



MANICURE TRENDS: LIO INVESTIGATES

Learn about Lio's Epic (manicure) adventure! Turn to **PAGE 6** to read Lio's Guide to Nails!



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In March we celebrated Women's History Month. Learn more by turning to **PAGE 8**.



IT'S CAMP SIGN-UP TIME!

Still deciding what to do this summer? Turn to **PAGE 11** to read up on our best camp recommendations.

SENIORS DEPART! (KINDA)

BY ROSIE HANLEY

As spring is approaching and graduation comes ever closer, our seniors got an early headstart to their end of year traditions by going on their senior trip from March 12 to March 16. Joined by chaperones, Mr. Miedema, Nurse Mary, and Ms. Colligan, 17 seniors drove down to an Airbnb they rented with class funds in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Starting their journey early on the morning of March 12, the group took two vans on the nearly 9 hour drive to Virginia. After grocery shopping and some swimming in the house's indoor pool, many students crashed for the night without much fanfare.

The first full day of the trip began at 10am the next morning when they gathered back in the vans and ventured out to Motor World, a go-cart centered theme park, where the group enjoyed several go-kart tracks altogether and then split and enjoyed an hour of either mini golf or high-speed racing that, according to senior Lauren Gibbs, "was really fast and super fun." After the high energy morning, the group had lunch

at a local Virginia restaurant and then made their way back to their Airbnb to nap and spend time in the house's indoor pool once again. When Saturday rolled around, seniors made their way to Busch Gardens, an amusement park, and spent most of their day riding rides and even reuniting with a former classmate who lives nearby. After another afternoon and evening of rest, the third and final day kicked off by visiting the Norfolk Botanical Garden and then moved quickly to the exploration of the USS Wisconsin Battleship Museum which gave the seniors a "very interactive experience" according to senior Mae Brigham. After eating lunch in the cafeteria of the museum, the group moved on to explore colonial Williamsburg via a private tour, which lasted most of the afternoon.

After a truly long day, seniors made their way back to the Airbnb for one final night of rest, and then took their journey home at roughly the same time they had left just a few days before.



Courtesy Photo: Nurse Mary, left, and Quinn Sobejana pose for a photo out front of a go-kart track in Virginia Beach.



Courtesy Photo: Michael Kotula, left, and Sebi Martinez work on a puzzle in the seniors' Airbnb.



Courtesy Photo: The Class of 2026 visited Virginia Beach from March 12-16.

TEAM USA GEARS UP FOR WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC WITH LOCAL TIES

BY LEXI JERNICK

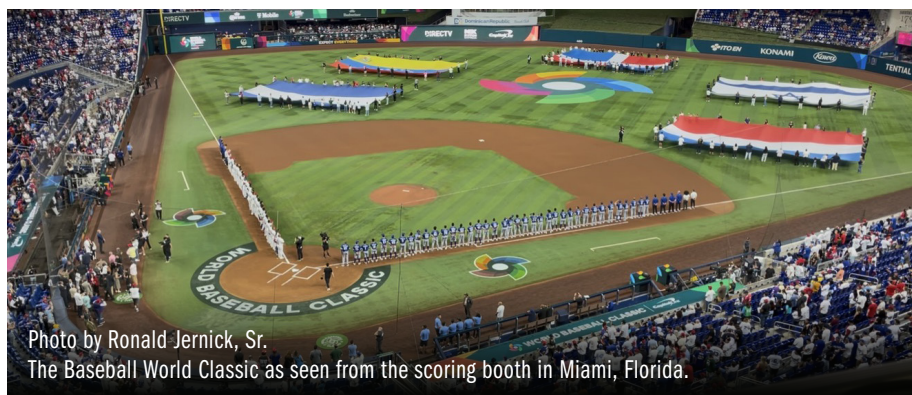


Photo by Ronald Jernick, Sr. The Baseball World Classic as seen from the scoring booth in Miami, Florida.

The World Baseball Classic is an international baseball tournament at which professional players compete for their home countries instead of their regular teams. This event is organized by Major League Baseball, it is held every three to four years, and features

many of the sport's biggest stars. This year the Baseball World Classic is taking place March 5th-17th. The teams are divided into groups, and the best advance through elimination rounds to a championship game.

This year, Team USA will feature

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COLLEGE VISITS: ARE THEY STILL WORTH IT?

BY JACKSON ROHRER

The classic college tour, a milestone most high school graduates, parents, and grandparents still remember. But as we enter a new age of education, centered around technological developments, artificial intelligence, and other new ways of teaching, are traditional, in-person college tours out of date? With most schools providing virtual tours online, endless pages of information on their websites, and an infinite number of social media platforms with accounts centered around their schools, do you really need to visit a school in-person?

While our school does a lot to prepare students for life after high school, if college is your desired path, I believe visiting schools is a crucial part of the experience. Moreover, visiting colleges throughout your high school years, more specifically before and after applications, can have serious benefits for students.

As students enter the second semester of the school year, college is a significant thing on most upperclassmen's minds. For the juniors, college applications are just around the corner. Most will choose to apply to schools using the Common Application, which will open up this August. From there, deadlines range anywhere from November through January, depending on the school. For the seniors, decision day is right around the corner, as they will decide on which school to commit to on May 1st.

For the juniors, we've arrived at the time of our junior year that we need to start thinking about what colleges/universities will make the list. And for the seniors, as they begin to receive letters of acceptance, deciding which school to enroll at is no small task. For example, according to Naviance, a program within the Common Application, Shelter Island students received over 700 acceptance letters from 2015 through 2025. Of those 700 letters, only 81 enrollments were recorded. That means students were left to decide from approximately 8.5 acceptances per student in recent years—endless options. To that end, a college tour could be the deciding factor. While digital resources can inform students on some aspects of a university, such as its size, price, and other logistics, the information online doesn't always provide students with the full picture.

Many aspects of a school can only be experienced in-person. For Shelter Island students, who are in extremely small classes in a very rural community, attending a school with forty-thousand kids in an urban city might make their

college years daunting. Or, it may be the experience and exposure Shelter Island could never provide, and thus, the perfect fit for them. But finding out what is too small, or too big, more often than not requires a student to actually experience it. Touring a school for a day, or even spending the weekend in the area, is the easiest way for a student to "live it" and determine if a specific sized school is too big or too small.

Additionally, taking an official tour offered by the school provides information and insights you wouldn't get online. College tours typically consist of two parts, an information session and a student-led tour. The information sessions are hosted by a member of the admissions office, where they will walk you through every aspect of the school—its educational offerings, student life, cost, the application process, etc. Following these sessions, active students from the school take parents and prospective students on a guided tour of the campus, stopping at key places and explaining different aspects of the school. While much of the information provided on official visits can be found online, it's usually difficult to navigate schools' confusing websites, especially when you're researching loads of schools. Once you find a program you're interested in, and information you find on the school's website leads you to believe it may be a good fit, taking an in-person tour can provide you with insights on all aspects of the school that you can't read off a website. For instance, there may be educational requirements for freshmen that you didn't see online, or additional ways to earn scholarships that you find out about on the tour. But more importantly, receiving insights from a student actually attending the school can be one of the most beneficial aspects of an in-person tour. While these tour guides are likely students attending the university, and are being paid by the university to represent the school in a positive way, I have found many tour guides to not only read their standard scripts, but provide their own experiences and insights you won't find anywhere online.

For instance, on a recent trip this past March, I arrived on a campus to find that the majority of the school was under construction, as the university needed to replace every pipe in the dorms and classrooms. According to their website, construction is set to be completed by the end of this academic year. However, my tour guide informed me that only one phase of the construction would be completed this year, and construction

would continue well into the end of my college freshman year. While details like this aren't the most significant when it comes to what classes I will take, majors available, or cost and other factors related to the school, it's still a significant imposition and gave the campus a negative connotation that wasn't expressed online.

While tours provide students with tons of logistical information, they also provide students with that classic gut feeling most graduates and parents still remember. In this age of technology, screens and computers have replaced and revolutionized many aspects of our lives. But walking on a campus, and getting hit with that immediate gut feeling, good or bad, can't be replicated by a screen. This searching by feeling, is especially relevant for both the junior and senior students. For the juniors, part of creating a list of schools requires the student to have some basic requirements. Big or small, urban or rural, private or public—there are endless options. But how do you decide? Being in our unique situation here on Shelter Island, not many colleges will replicate the same feeling we get here. With such a small community, and extremely small class sizes, we are not exposed to that much during our high school years. For some students, a small, rural school will be the best fit. For others, a large school, or an urban school, or a school 3,000 miles away, will be the right fit. But if students have only seen the small school environment we have here at home, how are they supposed to decide? Taking a college tour during a student's junior year, targeting different types of schools, can be the perfect solution. You don't have to visit every school before applying, but visiting one large program, a small program, and schools in different environments can help you narrow down your list.

For the seniors, this search by feeling is especially important once acceptances roll in. As previously stated, students are left in the spring with a number of acceptance letters, and only a few months to decide. This is when the search by feeling factor can be the most significant. When deciding from your list, you may have multiple schools that check all of your boxes. But what if one campus is the complete wrong fit for a student. Committing to a school with 60,000 undergraduate students, when in reality, the sweet spot of 10,000 would have been better, or committing to a school miles and miles away from home, when you didn't realize you liked the luxury

of coming home, can be a costly and time consuming decision. The four years at college are often some of the most formative years of your life, but what if you arrive on campus for the first time at the start of your freshman year and you get that feeling. That feeling that this isn't what I imagined, or the campus is too big, too cold, too urban, too rural. Despite having the perfect program for your major, the perfect financial package, and checking all the boxes, it doesn't pass the 'vibes' check. While this may not seem like the most important factor, four years of your life is a long time. And it feels especially longer if those four years are spent in a place where you are unhappy. Moreover, before committing to a school, it's all the more important to step foot on campus. The trip is never wasted, because even if the school was always a perfect fit, the visit is worth the confirmation.

College tours aren't easy, they are a major time commitment, they are expensive, you have to travel, and leaving Shelter Island in the middle of school/work can be rather stressful. But the information they provide students with is priceless. On average, Shelter Island students are taken on only one or two tours by our guidance department during their high school years. While these tours are beneficial, and unheard-of in neighboring districts, they don't provide students with enough information to make a decision on which schools to apply to.

Start early. Even if it's one or two schools, don't wait until your senior year to start visiting schools. Tours and college trips don't have to be super expensive, or far away, or perfect by any means. A simple trip to a local school can be just as informative as visiting a school across the country. With a number of impressive schools right here on Long Island, and more schools just a short trip into New York City or Connecticut, touring different types of schools doesn't require a long extensive trip. Deciding what school to go to and where you'll spend your four years is too big of a decision to guess. For a decision this big, seeing it for yourself is crucial. For Shelter Island students, it's all the more important to visit different environments to see which fit is right for you. Adjusting from a 15 person graduating class to a 15,000 person graduating class is no small task. While you should use digital resources, nothing can replicate the in-person college tour—so don't make a decision this big without leaving the island and seeing for yourself.

We would love to hear from you!
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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

BY KYLIE KUHR



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Rando
Sophomore Lexi Bartilucci looks excited to start her softball season

This 2025-2026 spring sports season, we have quite a variety of sports! Running this season is spring track, junior varsity softball, junior high baseball, and junior varsity baseball. The spring track team is coached by Mrs. Baskin and Coach Toby Green and has a total of 6 people on the roster so far. Rosie Hanley, who is joining spring track for the first year, says, "I am very excited for the season and I want to make many memories." The softball team is coached by Mrs. Rando and there are a total of 10 girls on the roster so far. This isn't the first time Ms. Rando has coached, she has been with the team for a few years now. She always brings energy and inspiration to the practices. For junior Juliana Medina, softball season is about more than just the game. She shares, "The best part for me about being on the softball team is making friends and getting closer with classmates all while being able to play outside." The junior

high baseball team will be coached by Mr. Conrady. It is yet to be determined if this will be intramural or not, however Mr. Conrady is "ready to work with this group of kids" and he is especially excited because there hasn't been a junior high baseball team in quite a few years. Lastly, Mr. Miedema coaches the junior varsity baseball team which is currently rostered at 13 players. Mr. Miedema has been coaching the baseball team for many years now. Mr. Miedema brings great experience and enthusiasm to the baseball diamond. Junior baseball player Ari Waife is looking forward to "starting [the season] so early this year, so we will have a lot of time to improve over the course of the season and see how far we can come. Hopefully we have another undefeated season."

Good luck to all the spring sports teams, we are hoping the season goes well and everyone has fun!

TEAM USA GEARS UP FOR WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC WITH LOCAL TIES

BY LEXI JERNICK | CONTINUED

some familiar faces from our local Shelter Island community. Shelter Island native Ron Jernick Sr., the official scorekeeper for the Miami Marlins, is scheduled to keep score for the games when the tournament reaches Miami, Florida. With decades of experience, including scorekeeping the MLB All-Star Game and playoff games in Miami, Jernick has become a trusted figure in professional baseball. This is not Jernick's first time with a well known baseball tournament, in fact he has an All Star Game ring from when the MLB All Star Game was held

in Miami in 2017. Reflecting on the opportunity, he said, "This opportunity kind of just came across. I thought, well, I have nothing better to do. This should keep me busy. Plus who doesn't want to watch the sport they love while working a job they love?" Jernick got this role because he is the "go to" guy when it comes to score keeping in Miami after creating the official score keeping book that the Marlins and many other MLB teams use.

Joining Jernick behind the scenes is yet another Shelter Islander,

Patrick O'Shea. O'Shea, who grew up summering on Shelter Island, will be handling analytics for Team USA. He also pitched for the Shelter Island Bucks in 2015 when they won the league championship, and he now works as advance scouting coordinator for the Los Angeles Dodgers. O'Shea's role with Team USA allows him to travel with the team throughout the whole process and contribute to strategic decision making. He was picked by Team USA to travel alongside them while they are on this journey through the tournament.

Team USA is considered one of the favorites in this year's tournament, with a lineup built around power hitting and depth that many countries struggle to match. Japan enters as the defending champion, while the Dominican Republic boasts a roster loaded with stars. Jernick and O'Shea plan to meet up if they cross paths and take a photo at one of the games. With experienced professionals like Jernick and O'Shea on the team, Team USA is poised to make a strong run!

JUNIOR HIGH BASEBALL IS BACK!

BY REGINA KOLMOGOROVA

For the first time in many years, there will be a junior high baseball team this spring! The team this year will be coached by Mr. Conrady. The roster is not yet finalized, so it is still up in the air whether JH baseball will run as intramural or interschool. The team is open to grades 7, 8 and in some cases, grade 9 as well. This is Mr. Conrady's first year teaching baseball, but he has coached other teams before, including the junior varsity boys soccer team. Mr. Conrady is anticipating some "competitive

baseball this season," but he also just hopes everyone has fun! He also says he's "excited for this particular group of kids and I hope there will be enough sign-ups for a team. If there aren't enough kids signed up, it will be an intramural, which I think is just as fun." JH baseball does not start up until the end of March, so there is still time to sign up! If you're a boy in grades 7, 8 or 9, sign up now before it is too late! It is great to get this sport back on the junior high level and we wish everyone the best of luck!



GET TO KNOW SIENNA CHU

BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI



PHOTO BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI
6TH GRADER SIENNA CHU

Every year a new wave of secondary school students come to Shelter Island, this year in the 6th grade is Sienna Chu. Sienna is an avid reader and when asked about her favorite series, she immediately

replied, "Percy Jackson!" When asked which books, she paused and said, "Oh, that's hard. I really like all of them, but I would say the 'Heroes of Olympus' series." Her favorite characters are Percy

Jackson, Annabeth Chase, and Nico di Angelo. "Percy's awesome, and Annabeth is sassy, but also smart. Nico is fantastic, cool, and he's nonchalant; he has a cool style too," Sienna shared.

Some of Sienna's hobbies other than reading include listening to music, watching movies, and sketching. Her favorite artists are Billie Eilish and Somber, while one of her favorite songs is "Running Up That Hill" by Kate Bush. Sienna's favorite show is Stranger Things, particularly the third season because the last episode is amazing. Her favorite character is Dustin because "he is the best and because he's smart."

Sienna's favorite subjects in school are ELA and Social Studies. She likes ELA because of the reading aspect of the class and because Mrs. Sears is fun to be around. "I like Social Studies," Sienna

explained, "because of Mr. Brennan, he is awesome, cool, and nonchalant." Also, 6th grade is great because as Sienna reports, "I like being able to walk around the halls and not having to be stuck in the same classroom for 6 hours."

A fun fact about Sienna is that her favorite animal is an owl because they remind her of the Greek goddess Athena; Athena's symbol is an owl and it represents wisdom. Sienna is also an athlete and participates in various sports like volleyball, tennis, and running. She has been playing tennis for two years and volleyball since 2025. Running is something she has been doing for a long time, growing up she went on runs with her dad. Sienna's favorite color is blue because of the ocean, but also because it reminds her of Poseidon, which then reminds her of Percy Jackson—it all comes full circle.

BARBARA BRIGHAM: MY SUPERHERO

BY ELSIE MAE BRIGHAM



PICTURED ABOVE IS BARBARA BRIGHAM.

When people think of superheroes, they may think of capes, magic powers, or names like Superman or Iron Man. But when I picture one, I don't think of someone out of a storybook; I can only think of my grandmother, Barbara Brigham. Her strength isn't superpowers but sacrifice, resilience, and a lifetime of courage.

Like every great hero, her story began in a small and quaint place, an apartment in the Bronx in 1946. She was born at Bronx Hospital to Alfred and Karoline Kilb, both born and raised in the Bronx. Her father spoke fluent German and lived in Germany for the first 4 years of his life. Both her mother's and father's families were German immigrants who settled in New York and built families there.

She attended Whalton High School, which at the time was the only all-girls public school in all of New York. After graduating, she went to Bronx Community College, where she earned her associate's degree in Medical Technology. This degree led her to work for Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she would be employed at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx. Here, she conducted blood tests entirely by hand. There were no automated machines to analyze or read it for her; she instead would use a microscope and identify the type of blood by sight based

on the appearance of the cells. She would work at Jacobi Hospital on and off for 14 years, balancing her career, motherhood, and marriage.

Although she grew up in the Bronx, Shelter Island was always a part of Barbaras life, even before she was born. Her connection to the island started with her grandfather, Lew Corbett. His aunts were wealthy women and lived in Cresswood, New York. They used to spend summers on Shelter Island and would stay at Dr. Pettit's camp, later known as Peconic Lodge, which is now known as the Pearlman Music Center. The aunts invited Lew out to the island for a visit, so he packed the car and took her mother, Karoline, and her Uncle Lew to see the island for themselves. As soon as he stepped on the ferry, Lew Corbett Sr. said, "Oh God, this is God's country." He was immediately enamored.

After discovering the island, her grandfather rented a tiny cabin at Card's Cabins for one dollar a night or five dollars a week. At the time, there weren't any cabins, just simple small structures filled with beds for summer visitors. He loved the island so much that Lew returned year after year, eventually building his own home at 1 Congdon Road, a house that still stands today. That home later became my grandmother's mother's, and

it would become the place where she, and eventually, her own children spent their summers.

By the time she was a young woman, Shelter Island was already woven into Barbaras life, and it would only become more so when she met her husband, Walter Cole Brigham. He grew up on Shelter Island on Winthrop Road, but they would meet in the summer of 1964 at a going-away party for Charles Avona who was going into the service. She had seen Walter Brigham around the island, but that night was the first time they truly talked to one another. When asked about when they first met, she described it as, "We started going then and went for the rest of our lives."

Soon after, Walter enlisted in the Army and served two tours during the Vietnam War. They were engaged in January 1966, but Barbara made the difficult decision to wait until he completed both of his tours before getting married. They remained engaged for three years, finally marrying in February 1969. Although she wanted to marry sooner, both her mother and her own instincts told her to wait. She had seen too many young women lose their fiancés overseas or watch relationships fall apart. She was determined to stand by him faithfully and stay strong, and she did.

After marrying in 1969, Barbara and Walter soon started building their family, having their first son, Walter, in 1970, then Alfred in 1972, and finally Harry in 1975. In 1978, they began building a home on Shelter Island, originally intended to be just a cottage. By 1983, they moved there permanently with their three sons. What was once meant to be a summer place became their full-time home, and Shelter Island became the place where she would raise her children, and her children would go on to raise there.

Once settled on the island, Barbara took over the Nursery School at the church and taught there for five years. After that, she worked as a bookkeeper at Gardiner's

Bay Country Club for twenty years. Later, she joined the staff at the Shelter Island Public Library, where she continues to work today.

In 2020, Barbaras life would get harder when she lost both her mother and husband after long illnesses, and she herself was diagnosed with early-stage pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer was and remains one of the most difficult cancers to treat, with relatively low survival rates and limited effective options. After discussing her standard options, surgery to remove the tumor followed by chemotherapy, her doctor mentioned a clinical trial that he believed she would be a perfect candidate for. The trial was not a typical therapy. It combined the usual treatment with a personalized mRNA vaccine created from the genetic makeup of her own tumor. The goal of the vaccine was to teach her immune system to recognize and attack the cancer cells, helping her body fight back in a way that surgery and chemo alone couldn't.

After three years, and post-diagnosis, scans found no trace of cancer in her pancreas. This is a miracle of sorts, considering how aggressive and deadly pancreatic cancer is. But if you know her, it also felt fitting. Barbara never backed down from life's hardest battles. In one single year, she lost her mother, lost her husband, and was handed a life-threatening diagnosis that would have broken many people. Yet, she chose courage. She chose to fight. She chose hope.

My grandma may not be a superhero fighting villains, but she fought for more time. She fought for more mornings, more family dinners, more summers on Shelter Island, more moments with her children and grandchildren. And to me, that is what truly makes a superhero: someone who fights with everything they have and gives it their all until the very end.

POETRY MARCH MADNESS?

BY CAYMAN MOREHEAD

Every year, 64 of the best college basketball teams compete in the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament, better known as March Madness. The tournament, held each March, earns its nickname from the excitement and chaos of placing 64 teams into one single-elimination bracket. Fans predict winners, celebrate upsets, and

watch intense games unfold. In Ms. Colligan's 11AP classroom, however, March Madness looks a little different. Instead of basketball teams, poems fill the bracket. She found out about Poetry March Madness "on an online AP Lit and composition group online." Her first edition was originally 32 poems, but the years prior were shortened down

to 16 due to 32 being too many. So, how does it work? Students read 2 poems at a time, compare them head-to-head, and vote on whichever poem they think should move on to the next round. This continues until one poem comes out on top as the Poetry March Madness champion. Last year's winner was "Love after Love" by

Derek Walcott. Current senior Rosie Hanley remembers the winning poem fondly, saying, "Love after Love' was moving and emotional and I could really connect with it. I was so glad that poem was our winner." Soon enough this year's 11AP English class will crown their own!

THE SPRING CONCERT

BY MAEVE SPRINGER

With the warm weather comes the start of spring sports, the secondary school play, and the annual spring concert. This year the spring concert will be hosted by Mrs. Springer and Mrs. Farkas. Following Shelter Island School's successful winter concert in December which featured beautiful pieces such as "On a Night Long Ago" and "Angels in the Snow" performed by the middle and high school chorus, and "A Cambridge Carol" performed by the band, the spring concert is sure to be another musical highlight. Although the pieces for the upcoming concert cannot be announced yet, we can definitely expect to hear more high quality pieces beautifully performed

by music students. Students in the chorus and band work on these pieces until the concert, perfecting them. Those who are not able to take high school chorus or band participate in Jazz Band or Select Choir before school every Tuesday and Thursday, learning their pieces for the concert. These clubs are so important to our school because they provide a way for students to continue playing music while taking other electives during the school day. Mrs. Springer tells us that she chooses the pieces her students perform so, "The students are engaged, it's musical, and pleasing to the audience." This year the secondary school's spring concert

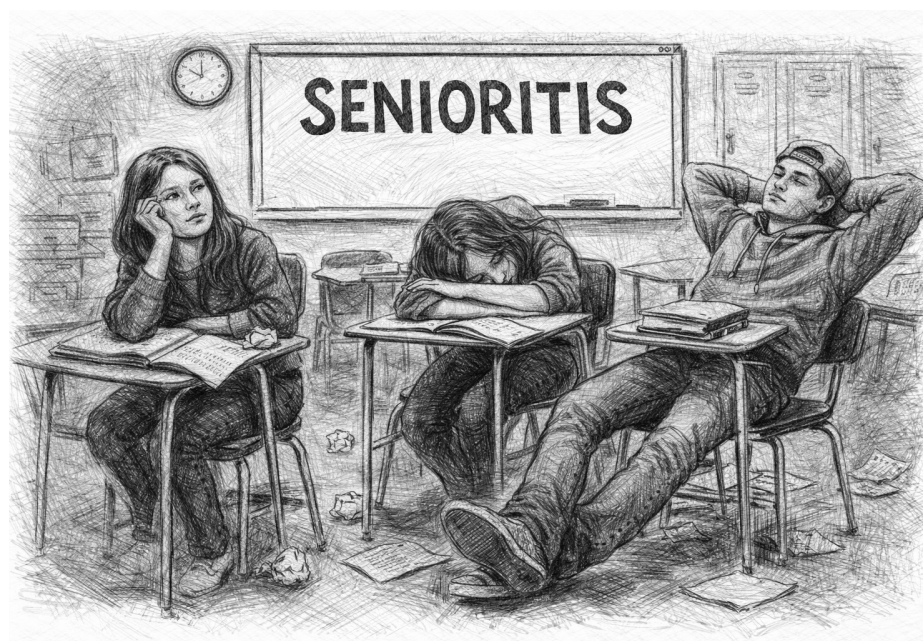


is being held May 13th at 6 p.m., and the elementary school's spring concert will be held May 19th at 6

p.m., as well. Be sure to come and see the chorus and band students perform!

SENIORITIS, HUH?

BY ARI WAIFE



Senioritis is the term used to describe kids in high school, specifically seniors, who are burned out from high school and struggle to find motivation to care much

about school work at all. It seems this epidemic has hit Shelter Island School. I spoke to some select seniors, and after a few questions, my senioritis diagnoses were fairly

easy to confirm or deny.

Senior Lexi Jernick says that as a senior, she feels, "Great, I never go to class, and... never mind, I can't say that. I've never been closer to Mrs. Lang. Rumor has it I'm her favorite." Oh boy. Seems like Lexi might be in denial about her obvious senioritis. Not going to class? Feeling great? Close to Mrs. Lang...(because she is spending all day in her office hiding!?) Sounds like senioritis to me!

Senior Lauren Gibbs told me, "I'm basically a sophomore now, and I'm always in Kylie's class. I'm only in class for 15 minutes a day, and I could not be happier." As a sophomore? What? Senioritis, but joining a lower class at the same time? This is a confusing case. Sounds like Lauren is avoiding classes and the fact that

graduation is on the way! A new type of senioritis, indeed.

Senior Daniel Hernandez fully admitted, "My senioritis is in full effect. I'm always procrastinating... Everyone says senioritis is the worst, but I think I'm enjoying my last year to the fullest." Ok, well this one is clear cut. Daniel not only has senioritis, he is enjoying every minute of it. Let's hope his procrastination does not lead him to another senior year, right!? Stay on the grind, Daniel!

Senior year is no time to take your foot off of the gas. These seniors are struggling. They have been hit hard by the major symptoms of senioritis. Let's hope they can get the help they need.

STUDENT OPINIONS

Manicure trends: Lio investigates

By Lionardo Napoles

One thing that animals have done since the beginning of time is stand out. Peacocks, spiders, caterpillars, and animals alike all have different ways of standing out. With humans, it's no different. Throughout history people have always tried to use objects or scents to stand out, leading to what fashion is today.

Getting your nails done is no different. Have you noticed the many girls of Shelter Island School expressing themselves through their manicures? I was curious to learn more, so I interviewed a few students and asked

them what's so special about getting their nails done.

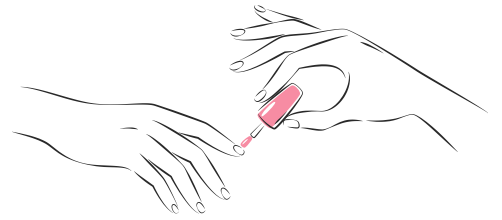
9th grader Michelle Martinez always has artistic nails. Why does she always have them done? Michelle explained, "I feel put together, they represent me and make me feel happy." What is really cool to know is Michelle actually does her own acrylic nails. She has all of the accessories, equipment, and rhinestones and changes up her nails as often as she likes. She also said she does her friends' nails every so often as well. Michelle is basically a nail tech! Lauren Gibbs from the 12th grade also always has a fresh set of nails. Like Michelle, having her nails done makes Lauren feel "more put together automatically." Fourth grade teacher Ms. Pitch likes her nails done because they are "an accessory to wear everyday, just like jewelry." All three ladies get their nails done with varying frequency, anywhere from every two weeks to every couple of months.

After learning more about their

nails, I decided to take matters into my own hands—or fingers—and get my nails done. Was I nervous? Yes. So, I decided to go out of my way and go to a nail salon in Mattituck called Epic Nails (4.2 rating on Google). I've heard good things about this place and I'm not at all excited about getting my nails done.

Arriving at the salon, I was immediately greeted and welcomed with open arms. I decided to go with a manicure, which I honestly had no knowledge about. It started with putting my fingers in warm water and letting them soak for a bit. Though my nail tech and I had a bit of a language barrier, I did my best with some small talk. I was impressed with how she pushed my cuticles back and though I had hoped for some nail art in the form of Bart Simpson on my middle finger, my tech was not up for that, so that was somewhat disappointing.

However, by the time my manicure was done, my nails were perfectly clean and shaped and I could not complain.



PICTURE COURTESY OF EPIC NAILS STAFF
NAIL TECH TO THE LEFT AND LIO TO THE RIGHT
WITH HIS BRAND NEW NAILS.

The bill was only 17 dollars for the whole treatment. Since I enjoyed the experience so much, I ended up tipping another 10 bones on top of the 17 I paid. I had a great time getting my nails done and I honestly feel like a nail expert now. I can proudly say that getting your nails done is not that bad and now I see why so many people feel complete with a fresh manicure. Go get your nails done.

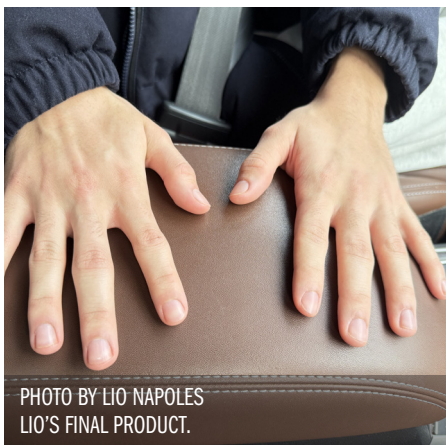


PHOTO BY LIO NAPOLES
LIO'S FINAL PRODUCT.

ABIE'S EATS BY ABIE ROIG



I love to eat and discover new spots to get a great meal. Recently, I knocked three new places off of my list and had some great dishes. Check out my reviews from my eats in Sagaponack, Manhattan, and Sag Harbor.

TOWNLIN BBQ: SAGAPONACK, NY

Honestly, this barbecue spot is about as good as barbecue in the Hamptons gets. Townline, which sits on the border of Wainscot and Sagaponack, near the Montauk Highway, is known for their wide selections of smoked meats, great tasting rubs, and homemade sauces. I hit up Townline with some friends: Ryan Sanwald, Nathan Sanwald, and Charlie Murray. As soon as we walked in, the smell of barbecue hit us. We could smell that good smoke right away. Townline had everything—smoked chicken, brisket, Texas ribs; it was very hard to decide what to get because it all looked and smelled so good! I finally ordered a brisket sandwich, ribs, and cornbread. Everything was great. Flavorful, tender, and so tasty that it was a meal to remember. All of my friends were happy with their food too. When it gets nicer outside, we plan on going back. For quality barbeque on the south fork, be

sure to get to Townline.

KATZ'S DELICATESSEN: NEW YORK CITY, NY

My interest in Katz's Deli began when I started getting ads on Instagram with pictures of their food. The food looked amazing and I knew the next time I headed to Manhattan I would have to get there. So, when my family and I planned a city weekend to visit my aunt and uncle, I called my uncle and asked if we could check out Katz's. The day we went, it was 32



PHOTO BY ABIE ROIG
KATZ'S DELI'S FAMOUS PASTRAMI SANDWICH AND MATZO BALL SOUP.

degrees outside, but there was still a long line wrapped around the outside of the deli. We stood outside for about 30 minutes in the cold, but honestly it kind of built the anticipation. When

we finally got inside, the first thing that hit me was the smell: that smoky, salty brisket smell just filled the place. An employee handed us tickets as soon as we walked in. Katz's has a serious policy. They track everything you order on tickets, and if you lose it, you're charged \$50 on top of whatever your food costs. We waited another 10 minutes in line inside before getting to the counter. Then, we watched them slice the meat right in front of us, which made it feel different from a normal dish. I ordered their famous pastrami sandwich and matzo ball soup. The

is definitely worth the trouble and is the best deli I have ever been to!

THE CORNER BAR: SAG HARBOR, NY

The Corner Bar is a staple in my family. When I was a little kid and my mom would take my cousins and me out to eat, it was almost always at one of three places. There was The Dory, in our hometown, Page in Sag Harbor, or The Corner Bar in Sag Harbor. We would always sit at the same table, right next to the door facing the window. My cousins and I would eat fish n chips and coffee mugs filled with New England clam chowder and look out onto the crowd seated around the small, but busy dining room. My mom said the first time she went to The Corner Bar she was 27. At that time, she said, there was always a lot of smoke in the air, since indoor smoking was still allowed. So, The Corner Bar has always held memories for us. This time, I returned with my aunts and uncles. For lunch I ordered their ruben sandwich and a crab cake.

sandwich was stacked massively high with meat—not the kind of thing you finish easily. Everything we ate was amazing and each bite felt like an accomplishment after our wait. Katz's

Unfortunately, The Corner Bar just closed its doors. It is reopening under new ownership which gives me a reason to return for another review. It is still sad though that the go-to place for my family is no longer.

IF I WENT TO A BIG SCHOOL...

BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI

For this Inlet, I went around the school and asked students what they would love, hate, and want to do/participate in if they went to a BIG high school. Personally, I would love having different sports and club opportunities, but I would hate it if there were too many people there. I would definitely want to join fun clubs and different classes that are offered at bigger schools.

MAEVE SPRINGER (SOPHOMORE): "I would love being able to meet new people and it would be great never having to worry about not having enough people for a sports team. I would dislike the lack of one-on-one time with teachers though, especially as someone who cares about their grades a lot. I would

like to participate in different clubs and take new classes."

KYRA SCIACCHITANO (JUNIOR): "I would like going to a big school because skipping class would be easier. Something I would hate is that there are so many people, and I would like to join professional badminton if it was offered."

ABIE ROIG (JUNIOR): "I would like to be able to join the different sports offered at big schools and something I would hate is not knowing everyone. Something I would want to do at a big school is take different classes."

ROSIE HANLEY (SENIOR): "I would like

being at a big school so I could meet new diverse people, but I would hate all of the traffic jams in the hallways and staircases. I would want to make a club of a niche interest to find people with similar interests."

JOHNNY GURNEY (FRESHMAN): "I wouldn't want to go because there would probably be more rude people, bullies, and more work."

DANIELLE RASMUSSEN (SOPHOMORE): "I would like the different sports options, but I would hate having less attention from teachers. I also wouldn't like the dress codes that would probably be in place and having to change for gym class."

WILLIAM MARSHALL (FRESHMAN): "I

would love having more options for classes and I would like being able to have more friends with the same interests as me. I wouldn't like all of the people, but I would like to be able to have more friend groups."

LILY POTTER (SOPHOMORE): "I would love to have different people in classes, but I would hate having to go through clogged hallways. I would love to be in a proper play with props, a big stage, and a bunch of actors."

HENRY SPRINGER (JUNIOR): "I would love not being called on so often and I would hate that there are too many people. I would love to be on the baseball team and be the coolest baseball player."

PICK A READING PARTNER (PARP) 2026

BY MAKAYLA CRONIN

Each year, Shelter Island School's PTSA hosts PARP, or Pick a Reading Partner, a program designed to encourage students to make reading a daily habit. This year's theme was dinosaurs. Students must choose a partner to read with each night and record their progress in a reading log. Reading partners can include friends, family members, or parents. PARP also includes a fun creative contest. Students design bookmarks and add fun or inspiring reading slogans to them. The PTSA then reviews all of the bookmarks and selects their favorite to represent this year's PARP program. We are still awaiting the results for this year's bookmark competition winner.

During PARP this year, each secondary grade level was paired with an elementary class and the older students got to visit the younger students and read them a story. This gave the high school students a chance to become role models and practice leadership, while the younger students got to improve their reading skills and bond with the high schoolers. The program helps build strong connections between different age

groups and creates a sense of community throughout the school.

Another fun PARP activity took place at the Shelter Island Public Library; students were taught how to find books using the spine labels. They had a book-finding scavenger hunt using their new skill. Back at the elementary school, students were treated to "mystery readers" all week, which included community members and school teachers and staff. Then, at the end of the week, elementary students had fun dressing up as their favorite book characters.

Overall, PARP is more than just a reading program, it is a celebration of creativity, connection, and community at Shelter Island School. From designing bookmarks to partnering across grade levels and participating in engaging activities, students are encouraged through PARP to develop a lifelong love of reading in a fun and outgoing way.



SOPHOMORES READ TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS DURING PARP WEEK.

ASK GRANDMA ADVICE COLUMN

JUNIOR EVAN WESLEK ASKED GRANDMA: Is your last name burger, do you come with fries, is your middle name cheese?

Oh dear. I don't exactly know what that means. No, my last name is not Burger. I don't come with fries, and my middle name

is not "cheese." I don't know where kids learn things like this. I don't know what any of this means.

SOPHOMORE KYLIE KUHR ASKED: Why are armpits ticklish?

Well honey, armpits are ticklish to keep

The Inlet has a new edition! It's an advice column from your favorite grandma. Everyone knows us grandmas have great advice, so some of the high schoolers submitted questions to me, one of your favorite grandmas! If you have a burning question, be sure to send it my way for the next issue. Look out for my Google form coming to your email soon.

you safe. They have a bunch of tiny nerves and your body makes your ticklish spots extra sensitive to protect you from the ticklish monsters underneath your bed that you make me check 10 times every night!

FRESHMAN REGINA KOLMOGOROVA ASKED ME:

How do I ask my teacher to go to prom with me? (If you know you know, panther for life!)

Hmmm. Sweetheart, that's an interesting question, back in my day age didn't matter. My first husband was 25 years older than me. But now, age definitely matters. Teachers are there to teach you, not to take

you to prom!! That's not a job for grown-ups. If you want to ask someone to prom and have that confidence, ask someone your own age!!

SENIOR DANIEL HERNANDEZ ASKED GRANDMA: What is the meaning of life?

Well...the meaning of life isn't some big secret honey, it's a lot more simple than that. Just love the people around you, be kind, and leave places a little better than you found them. There's no need to try and find a bigger meaning than that. It's right in front of you!! But, if you want to know how to get real meaning out of life, then call your Grandma!!!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BACKGROUND

BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

Women's History Month was first established in 1987, when Congress passed a resolution to dedicate the month of March for the observance of Women's historical achievements. This month highlights events such as the first Women's Suffrage Parade in 1913, Jeannette Rankin becoming

the first female cabinet member in 1933, and Sally Ride becoming the first American woman in space in 1983, as well as many more achievements and memorable events accomplished by women. There are many women who are extremely notable figures to keep in mind while observing this month

such as Rosa Parks and Susan B. Anthony who were female activists, Marie Curie, Ada Lovelace, and Maya Angelou all of whom played a part in making women's role in civil rights, politics, science and social progress all the more noticeable and recognized. Women's History Month is celebrated through

educational events, honoring women's achievements in schools and communities, supporting women-owned businesses, and much more. To learn more about women's historical achievements, be sure to check out Juliana's women's history timeline!

JUST A FEW OF WOMEN'S HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

BY JULIANA MEDINA

Women's rights as we know them today grew through decades of gaining small victories for equality. Women's rights milestones were achieved over time.

- In 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention became the first major meeting focused on women's rights in the United States, where activists demanded equal rights, including the right to vote.
- About twenty years later, discussions around the Fourteenth

Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1868 pushed women's rights activists to fight harder for equality because the amendment did not include women.

- In 1888, the International Council of Women was created to unite women from different countries to advocate for equal rights.
- By 1908, women workers marched in New York City demanding better working conditions and

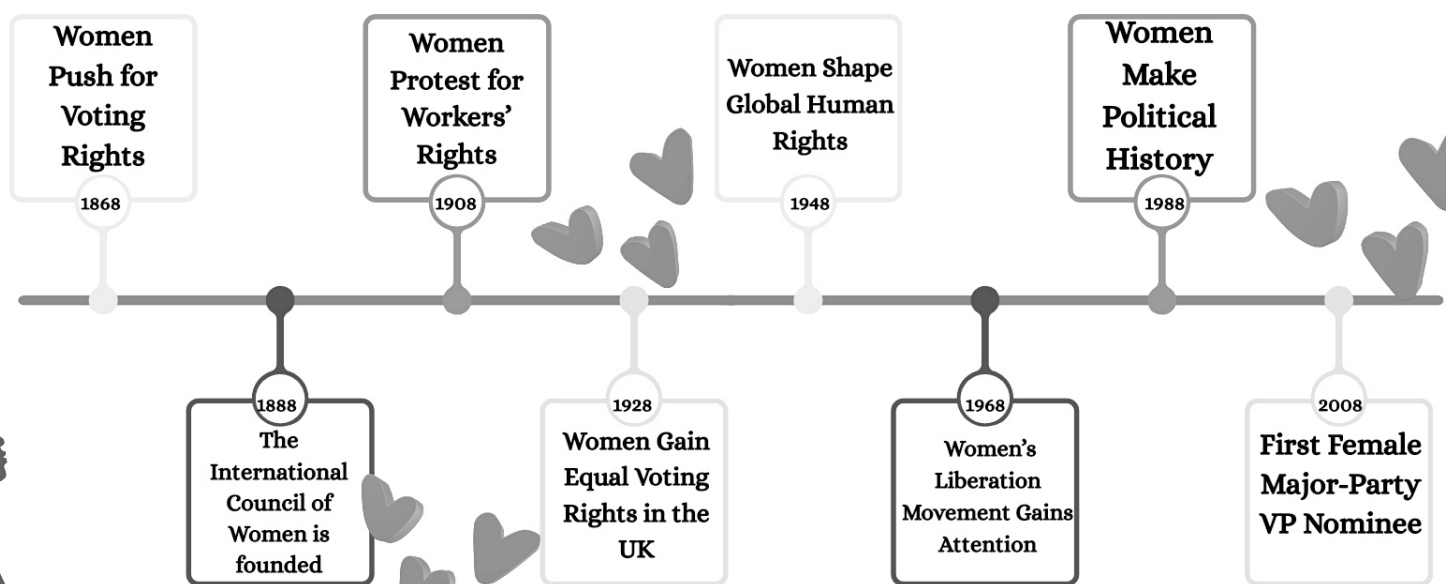
voting rights, which helped inspire International Women's Day.

- In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed, officially giving women the right to vote in the United States and by 1928 women were beginning to participate more in politics.
- In 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt helped create the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which promoted equal rights and freedoms for

people around the world.

- During the women's rights movement of the 1960s, activists fought for equal opportunities in jobs, education, and society.
- By 1988, women were gaining more leadership roles in government, education, and business.
- Finally, in 2008, Hillary Clinton made history by becoming the United States' first female presidential candidate.

Womens History Month



WHAT IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH?

BY SADIE GREEN-CLARK

March is one of those months where everything is dull in the northeast. For students in school, it is one of the longest points of the year, no breaks, no holidays off, and no trips. March feels cold and groggy. March brings us St. Patrick's Day and Women's History Month, but many people don't realize it is also National Nutrition Month.

National Nutrition Month is an educational campaign backed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. It serves as a reminder to take care of yourself and listen to your body. National Nutrition Month began in 1973 as National Nutrition Week as a way to teach people about healthy choices. By 1980, the campaign was expanded to the entire month of March.

This is exactly what this month is all about, rebranding your life, and taking control of not only your food habits, but mental habits. This year's theme is POWER OF NUTRITION in which they are sharing the science behind healthy food, and why we should make these good decisions. They are also exhibiting how to be healthy while on a budget, due to the fact that cheap usually equals

bad quality.

March is a perfect time to beat the long winter blues and focus on personal health. We can all start this by thinking about what we are putting into our bodies, and with that, what impact it makes on us. May March be the month you focus on your own personal nutrition.

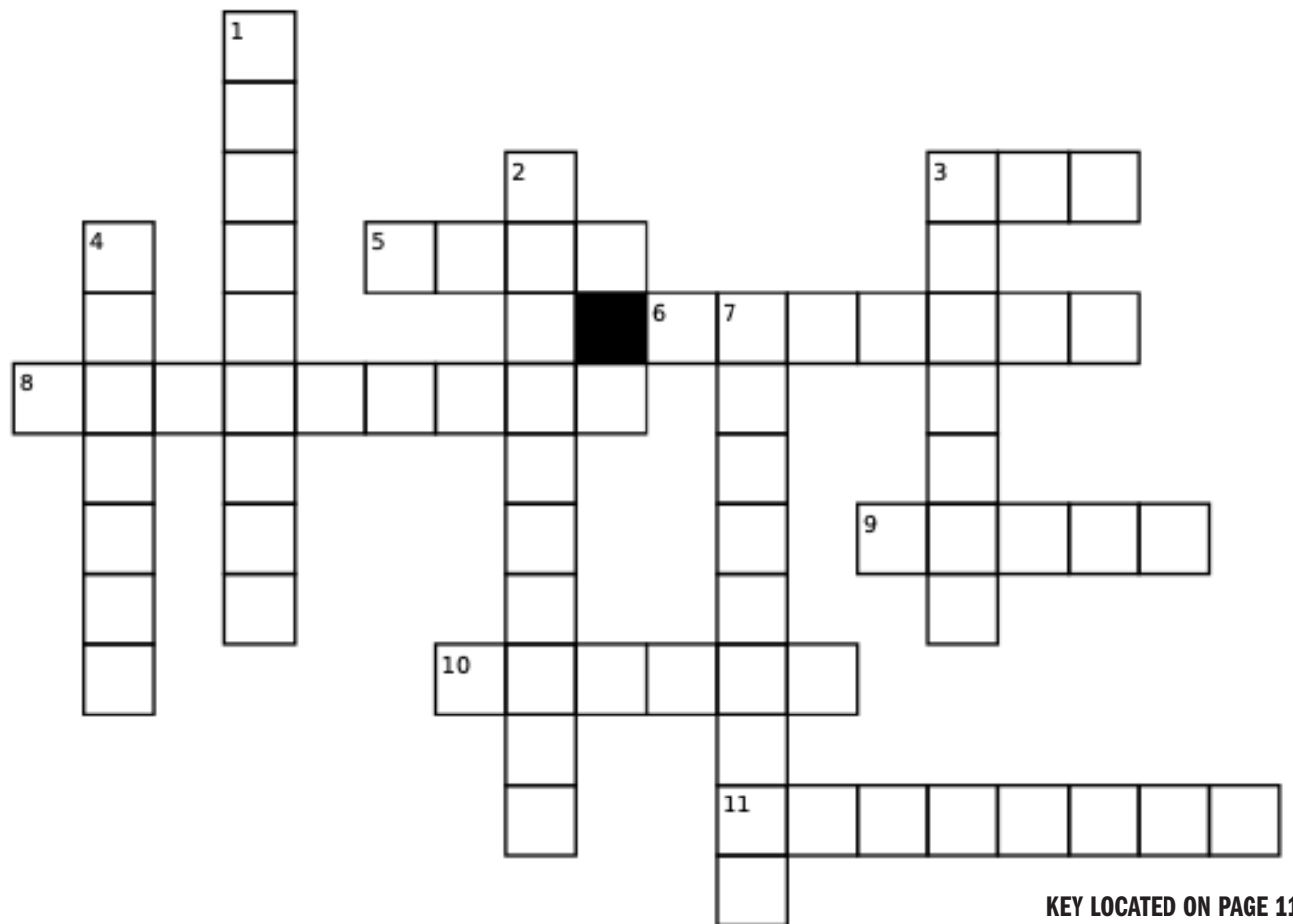
SPRING BREAK CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

- 1. what you use outside
- 2. a popular sport played at the beach
- 3. you can play music with this
- 4. the Sunshine State
- 5. who makes sure you are being safe at the beach (2 words)

ACROSS:

- 3. soak up some Vitamin D with this
- 5. keeps you occupied wherever you are, especially the beach
- 6. what blooms around this time of year
- 8. has rides, roller coasters, and games
- 9. where you go to tan and swim
- 10. a popular spring break location
- 11. a long trip to take with friends (2 words)



KEY LOCATED ON PAGE 11

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE INLET PODCAST

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Did you know *The Inlet* launched a podcast series this year? *The Inlet Podcast* releases one thirty-minute episode along with each edition of our print newspaper. The episodes feature a wide variety of profiles, open-ended discussions, and other topics our newsroom feels are best expressed through an audio format.

Each episode is created and produced by junior Nate Sanwald, who serves as *The Inlet Podcast's* engineer. While Nate works tirelessly behind the scenes,

his younger cousin, sophomore Ryan Sanwald, serves as *The Inlet Podcast's* host. Ryan appears on the microphone each episode to interview the podcast's wide array of guests.

Now six months in, with the fourth episode recently released, the podcast staff wanted to share their experiences so far. Check out their responses below, and if you haven't already, listen to the latest episode of the podcast by scanning the QR code on the cover.

NATE SANWALD, PODCAST ENGINEER

What inspired the creation of *The Inlet Podcast*?

"Well, last year there was an elective with Ms. Colligan called Introduction to Podcasting. A lot of people in the class were not really into podcasting, but Jackson Rohrer and I made a podcast and it was pretty good. I didn't really think much of it after that, and then early this school year Jackson said, 'Hey, we should make a podcast for the Inlet.' I thought that would be cool, so I said I'd be the engineer and we'd find a host."

What is the process from an idea to a finished episode?

"First we have to come up with the idea. Ryan, Jackson, Mrs. Treharne, and I all meet and discuss ideas. Then, we decide which one will work. Then, we figure out how to format it, who to interview, and do all of the production stuff. Then, we set deadlines, and start interviewing and recording. At the end, we record the intro and outro, edit the conversations, and then it's ready to go. It was slow at the start of the year, but now we

have a format and a schedule set up, and we are in a nice routine."

What does the podcast engineer do, and how is that different from the host?

"My job is mostly setting up all the tech and equipment. I'm not the host, so I'm not really talking on the mic, but everything Ryan does I then go through and check. I make sure the audio sounds good and the quality is right. I also help in the pre-production and do all of the edits."

What equipment do you use to record the podcast?

"Our equipment was paid for by a grant from the Shelter Island Ed Foundation a couple of years ago. We took over the equipment, added Descript software, and started using it for *The Inlet*. The interface is a Scarlett 2i2 and the microphones are Audio-Technica AT2020s. The mics, the interface, and the Mac pretty much get all the work done."



NATE SANWALD



RYAN SANWALD

RYAN SANWALD, PODCAST HOST

How did you decide to become the podcast host?

"It really started once Jackson and Nate brought me the idea. I was kind of debating it at first, but people kept saying I had a good voice and that I should try it and see what happens. After we did the first episode, it went really well and I got a lot of good feedback. It's kind of history from there."

Who has been your favorite guest on the podcast?

"My favorite guest was probably Dr. Doelger. He's a really fun guy to talk to and be around. He always has a positive mood and a smile on his face. He was also able to give a really heartfelt answer that felt very real."

What is one thing you hope listeners take away from the podcast?

"I'd say that anything is possible. A lot of the answers and conversations on the podcast are about serious things or struggles that people have gone through and then overcome. The main message is don't let anything stop you from what you actually want to do."

What is your favorite part about being part of the podcast?

"My favorite part is being able to do it with my cousin Nate. It's a really welcoming environment where I get to hear everybody else's thoughtful answers and responses, and I take something away from it myself."

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD: 2026

BY ELSIE MAE BRIGHAM



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; CAYMAN MOREHEAD, ELLIOT SCHACK, QUINN SOBEJANA, MAKAYLA CRONIN, HENRY SPRINGER, JACKSON ROHER, JULIANA MEDINA, SADIE GREEN-CLARK, LEONEL MENDEZ GREGORIO, AND LIONARDO NAPOLES HARD AT WORK AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.

Ten students from Shelter Island's National Honor Society spent the morning of Saturday, February 28, volunteering at a home build with Habitat for Humanity of Long Island as part of their third-quarter group service project. The students were accompanied by NHS advisor Janine

Mahoney and shop teacher Chris Conrardy.

The group left Shelter Island at 7 a.m. in the school van with Mrs. Mahoney at the wheel. The group stopped for breakfast at Goldberg's Bagels before traveling to the construction site in Bayport, New York. They arrived

around 8:30 a.m. and quickly got to work alongside other volunteers.

Students brought along with them, thanks to a grant from the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church, a wide variety of tools and supplies for the build site and its workers. These supplies were also generously discounted by the Shelter Island Ace Hardware store.

During the build, students helped with several tasks around the house. Some volunteers worked carefully with jigsaws to measure and cut floorboards before securing them in place by nailing them. Others climbed ladders to paint the ceilings, while another group focused on cutting and installing insulation. As a treat for the hard workers, Shelter Island School Superintendent Dr. Doelger, treated the volunteers to much-appreciated donuts via DoorDash.

The house being build underway is for Riga and Luz, who are a family hoping to create a more stable and all around better life for their daughter.

Right now in their current house, the family is faced with several challenges, including a lack of heat, no hot water, and a broken bathroom window that allows cold air to enter. Their home also has no kitchen or stove, making it difficult to prepare family meals. The couple is extremely grateful for the opportunity being provided by Habitat for Humanity, calling it "life-changing," and encourage others to volunteer and support the program.

By participating in the project, Shelter Island's National Honor Society students not only provided hands-on labor, but they also demonstrated their commitment to NHS's core pillars of service and character. For many of the volunteers, the experience was meaningful and rewarding. NHS President Elliot Schack reflected on the day, saying their time at the build was "amazing, and it was incredible to feel like I am making an impact on someone's life and making it possible for someone to get their dream home."

A RECORD AMOUNT OF STUDENTS SET TO EARN THE NYS SEAL OF BILITERACY THIS SPRING

BY NOEMI TORRES

In order to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, a graduating high school senior must prove proficiency in a language other than English. Proficiency can be validated through course grades and Regents exams, and to earn the final diploma seal, students must complete a lengthy presentation in the language (other than English) of their choice. Presentations are assessed by a panel on how comprehensive they are and whether or not they meet the standards of being interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Presentation panels

also must include a panel member (not related to students) who is fluent in the language the presentation is given in.

At Shelter Island School, the Seal of Biliteracy presentation is accomplished through seniors presenting their OCEs (Oral Comprehensive Exams) to a second panel entirely in the language other than English of their choice. The OCE is an approximately hour-long presentation seniors must give to a faculty panel (in English) each spring as part of the school curriculum. In

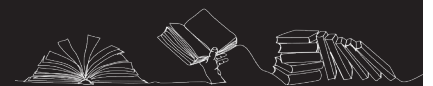
their OCE, seniors first discuss their senior thesis papers and research process, and then discuss their overall Shelter Island School experience. The challenging presentation must be polished, comprehensive, and students must field questions from faculty members effectively in order to pass. So, seniors do this once in English, and then, for those seeking the Seal of Biliteracy, they do it a second time in a foreign language of their choice.

This year, more seniors than ever are

aiming to pass their assessments and earn their Seal of Biliteracy, which will appear on student diplomas. Seeking a Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish are seniors: Keili Osorio Lopez, Nelvin Pena Murillo, Byron Rodas Vasquez, Leonardo Napoles, Daniel Hernandez Rivera, and Mae Brigham. Sebastian Martinez will complete his presentation in Slovak, Elliot Schack will present in French, Quinn Sobejana will present in Tagalog, and Rosie Hanley will present in Japanese. We wish all of our seniors good luck!

Rosie Reads *ROSIE READS: DIVINE RIVALS BY: REBECCA ROSS*

BY ROSIE HANLEY



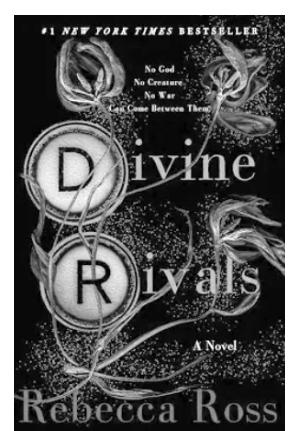
INTEREST: 8/10 | CHARACTER AUTHENTICITY: 9/10 | READING DIFFICULTY: 4/10 | SATISFYING ENDING: 7/10

If you are looking for a romance with a little bit of edge to bring you into this spring season I would highly recommend romantasy novel *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross. The book follows Iris Winnow, a journalist who dropped out of college to pursue her journalistic career at the Oath Gazette. Here she finds herself competing with this universe's version of a nepo-baby, Roman Kitt. He's rich and privileged and in Iris's mind absolutely about to beat here for a major promotion. With her mother in the grips of alcoholism and her brother fighting on the front lines of the war, she turns to her first outlet of writing for comfort, her grandmother's

typewriter. She mostly writes letters to her brother and, instead of sending them, slips them beneath her wardrobe door where they promptly disappear. Shocked by the clearly magical occurrence, she only gets more confused as she ends up with responses under her wardrobe the next day. Unbeknownst to Iris, the letters she is writing are being delivered to Roman, who keeps the strange correspondence secret, forming a bond with Iris through the letters while their real-world relationship remains more explosive than comforting. As the war between ancient gods, because yes that is the boring part of this book, grows more dangerous and

the truth behind the magical letters begins to unravel, both Iris and Roman are drawn closer to the frontlines and each other.

I absolutely adored this book! The characters feel sweet and real and because of its writing style, I have found myself rereading it any time I needed a hand out of a slump. With an adorable and relatively easy-to-follow story, you find yourself falling into its world of magic and romance like you'd never stopped reading in the first place. Overall, I would absolutely recommend this book to especially younger or more inexperienced readers!



IT'S CAMP SIGN-UP TIME!

BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI

Summer is coming up and that means camp sign-ups! Camps are a great summer tradition and here on Shelter Island many kids attend camps all the way through high school. The most popular camps on Shelter Island are Camp Quinipet, Sylvester Manor camp, and Mashomack camp. These camps are all on the island and easy to get to; they keep kids busy and give them the opportunity to meet summer residents.

Quinipet is a very popular camp with the kids and teenagers at Shelter Island School. Quinipet provides day camp for

kids ages five to thirteen and overnight camp is open to kids eight to sixteen. Quinipet is a traditional camp where you can't have your phone, there's a lunch haul, and has so many fun activities. I asked two people that love Quinipet, Lily Brigham and Regina Kolmogrova-Weisenberg, what they love about Quinipet. Lily Brigham said, "I love the senior sports pack, making friends, and camp fire." Regina Kolmogrova-Weisenberg replied, "I love Quinipet because of the people I meet, the counselors, and the activities we do."

Mashomack Camp is another popular camp on the island like Quinipet, but only provides a day camp. Mashomack is open to kids 8-12, and goes from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The camp is mainly outside near the beach or in the woods where kids learn about nature and the preserve. They also do activities such as kayaking, games, and hiking through the trails. This camp is a great fit for outdoorsy kids.

The Sylvester Manor camp has many summer programs for many ages. Some of the programs they have are traditional camp experiences for kids 2-8, at which

they do many activities outside, work on the farm, and hike. Meadowlarks aftercare, which is for kids 2 and 3 years old, is available in the afternoon. Fig & Forest is a culinary class that accepts kids 9-11. Forest acting program is like theater camp, but outside that takes kids 7-15. Sylvester Manor offers even more creative experiences in addition to these. So, this is a very flexible camp a kid could do over a number of weeks and never do the same activities twice!

So, check out these camps and make the most of your summer!

SHELTER ISLAND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SPRING GRANT CYCLE

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's the time of the year when students need to figure out what they are doing this summer. For younger students, it may be a sports clinic, summer camp, or an arts or STEM program. For older students, with college applications in their futures, summer break can be the perfect time to attend a pre-college program or other educational program that boosts their application.

Nevertheless, these opportunities are not that common here on Shelter Island. With such a small school, and small community, many students need to travel off-island to gain the same experience and exposure students from across the

county experience. While many students and parents recognize programs, camps, and other educational programs are beneficial for students, it's often not practical, or too expensive. That's where the Shelter Island Educational Foundation (SIEF) comes in.

The SIEF, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization awards any Shelter Island school aged from Pre-K3 through 12th grade grants to help afford and attend these programs. The grants are available for both Shelter Island School District students, as well as residents who commute to off-island schools. Last fall, the SIEF awarded \$24,384 to Shelter Island students, funding programs like Jiu

SHELTER ISLAND

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Jitsu, dance academies, Broadway Show School Trips, and many other programs. The SIEF also helped fund The Inlet's newest publication, The Inlet Podcast, which launched this fall.

This spring, applications for grants will open March 23 and close April 3. Applications will be available for Individual Grants, up to \$2,500, as well as Institutional Projects, up to \$3,500. The

grants can support projects in areas such as technology, arts, sports, environmental studies, and career development. Students need a teacher, mentor, or advisor recommendation submitted along with their application. More information can be found on the SIEF website at <https://www.shelterislandfoundation.org>.

EARLY SEASON FISHING

BY EVAN WESLEK



COURTESY PHOTO
EVAN WESLEK CATCHING A MUTTON SNAPPER IN JUPITER FLORIDA.

As winter loosens its grip on the waters surrounding Shelter Island, local fishermen are beginning to prepare for one of the most anticipated times of the fishing season, the spring run. Early spring fishing in this region is driven largely by water temperature. As temperatures rise into the upper 40s and low 50s,

baitfish become more active, especially in shallow bays and creeks. These small species trigger the seasonal migration of larger game fish into the Sound, setting off a chain reaction that defines the early season.

The first major arrival each spring is typically striped bass. Migrating north

from their wintering grounds, striped bass begin filtering into the Long Island Sound in late April and continue building in numbers through May. As mentioned earlier, during the start of the season, these fish concentrate in shallow, protected areas that warm quickly, and the edges of channels around Shelter Island. Points where moving water sweeps bait past structures, especially during incoming tides, often become early hotspots. Anglers targeting stripers in spring usually rely on smaller bait presentations and baitfish the bass are feeding on during this time.

Along with striped bass, other species begin moving into the area as the season progresses. Porgies (scup) typically arrive in bigger numbers by late April and May, settling around rocky bottoms and areas with structure throughout the eastern Sound. Weakfish sometimes make a brief,

but awesome appearance in the spring as they move through channels to spawn. Bluefish may also push into the region by May, chasing schools of bait in fast-moving schools and providing topwater action when conditions are right.

Fluke, or summer flounder, are more common later in the spring, but their movement toward inshore begins as waters continue to warm. By late May, anglers often start finding them along shoals and channel edges near Shelter Island. Overall, the spring fishing outlook depends heavily on weather patterns. Warmer, calm stretches can quicken fish movement and improve early action, while the many cold fronts as of late may delay migrations. Regardless, spring in the Long Island Sound marks a time of transition and opportunity, as life returns to local waters and the fishing season officially comes back to life.

Check your answers for the crossword on page 9. If the clue indicates two words, there is no space in between words!

DOWN:
1. Sunscreen
2. Volleyball

3. Speaker
4. Florida
7. Lifeguard

ACROSS:
3. Sun
5. Book

6. Flowers
8. Boardwalk
9. Beach

10. Cancun
11. Roadtrip

Around the Halls

By Juliana Medina

With the snow finally melting and the air feeling a bit warmer, people are eagerly awaiting the spring/summer season. I went around Shelter Island High School to ask a few people what they are most looking forward to in the spring season? Check out their answers!



Noemi Torres (Junior): "I am looking forward to finally starting to go on walks again and visit farmer's markets."

Ella Fundora (Freshman): "I am excited to dress in new spring clothes and change up my style a bit because of the weather."

Mr. Conrardy (Technology): "This spring I'm excited to get active with the middle school boys during baseball season and build some fundamentals so we can have a good baseball team in the future."



Liam Sobejana (Sophomore): "I am looking forward to celebrating Easter with my family."

Elliot Schack (Senior): "I'm excited to commit to a college and know where I'm going. I'm also looking forward to traveling."

Ari Waife (Junior): "I am eager to continue participating in the Shelter Island High School musical and for people to see our hard work on the stage in April."



Quinn Sobejana (Senior): "I'm excited to end my senior year of high school. Also, I'm excited to be in the production of 'Little Shop of Horrors.'"

Danielle Rasmussen (Sophomore): "I am going to enjoy the warm weather, I will run a lot and participate in spring track which is exciting."

Lucus Reiter (Freshman): "I am most excited to be able to wear more t-shirts and get out of my winter wardrobe."

