continue developing their leadership skills on a federal scale. The Girls State program was established in the 1930s by the ALA in concern that young women were not receiving enough education about civic responsibilities and how the government works. It was inspired by the success of Boys State, which was founded a few years earlier. Over the decades, Girls State has become one of the most respected leadership programs for young women in the U.S. with thousands of participants having gone on to become elected officials, military officers, lawyers, educators, and community leaders, all who were inspired by their Girls State experience.

I had the privilege of attending ALA Empire Girls State this year from June 30- July 6. The

program took place at SUNY Brockport. After a long bus ride, we settled into dorms with name tags, assigned countries, and assigned political parties (Nationalists or Federalists). Each morning I had the opportunity to listen to guest lecturers who inspired us to lead and let our voices be heard. We participated in many patriotic activities, such as making poppies, (a symbol of our U.S. veterans,) practicing flag folding, and raising and lowering the American flag each day. Much of our time was spent preparing for our big final political debates on our assigned issues. When "Rally Day" came, the debates were spirited and informative.

On our final day at Girls State, we attended a State of the State ceremony at which we officially became a part of the ALA Girls State alumni. This week of my life was an experience I will never forget. I met some of my best friends there who I communicate with on a daily basis. I gained a new understanding of our U.S.

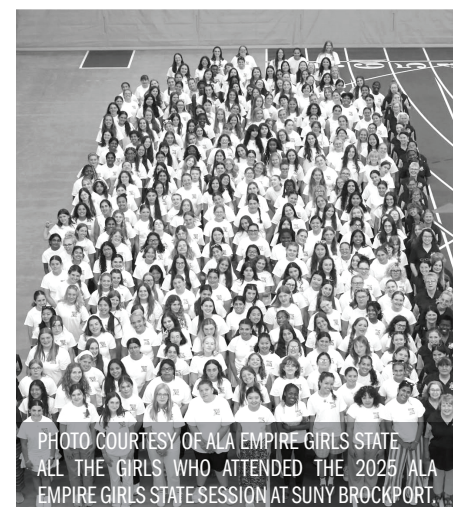


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE. ALL THE GIRLS WHO ATTENDED THE 2025 ALA EMPIRE GIRLS STATE SESSION AT SUNY BROCKPORT.

government and how it works. This opportunity challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and also taught me how to work collaboratively with others even when they have very different points of view. I learned that my voice and point of view matter and for that I am grateful.

SUMMER SPAIN TRIP 2025

BY SADIE GREEN-CLARK

The summer Spain trip has been a staple for Shelter Island School students for over 10 years. This is one of those trips you hear about in elementary school, and look forward to your whole life. The trip has always run every 2 years because usually both the 10th and 11th grades participate. The Spain trip has never disappointed. Many students over the years have expressed how it sparked a true love of travelling for them.

This past summer, from July 5th to the 14th, students from the current junior and senior classes embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Spain. During their stay, students lived with host families and attended school during the week. The first day was for recovery; enjoying good food and relaxing after travel. Starting the following week, students participated in daily classes from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This wasn't just any school experience; it was an immersive program with students from all over, focused on learning about Spain and improving

their Spanish language skills. Apart from the classroom, the group enjoyed many activities including surfing, a bike tour around the old city, and exploring all it had to offer. They also ventured further, visiting Gibraltar and Tarifa in the south. Both destinations offered stunning views across the water to Morocco, Gibraltar only 8.7 miles from the shoreline, and Tarifa about 17 miles away. The final day trip was to Sevilla, a vibrant inland city with a different feel from the coast. Students explored historic streets and visited remarkable sites, including the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See, which is the third-largest cathedral in the world. Overall, this year's trip to Spain was an incredible blend of culture, education, and adventure. It was more than just sightseeing, it was an experience that will stay with us forever. For junior Evan Weslek, a highlight of the trip was surfing. Evan shares, "I enjoyed the surfing class because the beach reminded me of around home and it was a really fun time to surf with everyone from my



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAE BRIGHAM. SHELTER ISLAND STUDENTS LOVED THEIR SALSA LESSONS DURING THEIR TRIP TO SPAIN THIS SUMMER.

class." Senior Mae Brigham also loved the trip, but for a more personal reason. She explains, "I loved living with my host family because I actually became very close with my host mom. I know if I ever go back to Spain, I will have someone I know to visit with."

The whole Spain trip totaled under \$1,000 for each student. This was all possible because of

the Shelter Island Education Foundation. Their generosity funded each student who attended. In addition, many companies, clubs, and supporters donated money for our students to have this great opportunity. So, a huge well-deserved thank you to everyone who made it possible; we are truly grateful!

SUMMER CAMPS: A SHELTER ISLAND STUDENT TRADITION

BY LILY BRIGHAM

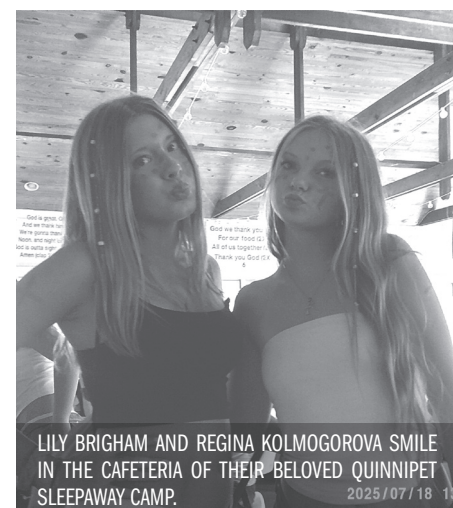
Over the summer, a number of Shelter Island students attended summer camps of various kinds. Some might assume summer camps are only for little kids, but summer camp is such a fun experience even when you're older and can lead to skills enrichment, college preparation, or just plain fun.

Sophomore Makayla Cronin attended the UChicago rural leaders summer session. After flying to Chicago and being shuttled to campus, her week began. At the University of Chicago, she attended classes that taught her about life after high school and how to handle it. One thing she was surprised to learn about college admissions for UChicago is that "it really, really focuses on extracurriculars, and not just GPAs, or at least as much as you would think." Makayala made "a lot of friends" during this program and she still talks to them today. Makayla would recommend a pre-college summer experience to anyone, saying, "it was a great experience and taught me about college life, applications, finances, and much more."

Camp Quinipet is a very popular camp option right here on Shelter Island. I actually attended this camp along with freshman Regina Kolmogorova and sophomore Alexis Bartilucci. To me, Quinipet is a very important part of my life because I have been attending for 11 years now. Camp Quinipet is a great community where campers can make friends and connections that last a lifetime. Quinipet is a religious/Christian camp, but by no means are religious beliefs forced upon campers. There are parts of the day that focus on Bible study, but not everyone has the same religion, and some don't follow any religion at all. Quinipet is a super accepting community. Camp focuses on five themes: faith, love, courage, honesty, and humility. Throughout the week, these were focused on day by day, and then on Friday, camp wraps up with a Quinapolympics, which brings out everyone's competitive side. Regina, who returned from her 5th year to Camp Quinipet this summer says, "It's genuinely the most memorable experience of my life, where I form lifelong connections."

I strongly agree with Regina and would recommend this camp to anyone ages 4-16 looking for a new experience.

Lily Potter, a sophomore, attended West Point volleyball camp over the summer. The schedule was not for the weak. Lily was up each day by 6:00 a.m., got ready in the dorms, and met everyone in the courtyard in the morning to proceed to breakfast. After breakfast, it was on to the gym for the first of their first two hour training sessions. Lunch and a rest broke up the day, then Lily was off to a second two hour training session in the afternoon. Dinner came next, followed by nightly volleyball tournaments. Lights out was at 10:00 p.m. each evening and before then, campers rushed back to the dorms to shower and grab snacks. Lily said her favorite part of camp was "meeting my friend Anna and sitting with her at lunch everyday. She is from West Point." Overall, Lily said the camp was a great choice for anyone serious about volleyball and she recommends trying to go along with a friend, because it would help a lot to have a



LILY BRIGHAM AND REGINA KOLMOGOROVA SMILE IN THE CAFETERIA OF THEIR BELOVED QUINNIPET SLEEPAWAY CAMP. 2025/07/18 13

buddy in the beginning.

Summer camps are a great way to stay busy in the summer and meet new people and learn new skills. Thanks to Lily, Makayla, and Regina for sharing their experiences with us. If any of these camps sound interesting to you, be sure to ask them for more information.

WHAT ARE LABUBUS AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

BY LOGAN PORZIO

Would you be surprised if I told you that Labubus are not a new toy, even though they are trending now? Well, they aren't. Labubus are a decade old, and they originate from a storybook series that started in 2015 by the Hong-Kong born artist Kasing Lung. The Monsters is one of the books in the trilogy which first introduced Labubus. In 2019, The Monsters and the popular brand POP MART, made an exclusive deal which turned the silly fictional characters into "ugly-cute" toys, and also advertised and marketed the toys. They weren't very well-known until the super popular Korean K-pop band BLACKPINK's Lisa was seen showcasing her Labubu dolls, and also she once wore a custom Labubu outfit when performing. After that exposure, Labubus

skyrocketed in popularity mainly in Korea, then moved to China and the rest of Asia. Another factor that made them scale in popularity is that people saw them not only as a toy, but also a fashion accessory. Because of the clip that the Labubus come with, they can be attached to items like purses, backpacks, or belt loops. Additionally, every Labubu plush is limited, causing a sense of urgency for collectors to get their hands on one as soon as they can.

Labubus are mainly bought online, but can also be found in stores. Most recommend buying from the official online store though, because of the rise of fake Labubus (known as Lafufus). Labubus are sold through special

partnerships, such as with Coca-Cola and Vans, and also in blind boxes, meaning you never know which Labubu from the set you will wind up getting. There have been dozens of blind boxes since the beginning of the partnership with POP MART. Most popular being the "Big Into Energy" series and the "Exciting Macaroon" series, mainly because those two sets were made after their surge in popularity. One more factor that contributes to Labubu popularity is that each set has its own ultra rare character, of which there is only one. Usually, the rarity of the secret Labubu is 1/72. Secret Labubus generally are worth between \$400-600 too, making Labubus something with which all age groups might be interested to test their luck.



COURTESY PHOTO
LABUBUS: THE TRENDING TOY OF 2025 SO FAR

"JACKBOYS 2" REVIEW: WASTED POTENTIAL

BY ABRAHAM ROIG

When the group Jackboys, led by famous rapper Travis Scott, released their second album "Jackboys 2," fans expected a true collaboration amongst all the artists on his label, including (other than Scott): Don Toliver, Sheck Wes, Chase B, Luxury Tax 50, SoFaygo, and Wallie the Sensei. Instead, the project feels more like a Travis Scott album with some guest appearances. The songs on the album jump between strong and flawed, but overall

the album feels uneven to me and this album doesn't capture the exciting group energy that listeners in Travis Scott's fanbase hoped for.

Mainstream rap music today seems to be entering a new stage, some call it a "dying age," where big names nowadays are relying more on fame than quality in their new work. "Jackboys 2" exemplifies this problem clearly. This album had the potential to be bold and fresh, but

instead it leaves listeners like me with a sense of missed opportunity.

Abie's Final Verdict: "Jackboys 2" is an album with a few highlights ("Champain and Vacay," "No Comments," and "MM3" to name a few), but not enough to call this album a success. I enjoyed some parts of "Jackboys 2," but those looking for a strong group project will likely be disappointed, like I am.



JACKBOYS 2 ALBUM COVER

SENIOR TRADITIONS

BY MAE BRIGHAM

As senior year comes up, so does the opportunity to participate in a number of fun trends and traditions to help commemorate and make that last year special. This year, our senior class is trying to come together more than ever with traditions new and old.

SENIOR BACKPACKS

One trend that has gained popularity is the new spin on senior backpacks. Seniors trade in their usual backpacks for more playful options from our younger ages, ranging from "Paw Patrol" to "Blue Clues," as a way to commemorate the end with a part of the beginning. Many people have been seen sporting Disney princesses, Spiderman, and many more backpacks that are usually seen in the elementary wing. By wearing our favorite childhood characters it is a sort of full circle moment and connects us a little to our younger selves.

SENIOR SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Senior sunset and sunrise are traditions for

seniors to commemorate the beginning and end of our senior year. Students bring blankets, signs, and breakfast to make the morning extra special and enjoyable.

High schools across the country begin their start of the year with a "senior sunrise." And here, at Shelter Island, we jumped on the trend. What is a senior sunrise, you might ask? It's simply when the class meets early in the morning, before dawn, to watch the sun rise together. While this may seem simple or silly, the tradition is symbolic. When you are starting senior year, you are also rising just like the sun.

Then, at the end of the school year our class will gather again for a senior sunset. This is the

time we all come together to watch the sun set on the day of classes as our high school journey comes to an end. This tradition is a meaningful way to celebrate, as well as appreciate the ending of a major chapter of our lives.

SENIOR CAR DECORATION

In the past few school years, you may have noticed some window art on our seniors' car windows the first day of school. With phrases like "Kiss my class goodbye" to "Honk if you're a senior," the windows allow students to showcase the excitement of their senior year and their individual personalities. This is a fun tradition that allows seniors to personalize their car in a way that can feel special for their final year.

SENIOR JEANS

Another trend becoming popular, which has yet to really hit our school is "senior jeans." These are custom-painted or decorated jeans that express school spirit, individuality, and personal style. These jeans could be seen as a spin on the classic "senior cords" which were corduroy pants and skirts decorated with designs that reflect people's majors, personal interests, and more that were popular during the 1900s at colleges like Purdue. The special thing about making your own pair of senior jeans is the customability. Everything you add from your graduating year, your school's name and colors, or personal interests, is completely your own.



Around the Halls

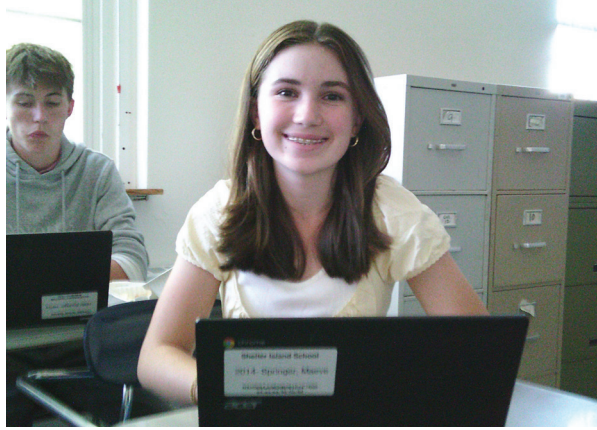
By Noemi Torres



For this issue of “Around the Halls” we went through the school and asked students what is a trend you have noticed in school and what do you think about it. Let’s check out some responses!



Abie Roig (grade 11): “Labubus are a new funny trend that is really cool. It’s really cool.”



Maeve Springer (grade 10): “Those labubus, I think they are kind of cute, but weird at the same time.”



Kylie Kuhr (grade 10): “I’ve noticed people wear those long white skirts and I think they are cute, but for a special occasion because people are wearing them”

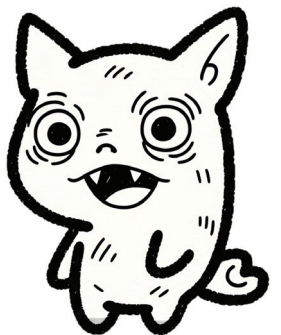
“6
7”



Henry Springer (grade 11): “I’ve been noticing a lot of the 6-7 trend declining and teachers also using it, and I’m very, very happy about it.”



Regina Kolmogorova (grade 9): “Digital cameras are trending, I like digital cameras because they help me accept the phone ban more.”



Ryan Sanwald (grade 10): “A trend I’ve heard in school is people asking: ‘Do you care about nothing?’ I partake in this trend. I think it’s the best thing that has ever happened in this school.”



* Do you care about nothing? *



Lexi Bartilucci (grade 10): “I see a lot of people wearing camo, especially sweatshirts and sweatpants. I mean I like it because I think the print is cool, but sometimes the camo can look cheap in a way and then I don’t really like it.”