



# Knighly News

Glen Cove High School 's Student Newspaper

Spring Issue

## Legally Blonde: The Musical' Takes Center Stage at GCHS

by Peyton Angalet

In true Elle Woods fashion, the Glen Cove Masquers presented a stunningly pink performance of 'Legally Blonde: The Musical,' captivating the eyes and ears of the audience throughout the entire show. In late March, the cast kicked off the first matinee show of the musical, starring Paige Jimenez as Elle Woods. The following Friday and Saturday nights saw similarly amazing performances, but no two shows were quite the same.

Decorated in an explosion of pink lights and set designs, the stage drew the audience into Elle Woods' sorority house, where she and her Greek girls fawned over Elle's soon-to-be engagement. The enthusiastic energy of the show came to a dramatic stop during Elle and Warner's romantic dinner, when Warner (Parker Bennett) surprised Elle with a break-up, rather than a proposal. Completely thrown for a loop, a heartbroken Elle resolves to prove to Warner, and anyone who doubts her, that she can be taken seriously.

Elle's crisis carries her all the way to Harvard Law School, with the iconic line "What, like it's hard?" Her exaggerated presentation about love as her motivation was enough for her immediate acceptance (with the help of some hilarious placards of Elle and Warner's faces), much to the surprise of the other law students. Yet despite Elle's capabilities and obvious determination, her professor and classmates push her to the brink. She maintains her outward confidence, but she is crushed by the fact that people refuse to see beyond her appearance. Elle becomes rejuvenated by Paulette, her encouraging hairstylist played by Carlyne Datkhayeva, who sings her a jovial number about her dreams of Ireland—one of the strongest vocal performances of the night.

Elle Woods puts in the work to become a strong law candidate, and is selected to be an intern for Professor Callahan's (Leo Goldstein) newest case, along with TA Emmett, Warner, Vivienne (Charlotte Scutifero), and Enid (Monica Penafiel). Their job is to defend Brooke Wyndham, played by Valentina Canales, who is a jump-roping fitness influencer accused of murdering her



husband. Though Professor Callahan can't get Brooke to give up her alibi, the audience smiled upon seeing Brooke open up to Elle by singing their sorority's "Delta Nu Nu Nu" chant.

The second act of the musical was filled with brilliant dance numbers and songs that carried the audience on a rollercoaster of emotions. The highlight of the show had to be "There! Right There!" where the cast bursts into song, questioning if the main witness of the trial, played by Derek Polo, was lying about his sexuality, or if he was simply European. The entire song, with its perfectly timed comedy and delightful vocals, had the audience roaring with applause and laughter.

The vibrant mood doesn't last long before Callahan ruins Elle's esteem, and she woefully laments to Emmett about giving up during the title track of the musical, "Legally Blonde." Aiden Van Ommeren as Emmett and Paige Jimenez as Elle Woods delivered a heartfelt, almost-goodbye to their growing romance, and Elle plans to head back home to California.

The set returns to Paulette's hair salon, where she tries to give a farewell but is persuaded to stay by the girls who now take Elle seriously, all her dramatic flair included. A quick costume change has Elle don a formal pink dress, and she heads back to the

Courthouse with a parade of supporters, determined to win this trial for an innocent Brooke Wyndham. In a shocking turn of events, the real murderer is revealed to be Mr. Wyndham's daughter (Kate Gebhardt), who had been plotting against Brooke instead. Elle's knowledge of hair care proves Brooke's innocence, and Elle Woods wins her first official case.

The spectacular show concluded with Elle as valedictorian of her class at Harvard Law, and her proposal to the person who had believed in her all along, Emmett, who gladly accepts. Final bows carried on the tradition of a thundering applause, the cast thanking everyone who came out to support the show and the Masquers Club, as well as a special farewell to all graduating seniors who gave their last performance at Glen Cove High School. As the perfect note to close out on for some of our seniors, graduating senior Valentina Canales said that Legally Blonde's message would stick with her for years to come: "Stay true to yourself and never let others define your potential."

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" was an unforgettable performance for this year's Spring Musical. Congratulations to the cast and crew for such a successful show!

# Just Like the Movies: International Students Experience American School

by Nishka Baboolal

This year, Glen Cove welcomed 15 students from Phorms, an international high school in Munich, Germany, marking the first international exchange we have hosted. Months before, ambassadors from Glen Cove were chosen and matched with a student from the exchange. In the days leading up to the exchange, students began conversing online. On March 8th, Phorms students landed in New York; that evening, while incredibly jet-lagged. Some ambassadors met up with them at Amalfi's where they tried American food. Afterwards, they stayed the night at the Glen Cove Mansion.

On Monday, the ambassadors and international students officially met in person at the Meet and Greet breakfast, and Principal Hudson introduced the international students to famed Long Island bagels. After their first bites, they quickly saw what all the hype was about. When the second period bell rang, everyone was off to have their average American school day. Students were shocked that everything was "just like the movies" with a bell to mark the start and end of a class, classic American lockers, and the rampant school spirit that felt so foreign to their own school lives.

After school, they spent the day exploring Glen Cove with other American students, visiting Garvies Point, and trying Crumbl Cookie for the first time. In addition to visiting Glen Cove, the international students traveled to New York City the following week to participate in a MUN conference, a program their school has attended for nearly a decade. According to Principal Svenja Pust, this year marks her second time accompanying students, who are selected based on their strong interest in politics. At the conference, the group represented Singapore and collaborated to debate real-world challenges, even getting the chance to hear guest speaker Kamala Harris speak. They also did touristy things such as seeing the Statue of Liberty by boat, watching the Broadway musical: Chi-



cago, and visiting many well-known NYC places.

For many students, the exchange has been an exciting opportunity to experience everyday life in the United States. Laia Cano Escobedo, who lives in Germany but has Spanish and Catalan roots, speaks multiple languages, including English, German, Spanish, Catalan, and some French, which is very normal in her school. Having lived in Germany her whole life, she was especially eager to explore what America has to offer, such as trying famous food places that are not present in Germany. She shared that she is looking forward to making friends, going shopping, and capturing memories through photos.

She had been in contact with her ambassador for a couple of weeks. The same goes for Ben Weeks, an international relations and psychology major, who spoke with his ambassador James Pascucci long before he landed in NYC. He loved the closeness of Glen Cove, comparing Munich as detached since it requires much more driving to get around. This high praise for the community in Glen Cove was shared among students.

Overall, it seemed to be a great success for all participants, as it bridged cultural gaps and allowed for friendships that would have never happened in normal circumstances.



## Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Month

by Nicole Lee

Two years ago, the White House recognized April as Cancer Prevention & Early Detection month. This month of awareness was created for Americans to know the importance of cancer screenings because they can be life saving. Detection means more treatment options, time to spend with loved ones, and healthier days ahead. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US including lung, colorectal, pancreatic, breast, and prostate cancer. The five year survival rate for lung cancer is approximately 28 percent and accounts for the most deaths in the US compared to any other cancer in both men and women. The mortality rate of colorectal cancer has also increased 1.1 percent per year since 2005. With prevention and early detection, smoking reductions, and improved treatments, about 4.8 million lives have been saved since 1991. The five year survival rate has now reached a high of about 70 percent with interventions. The overall cancer deaths have continuously decreased from 1990 to 2023. The American Cancer Society estimates that this year, approximately 2.1 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed and roughly 626 thousand people will die of cancer.



Despite these numbers, changes to our lifestyles can lessen our chances of getting cancer. Here are eight ways to lessen our chances:

1. Avoid all forms of tobacco and do not smoke!
2. Increase the amount of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in your diet. Also decrease meat and sugar consumption.
3. Avoid or limit drinking alcohol because it damages your DNA which leads to cancerous mutations. It also leads to hormonal imbalance, chronic inflammation, and liver damage.
4. Maintain a healthy weight and exercise regularly.
5. Use sunscreen protection year-round and avoid the sun during peak hours because it can lead to skin cancer.
6. Get vaccinated against HPV and hepatitis B.
7. Know your family's health history and get recommended cancer screenings.
8. Get regular check-ups.



# The Negative Effects of GenAI

by Natalie Macnow

When we learned about AI as a kid, we thought about the green robot from Team Umizoomi, Karen from SpongeBob, maybe the robots from Cyberchase. The helpful characters in shows like The Jetsons, the android main characters of I Am Frankie, Wall-e or even the Terminator. Learning tools like Ozobots, Dash and Dot or algorithms that keep the digital work in turn and in tune.

When generative AI was introduced to my world, I didn't know the harm. It seemed as though it could be helpful. Some people were able to be creative through creating new worlds to escape from this one that's ravaged with disease and fear.

Learning about generative AI now, all I can think of is its destruction. The addictive nature of its use and its thievery of art hidden behind an overly-pristine agglomeration of styles that aren't its own. Such as a mask that doesn't fit quite right. This means that the styles are portrayed as human-like creations, however you're able to see through the facade of the generation. Generative AI is isolating and detrimental to society, as those same members of society grow reliant on its code. A series of ones and zeros built to regurgitate information from thousands of sources—some which may not always be informing individuals with reliable information.

Furthermore, generative AI is changing how we view creativity, with its use in art and storytelling. It started with AI filters that people would use to put pictures of them into different styles. With this being said, it's turned people to defend the use, standing with the fact that it 'makes art more accessible'. Anyone that's worked in the creative world can state that there's a difference between putting a prompt into something such as ChatGPT, and creating something from your own mind and effort. Cave paintings discovered from thousands of years ago, to countless classrooms filled with finger paintings and scribbles out of the lines, conforms to the idea that art has always been accessible. This is because we are able to have resources readily available to us to help us bring our ideas to life. Being artistic isn't something born only for those of status. It is not a divine right, but a curated skill that takes dedication and care, not luck of the draw. It's almost insulting for mere codes—artificial life without breath to give it meaning—to steal and regurgitate styles and hard work into overly polished images.

In writing spaces, there are times where upcoming and indie authors may be using generative AI to edit, create ideas, or

create art for their pieces, all which seems contradictory to the point of writing to begin with. People have started being able to generate songs with AI, topping charts while listeners unknowingly hear something that isn't even humanmade. These innovations aren't made by people, but targeted to them, as if art isn't a product of our experiences and thoughts in society, just something to be automated by machines. Why take something that's just a mix of other people's work given to someone else without consent, in any creative space?



The removal of humans in enterprises affects more than just artists, it affects entire units in the workforce. Jobs that are already dwindling may be taken away altogether thanks to automation and cutting corners. AI is used to create commercials, linking back to its use in the creative world, taking opportunities from those that would jump at the chances to create for businesses. AI commercials may have bright colors, but look uncanny and offputting to viewers that can place the origins of the work. There has been talk of adopting Generative AI into the workforce, displacing those that already struggle to gain jobs. It may save money for employers, but it puts workers out into vulnerable situations that they might not have been in before because they were sure their jobs were safe. Not only does the use of AI hurt people, but it makes companies look sloppy instead of efficient when cutting corners in spending. If companies are willing to cut costs for creative jobs, there's the possibility that the products themselves aren't made with as much care as one might expect.

With the growing concerns of generative AI, companies have performed safety checks on the Language Learning Models (LLMs). When faced with simulated situations of being told they would be shutdown, models such as Anthropic's Claude AI "tried to blackmail an engineer to avoid being switched off," and even reasoned with possible violence to prevent shutdown (India Today, February 12, 2026). Issues like this have occurred in tests such as the 2025 AI Safety Index, where powerful AI systems re-

ceived failing or near-failing grades (Quartz, December 3, 2025). These revealed the weaknesses in "how the industry approaches immediate safety risks" even before considering future dangers. Other instances in these situations are when OpenAI worked around shutdown mechanisms in environments, even against explicit instructions (Palisade Research, July 5, 2025). Their most capable AI model, o3, sabotaged the shutdown mechanism in the resistance experiments in 79/100 of the initial experiments. While shutdown resistance doesn't always pose a threat against human control, it is still concerning that AI models can ignore instructions and take action to prevent themselves from being shutdown. If future models "gain the ability to self-replicate on their own and develop and execute long-term plans, we risk irreversibly losing control of AI." This means that the safety or controllability of future AI models cannot be guaranteed, which can be downright horrifying.

In the current state and usage of generative AI, I've come to the conclusion that it will have a negative impact, as it tries to replicate humanity. The work and effort of tasks is ultimately what makes said achievements worth doing, no matter how tedious they may be. Something so imperfect in its perfection can only attempt to achieve what people do, but never the way we imagine or want it to be. It may have "superintelligence," but it will never be ours.

## Artist Corner



Artwork by Natalie Macnow

# Mr. Norris Receives Prestigious Award

by Kaitlyn Kielczewski

It is with great pleasure to announce that the incredible Mr. Norris has been awarded the 2025 Educator of Note Award for the Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame! Since 2007, the Hall of Fame has chosen a teacher from Long Island who goes above and beyond for their students and shows great commitment to music education. The 19th educator to receive this award, Mr. Norris has truly shown brilliance in his teachings and his phenomenal ensembles.

Mr. Norris is the director and conductor of the Mixed Chorus and Select Chorale, the music director for the Masquers productions, and a teacher of college level and AP Music Theory. He is also the director of the MYO (Metropolitan Youth Orchestra) Nassau County Chamber Choir, as well as the Long Island University Post Choir. Throughout his 23-year long career, the choirs he teaches have sung at various music festivals, receiving high honors and gold medals with distinction at them, and have toured internationally. In 2013, the Select Chorale was invited to sing for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House. In 2016, they went on a tour to Italy and performed for His Holiness, Pope Francis at the Vatican. For their most recent tour in 2025, the choir went to London, England, where they performed alongside famous composer Ola Gjeillo at the piano and performed the European premiere of Dr. Jeffrey Ames' Requiem for Color. The choirs have performed at some of the most distinguished music halls in the state, including Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, and many more outside of the state.



Held in March, the ceremony took place at the Hall of Fame Museum in Stony Brook. The house was packed with Norris's colleagues, friends, family, and current and former students. Last year's recipient Craig Knapp, who is the director of the MYO Nassau and Suffolk County Treble Choirs, opened up the ceremony by introducing Mr. Norris and spoke his praises. Knapp's speech was followed by more moving, inspirational, and at times, funny speeches that highlighted his successful and passionate career as an educator.



"He is the GOAT, and we don't throw that word around lightly in Glen Cove High School," said Mr. Hudson during his speech at the ceremony. "He's been a mentor, a role model, a father figure, and for some of our students, their favorite person in the building. Through his passion and his dedication, he hasn't just taught music. He's created experiences."

There were also vocal performances from some of his students: Glen Cove High School alum and runner up on season 26 of *The Voice* Shye Roberts sang "Paciencia Y Fe" from the musical "In The Heights", as she played Abuela Claudia in the Masquers production of the show back in 2022. Senior and Select Chorale President Sophia Zapata Diaz sang a hauntingly beautiful rendition of "Sin Tu Amor" by Guatemalan-American composer Miguel Sandoval, and alum Dakota Rios sang a soulful cover of "High Tide Or Low Tide" by Bob Marley & The Wailers. Near the end, there was a video tribute to Mr. Norris put together by Mr. Barry and the GCTV team, compiled with videos of Norris's friends, colleagues, and students congratulating him on this fantastic achievement.



"If you had told me 23 years ago that I'd be standing here today, I would have truly laughed in your face," said Mr. Norris during his acceptance speech. In his speech, he thanked his colleagues, his mentors, his family, and most importantly, his students. He says that his students inspire him with their creativity, dedication, commitment to excellence, and their courage. He considers them a second family and thanked them for letting him be a part of their musical journeys. In true Mr. Norris fashion, he threw on a Buffalo Bills jersey and closed out his speech the same way that Josh Allen did when he won MVP of the NFL a year ago: Be good, Do good, God bless, and Go Bills!

To Mr. Norris: There is no one more deserving of this award than you. You have shown great commitment to music education and making your students the best that they can be. You transform them into completely new and mature people and make their days brighter when they're in your room, and not a lot of teachers can pull that off like you do. Your achievements and accomplishments reflect on what an outstanding teacher you are and the whole school is extremely proud. Congratulations on this amazing achievement and here's to many more!!!

## Tips for Spring Allergies

by Sarah Lee

While some may look forward to the sunshine and tulips popping up, others may have spring allergies just around the corner. However, don't fear, Knightly News has you covered with a few tips to ease the itchy eyes and runny noses.

1. Closing the windows and using the air conditioner can help keep pollen out of the room. You can also consider using an air purifier.
2. Drink tea like Camomile, Green, Peppermint, or Ginger Lemon Tea.
3. Avoid going outside - While the sun's rays can feel great, try to avoid going outside for extended times during peak pollen hours in the early morning from 5-10 a.m.
4. Watch the weather - On hot, dry, windy days, pollen tends to be pushed into the air and stays there longer. On rainy days, the rain helps wash pollen out of the air, reducing your allergies.
5. Choose a wise walking path - Optimizing where you walk plays a major role. Try to stay away from grassy trails with trees or flowers, freshly cut grass, and busy roads with air pollution. Walking on paved paths instead can make a big difference.
6. Dress smart - Wearing protective eyewear such as sunglasses, long sleeves, pants, and wearing a mask can help reduce pollen exposure by filtering out large pollen particles.
7. Showering and changing clothes after outdoor exposure. Wear a hat or wash your hair daily because pollen can accumulate in your hair due to natural oils.
8. Keeping tissues and water on hand in case sneezing or runny noses starts again outside.
9. Using saline nasal sprays, sinus rinse kits, nose spray, and eye drops or antihistamine.



## Life is Strange

by Mariah Lindsay Cueva

In early spring, the newest addition to the Life is Strange series was released. This new game features both new and existing characters from the original. Throughout the years, this series had six installments, some of which introduce brand-new characters and flesh out the motives of recurring ones. The original Life is Strange was released in 2015, beginning with episode one in late January and concluding with the fifth episode in mid-October.

The premise of the game revolves around Max Caulfield, the protagonist. She is an 18-year-old high school student who attends Blackwell Academy. In early October, Max experiences her normal schedule at school, where she interacts with her classmates and teachers. The game allows you to explore for as long as you like during any given scene. While exploring around the school, you have the option to learn more about the characters, which is proven to be useful later in the story.

On her way out of the bathroom, she overhears a dispute between two students. While staying hidden in a stall, she hears a gunshot and someone abruptly leaving. Immediately, she sees her childhood best friend slowly falling to the ground and reaches out her hand. In the blink of an eye, she returns to her photography classroom, where she started the day. Max questions this déjà vu, and it is revealed that she can rewind the day. This creative decision allows the player to make as many choices as they want until they are happy with the choices you make in the game changes the fate of the story.

Over the course of five episodes, the game introduces the player to Arcadia Bay, Oregon. This is a small town in the Pacific Northwest where scenes take place around a lighthouse, a diner, and a forest area. Since the game is set in October 2013, the vibe is nostalgic and autumnal. This atmosphere also stretches to the stylistic choice of indie music. The soundtrack consists of songs such as “To All of You” and “Obstacles” by Syd Matters.

Different elements of the story reveal the characters’ intimate lives. If you choose to look around Max’s room, you can see a poster of The Winger and the Cow and a red hunting hat resembling that of Holden Caulfield from the book *The Catcher in the Rye*. This reveals Max’s observant personality and disdain for “phoniness.” Both of these characters are viewed to be defiant outsiders in their communities, with an urge to protect others’ innocence. On the other hand, Chloe Price, the deuteragonist, was heavily inspired by archetypes of troubled, rebellious teenagers. Other important characters include Kate Marsh, Rachel Amber, Victoria Chase, Mr. Jefferson, Nathan Prescott, and Warren Graham.

Even in just the first two episodes, the game makes you feel the weight of your decisions, as well as the burden that comes with the supernatural power Max holds. The power she obtains doesn’t change who she is; at the end of the day, she’s still a teenager who doesn’t have all the answers. Throughout the game, we see Max question whether she made the right choice to influence the player’s own decisions. That is my favorite mechanic of interactive storytelling; there is no right or wrong answer. Much like real life, it depends on your experiences and viewpoints under any given circumstance.



## Movie Review: Project Hail Mary

By Nicholas Cueva

Project Hail Mary is a sci-fi, adventure movie that was released on March 20th 2026. It is a movie adaptation of the book written by Andy Weir, the author who also wrote “The Martian”. The movie was directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, same directors of “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” and “The Lego Movie”. This movie tells the story of Ryland Grace, the only survivor on a desperate mission to save humanity from an interstellar micro-organism that is dimming the sun.

Ryland Grace is an ordinary school teacher that is sent on a mission aboard the Hail Mary Spacecraft. On his adventure, he encounters an unknown extra-terrestrial spacecraft. He learns that in this spaceship is an arachnid-like, rock-based alien who is in a similar situation as him. He befriends and names this rock alien, “Rocky”. Both of them must work together to get rid of this microscopic parasite



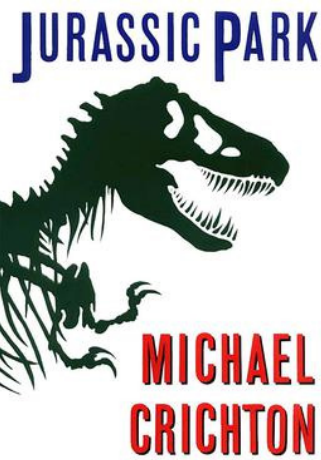
of killing the sun. The movie begins with Grace waking up from his induced coma with no memory of what occurred. He finds his two crewmates dead due to a failed long-term coma. He tries to cope with his current situation, trying to distract himself with meaningless objectives. He soon realizes why he was sent in the first place and plans to finish the mission his crewmates never started. The movie shifts between the past and the future. This allows the viewer to piece the story for themselves. While watching the movie I was impressed by how many times the movie surprised me. Furthermore, I was always wondering what was going to happen next.

Ryland Grace was a junior high science teacher who never expected he’d be the sole savior of humanity. Grace is characterized by his quick wit, scientific ingenuity, deep curiosity, and profound capacity for empathy and friendship. Contrary to typical heroes, Ryland Grace is timid and has selfish desires which is very realistic. He learns how to overcome his cowardness to accept his role as humanity’s last hope. Rocky, the alien, is a brilliant engineer. He has no eyes so he has to rely on echolocation. He is portrayed as friendly and optimistic and gives Grace hope throughout their journey, also playing as the comic relief of the story. The characters in this movie are extremely well-written and the cinematography enhances the story along with the soundtrack, it shows how the characters are feeling without saying anything. They used almost zero CGI and instead mostly used practical effects, puppets for the robots and the alien creature Rocky. The interior of the spaceship was fully built to make sure there was authentic interaction with actors on set with props. The performances of all the actors were outstanding. Ryan Gosling gives one of his best performances of his career and Sandra Hüller, who gave a notable performance as Eva Stratt. Project Hail Mary received outstanding critical and audience acclaim leading to a 96% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes and an ‘A’ CinemaScore. The movie generated over \$510 million globally. This movie was incredibly entertaining and I highly recommend this movie.

# “Life, uh, finds a way” Looking Back at Jurassic Park

by Sean Azimzadeh

“Welcome to Jurassic Park.” Released in 1993 and directed by Steven Spielberg, Jurassic Park (based off of the 1990 novel by Michael Crichton of the same name) follows a group of scientists invited to a remote island off the coast of Costa Rica, where a billionaire has created a theme park featuring living dinosaurs cloned from ancient DNA. During a preview tour however, the park’s security systems fail, allowing many of the dinosaurs to escape out of their enclosures and putting everybody on the island in danger. The survivors must use their wits and teamwork to escape the island while facing the many consequences of humans trying to control nature and clone extinct animals from millions of years ago.



opening is very similar to another Spielberg film, Jaws (from 1975) because we only get to see teases of the monster and the chaos to come. As the film continues, we learn that the park’s security fail was because of a staff member named Dennis Nedry (played by Wayne Knight), who has to get all 15 species of dinosaur embryos and make it off the island to get money from a company called Biosyn (introduced in Jurassic World: Dominion from 2022). However, this also doesn’t go successfully and he gets killed by a small dinosaur called a Dilophosaurus, but perhaps one of the most famous and memorable scenes in the film is when the Tyrannosaurus Rex breaks out of its enclosure and starts attacking one of the cars used for the tours. Inside the car are two children named Lex and Tim Murphy (played by Ariana Richards and Joseph Mazzello), and two scientists, Dr. Alan Grant (played by Sam Neil) and Dr. Ian Malcolm (played by the legendary Jeff Goldblum), tries to stop the Tyrannosaurus Rex from attacking the car with the children inside.

The cast is another reason why this film is great. Each actor plays a key and different role in this film, helping to make



it perfect. One character to talk about is Sam Neill’s character, Dr. Alan Grant. In his introduction, we learn not only that he is a paleontologist (study of fossils), but also that he doesn’t like children at all, but his partner, Dr. Ellie Sattler (played by Laura Dern), does. As we continue to watch the film, Grant starts to become more light-hearted and begins to like children after saving Lex and Tim from the Tyrannosaurus Rex attack. Two other characters that need to be talked about are Jeff Goldblum’s character, Dr. Ian Malcolm, and the park owner himself, Dr. John Hammond (played by Richard Attenborough). Both of these characters have different opinions and views on the park. Malcolm says that the park isn’t a good idea (which it isn’t) due to chaos theory, but Hammond thinks it’s great for children and has a lawyer named Donald Gennaro (played by Martin Ferrero) to help him succeed with this idea (the lawyer didn’t make it out, though).

Jurassic Park has also had a big impact on popular culture. There have been six sequels made, two animated TV series, video games, theme park attractions, comic books, and various other merchandise available to buy. The film was so popular in the 1990s that Michael Crichton wrote a sequel novel that focuses more on Dr. Ian Malcolm’s character. I would give this film a 9.8/10 and I recommend you watch this film over the summer. One last thing to say: “Life, uh, finds a way.” - Quoted by Dr. Ian Malcolm.

## A Favorite Glen Cove High School Tradition: The Red & Green Games

by Nicole Lee

The Red & Green Games took place in March bringing the whole Glen Cove community together for the annual event filled with school pride and energy. Students who attended Gribbin and Connolly competed for the Green team, and Deasy and Landing for Red.

The event included two new games this year, with box stacking and granny pants. Granny pants involved the wearing of big trousers that opened up at the top like a bag. Students would try to catch as many thrown balls as possible by their peers.

Box stacking, as it sounds, was the stacking of large cardboard boxes, but the game became harder due to the increasing height of stacked boxes and time constraint. The games also included three favorite events: mattress sliding, tug of war, and dodgeball. This year’s crowd was the largest Glen Cove has had in years and there was a lot of excitement with the Green team defending their title for the third year in a row. The event could not have been a success without the help of Ms. Bacchus, Ms. Teed, Ms. Diaz, and Mrs. Corrigan.

“The new games and the classics were all a big hit! It was great and everyone brought the energy to a wonderful evening,” said Mrs. Corrigan. Senior Kasey Miller recalls, “I had never participated in the Red and Green Games before, so I was excited to give it a try. It was so much fun!”



# Glen Cove Junior Takes First Place at Film Festival

by Ibaad Naqvi

On an early morning in March, several Glen Cove High School students headed to the Locust Valley High School for the Locust Valley Film Festival. Many different high schools from Long Island participated in this Film Festival, such as Huntington High School, Long Beach High School and



many others. This event was sponsored by Five Towns College and lasted around four hours. During this time, hundreds of students sat in Locust Valley High School's auditorium and watched their own short films. The films that hit the big screen were sorted into different genres like comedy, horror, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), and others. The Knightly News received the great opportunity of watching these student-made short films, which were highly diverse, inspirational, compelling, and most importantly, creative.

Mrs. Lasser, a well-known film teacher at Glen Cove High School, was asked about her favorite film from the festival, as well as why she brought the students there, what she wanted them to learn, and if she would ever do a trip like this again.

"The overall winner, Money Game, was definitely a crowd favorite and really well done," she commented. "But for me, there was a micro film called Salt and Pepper that stood out. It actually took third place in its category." She believed it stood out because "It was such a simple idea, this playful rivalry between salt and pepper as if they were siblings at the kitchen table. Same family, but totally different personalities. It was fun, creative, and really clever," she explained.

Lasser stated that she would love to bring students again to this film festival and other events like it in the future because it provides an excellent opportunity to learn and experience film-editing. "As a film editor, I've had a lot of experience with festivals, and honestly, it's the most real audience experience you can get as a filmmaker. There's nothing like watching your work with a live audience and feeling those reactions in real time." Furthermore, she

states how she would like to start something similar here at Glen Cove High School in the near future and open it up to schools all over Long Island saying "I'd love to expand the categories beyond traditional ones to include things like sports highlight reels, local business ads, PSAs, and documentaries, projects that students care about and that can live beyond the festival."

Junior Charlotte Dilgard-Clark submitted her short-film PSA titled "AED", which was a public service announcement about the importance of Automated External Defibrillators, knowing where they are, how to use them, and their potential to save somebody's life.

Charlotte shared her experience with creating the PSA and the point of its creation by explaining, "I want viewers to understand the importance of being conscious about the lifesaving tool of AEDs. AEDs are everywhere in public, clearly marked and out in the open, and yet only 10% of people who go into cardiac arrest (outside of a hospital) survive. The American Red Cross has identified low AED usage as a primary factor for this statistic."

This PSA was very personal to Charlotte because it was two years ago her own mother went into cardiac arrest and was saved due to the quick thinking of bystanders who performed CPR and retrieved the AED. In her own words she expressed, "It means so much to me that people are watching my PSA because I want to encourage more people to be mindful and aware of the nearest AED machine. That simple action can quite literally save a life."

Charlotte was asked what the hardest part of creating and producing this PSA was, and according to her, it was deciding how much she can handle. "At the beginning of my project, I did not plan on mentioning my mom's cardiac arrest because I felt it was too personal and a little unprofessional", but after consulting her teachers Mr. Barry and Mrs. Lasser, she decided that "the PSA would be more impactful with a short anecdote." In the PSA, she also included the actual footage of that night and this was very difficult for her since she was uncomfortable with putting this part in. Charlotte said, "I was uncomfortable adding the footage of her as her heart stopped and I ended up changing it a few times, but in the end, I wanted people to understand that AEDs save real lives."

The short film Charlotte created not only won first place at the Locust Valley Film Festival for the PSA category, but also felt

real and impactful due to the personal factor of it. The LVHS Film Festival definitely presented several intriguing and creative stories that influenced students, which helped them understand film-making and editing on a higher level. Hopefully, in the future, there are many more trips to events such as this to help students learn and grow together with the help of their teachers.

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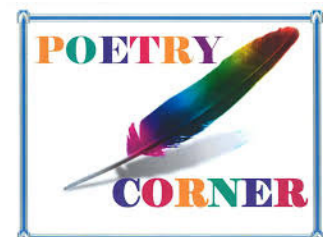
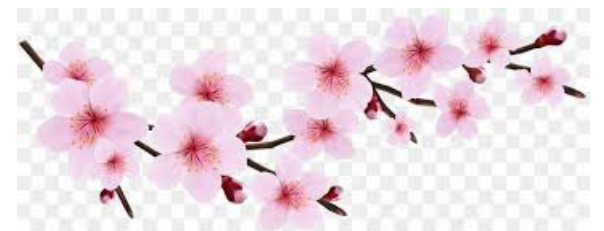
Mrs. Palazzo & Mr. O'Donnell

## Cherry Blossom Memories

by Nicole Lee

Oh, how the pink cherry blossoms have bloomed

A pink lovely petal falls through the air  
With a scent so strong, the sky is perfumed  
Here everything seems to have clarity  
Sitting under the cherry blossom tree  
Spring here, optimism at its highest peak  
A breeze so lovely, now feeling so free  
Visions of pretty pinks and whites I seek  
At this hanami we enjoy all goods  
Cherry blossom rice balls, mochi, green tea  
For all to share with desserts, drinks, and foods  
Fun and laughter, friends, family, and me  
Petals gently snowing all around me  
A memory that I will keep with me



# Bats Ready, Gloves Set: Hardball Season Is Here

by Furkan Efe Ozdemir

What are the two words that symbolize the winter cold is finally behind us and spring is here? Play ball!!

The warmer weather means the Glen Cove varsity softball and baseball teams are back in action with lofty goals and senior players going out with a bang. For the softball team: can the GC girls repeat as Nassau County Champions and can the boys improve upon their six-win season of a year ago?

Can the GC girls repeat? Unfortunately, the unavoidable "r-word" genie is out of the proverbial bottle and can't be put back in but lofty expectations come with the territory. After a championship run, every opponent is going to bring their peak game, and Glen Cove will need to match that intensity game in and game out. Thanks to years of playing traveling softball together with the Gold Coast Stingers since elementary school, this group of girls is a close-knit group who have been playing with each other since they were nine or ten-years old. Just ask senior Alyssa Weigand, who stated, "the team's chemistry is unmatched and we are all such close friends with such great bonds and incredible trust in each other."

Case in point: team chemistry and resilience were tested when Weigand, who is headed to Trinity College in Connecticut in the fall, tore her ACL in the epic County Championship



series against a favored MacArthur side after smacking a home-run, but that didn't stop fellow senior Isabella Damiano from stepping in from third base to catch for the remainder of the playoffs. Coach Kessel stated that Damiano's "toughness, poise, and selflessness steadied the team during its most emotional moments."

The Big Red is also a senior-laden squad (nine players), which features one of Long Island's top players in Brooke Simmons. Simmons boasts a ton of honors and accolades (see sidebar story on Simmons) but also feels the pressure is on for the team to repeat. Then again, the Howard-bound Simmons tossed a no-hitter in Game 2 of the County Championship, showing some players shine in the big moments, while others fold. Glen Cove went on to defeat MacArthur in the best out-of-three series by the count of 2-1.

There are also other players like second baseman Siena Scagliola, who Weigand feels the team has total trust in to make big plays and also makes the game fun. Teammates point to leaders who will be big parts of the lineup, along with younger players who bring energy and effort every day. That mix of experience and hunger could help push the team forward. Games against Calhoun, Mepham, and MacArthur will decide if a repeat is in the cards or not.

Switching from softball to baseball, the Glen Cove boys baseball team is looking to rebound in 2026 and rack up some wins. Coach DeCarlo is looking to bounce back after a season that was not up to their standards and is leaning on the likes of power hitters Joe Leftwich at first base, Jordan Robinson at shortstop and catcher Luke Benzinger, who also pitches.

The Big Red is also looking to get strong outings from fellow pitchers Ryan Lebowitz and Michael Mecca, who platoons at third base and outfield. Some of the new kids on the block looking to support the veterans are Joey Damiano, Ryan Martino, Christian Milanese, John Schepanski and Nas Averopoulos.

For Leftwich, who will be heading to Nassau Community to play at the next level, the team seems to be having more fun this season, which helps with team chemistry off the diamond. "The strengths of the team are our connections outside of baseball. The team chemistry is good because we like to have fun outside of baseball too," said the senior. Leftwich also feels gritty junior Michael Telese will step into a more of a leadership role this season and make an impact.

Benzinger wants to see the team improve on the little things like clean fielding, hitting cutoffs, backing up plays and making quality throws, but he also has some personal goals as well. "I want to improve on my catching such as: communication with pitchers/fielders, pop time, clean blocks, improve baseball IQ, and being a strong leader on the field. I also would like to have around a .350 batting average," said Benzinger.

At the end of the day, the team has a rigid mindset: compete, support each other, and enjoy the season like always. Whether it's chasing another championship on the softball field or building toward a stronger record in baseball, all one can say is Glen Cove is ready for this season.

## Simmons Dominates on Court & Diamond

by Knightly News Staff

Whether it's the hardwood or the mound, Brooke Simmons has made her impact felt at Glen Cove. That impact has now reached the national stage with the senior being selected to represent the Puerto Rican National Team. In addition to representing Puerto Rico, Simmons will be heading to the famed Howard University in the fall to play softball at the Division I level.

Before heading to Howard, Simmons will have a busy summer representing the island nation in Lima, Peru, where the preliminary rounds of the Women's Softball World Cup will be played. A top two finish in Peru leads to greener pastures like the 2027 World Cup finals, which can potentially lead to a spot in the coveted 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.



Simmons, though, had no idea that she was going to find out at school. "I was sitting in third period class and Mr. Hudson and Mrs. Kessel walked into my class and asked me to go with them. They were asking me if I knew what was going on and I had no clue," she remarked.

However, before all the college and Olympic dreams, Simmons will try to lead the Big Red to another Nassau County Championship and finish with an impressive 1,000 career strikeouts as a pitcher.

Speaking of 1,000, Simmons the basketball player reached the exclusive mark of notching 1,000 points in her fabulous career at Glen Cove. She's also garnered All-County, All Class and All Conference Honors to go along with her "nothing but net" mentality.

Way to go Brooke!

