THUNDERBIRD

High School East Newspaper

Half Hollow Hills High School East | Issue 2 Winter 2012

Expressive Movements showing off their dance moves.

Mrs. Uttendorfer and Mr. Davey after getting pied!

Twins Day!

Spreading the Cheer!

Marlee Shnitkin & Samantha Ibrahim

Entertainment Editor & Staff Writer

High School East students enthusiastically took part in the much-anticipated Spirit Week this past December. Winter Spirit Week and Pep Rally 2011 were held the week before our holiday break. It began on December 21st with Twins Day where two or more students and teachers dressed alike! Thursday was Sports Team Jersey/College Shirt Day. Students wore their favorite team or college shirt. Last, but not least, Friday was School Colors Day! Students, staff and faculty wore High School East's colors: red, white and black. Spirit Week culminated with a fun-filled pep rally during which the Hills East cheerleaders, Dixettes, Expressive Movements dance group, and many others performed as we cheered on our winter athletes. The cheerleaders put on a great routine, comprised of cheers, dances and stunting. The Dixettes amazed the crowd with their unique and innovative choreography. Expressive Movements showed off their break dancing skills and their awesome dance moves. Students and up-and-coming rappers/singers Justin Starling and Carter Jones also put on an amazing performance. Then all of our winter sports teams were introduced and photographed. Of course, we could not leave out High School East's tradition of pie wars! Mr. Davey and Mrs. Uttendorfer were fortunate enough to be given that honor this year. A total of $815 was raised and donated to the *Make a Wish Foundation.* All of the students at High School East had a great time. It was a wonderful way to start our holiday break. Let's hope for an even better Spirit Week and Winter Pep Rally next year!

Marlee Shnitkin

Entertainment Editor

On December 23, 2011, High School East's band, chorus, vocal jazz, Half Tones, Dixettes, Cheerleading team, Expressive Movements Dance Crew, and more came together to put on an entertaining Holiday Show for the kids at the James E. Allen High School and Middle School.

The James E. Allen schools are designed for children with special needs. The students are each assisted by a personal aid throughout the day. The reaction of these students when they see everyone walk in was indescribable. Their faces lit up with joy and excitement. It was clear that they had been waiting all day for this event.

Senior basketball player Jessy Garcia poses with the cheerleaders.

The festivities began as the band played fun music for the students, who clapped and danced along. The chorus groups sang classic holiday tunes to the children, putting smiles on their faces.

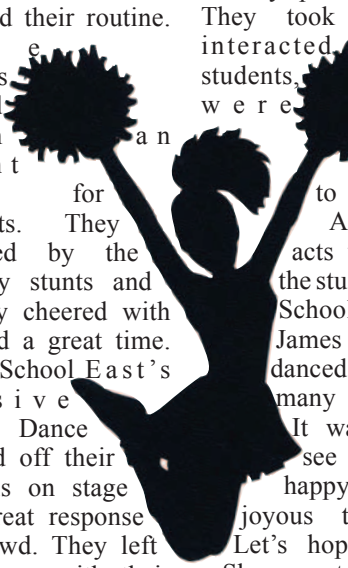
Next, the Dixettes put on a great show for the young children, who were amazed by their shining pom-poms and kicks. All the children loved their routine.

The cheerleaders proceeded to put on an excellent performance for the students. They were amazed by the squad's crazy stunts and jumps. They cheered with them and had a great time.

High School East's Expressive Movements Dance Crew showed off their dancing skills on stage and got a great response from the crowd. They left the kids in awe with their wild break-dancing moves and innovative dance styles.

Even Santa Claus and his elves were out to spread the holiday spirit in the audience. They took pictures and interacted with the students, who were more than happy to see them.

After all of the acts were complete, the students from High School East and the James E. Allen School danced together to many holiday songs. It was so great to see everyone so happy during this joyous time of year. Let's hope the Holiday Show next year is just as great, if not even better!



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ART DAY 2012

Tara Wirth
Photography Editor

On Thursday, January 5th, 2012, High School East celebrated its annual *Art Day*. This day is dedicated to every different kind of artist: architects, photographers, video directors, ceramicists, drawers and painters. All of the art teachers and their students gathered outside the West Gym to not only display their finished pieces, but to also continue working on their current projects. It is definitely one of the most creative days of the year.

In the beginning of the day, the eighth grade students from the advanced art class known as Studio in Art, came for a tour. The National Art Honor Society Board members began the tours by briefly introducing all of the art classes available to freshman and then proceeded to bring them around to each art classroom. Artists from each class volunteered to give a simple summary of the type of work they do and what the class involves. It is important that they know their options when they enter high school, the more artists the better!

One of the many important stops on the tour is the National Art Honor Society Gallery. Every month members create their own interpretation of a set theme and then their work is displayed for everyone to enjoy. After a recent small renovation and enthusiastic contributions from the members, the gallery is overflowing with beautiful paintings, photographs and drawings of the human body. Stay tuned for the next gallery: "Under the Sea"!

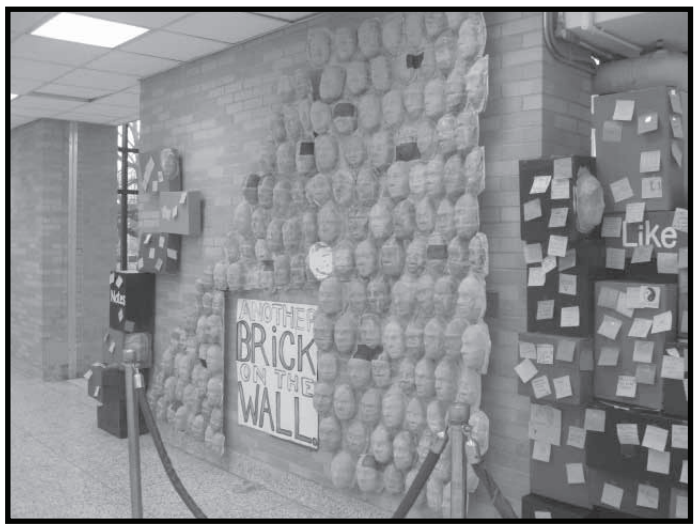
The tours returned to the main event with just enough time for the eighth graders to explore and ask the artists questions. These artists are so talented, creating clay bowls and sculptures, painting self-portraits, or coming up with new and inspiring videos. Some are so dedicated that they spend most of their free time in the art wing working on their AP concentrations or independent projects.

Students' art work on display during Art Day.

Their devotion is inspiring. Art has a different meaning to everyone; some use it to express themselves in ways speech cannot, while others simply find it intriguing. Whatever the reason, *Art Day* at High School East is a great way to celebrate all the different perspectives and talents. The gathering and integration of all of these mediums is a wonderful way to not only celebrate art, but also for other students who may not have taken art to see something new and interesting. If you missed it this year, be sure to stop by and experience *Art Day 2013!* Better yet, take an art class and see for yourself!

HSE students checking out the available art programs.

ART INSTALLATION: Another Brick in the Wall



Alexus Haddad
Staff Writer

Every year, the art history class creates a themed installation with the intent of distributing a message around school. With the piece being installed by Mrs. Uttendorfer's Art History class on January 4, 2012, this year's theme was social media and it's boundaries or lack thereof. Entitled "Another Brick in the Wall," this idea was inspired by the work of Richard Serra. He is best known for his 1981 piece- a curving wall of raw steel called "Tilted Arch." The *Tilted Arch* was located on the entry walkway of the New York Federal Plaza.

The Art History class of 2012 created "Another Brick in the Wall" by using cardboard boxes as a symbolic structure to raise awareness of what most students post on social media sites. In comparison to the size of the internet, the wall seems to be smaller, even though it is quite large. The students of High School East were able to interact with the wall and post their thoughts on blue post-its that can be viewed by others. If the writer did not want anybody to see their posts, they could insert it in the slot next to the wall to be anonymous. Many students at HSE have already contributed by adding posts onto the wall. Next time you walk by, take some time to look at them!

I had a chance to sit down with Mrs. Uttendorfer and discuss her thoughts on the installation. I inquired about her overall opinion on the installation, including whether she felt it was successful or if she saw room for changes. Mrs. Uttendorfer responded by saying, "The installation this year turned out fantastic. Connecting to Facebook is a great way to relate to high school students and is an issue that is important to everyone. This year was a great success. My class collaborated in such a special way. Working together during class, after school and on free periods to make sure that we were ready for installation day. The project also captured the attention of the entire school, both teachers and students alike. The main goal of the installation is to raise awareness of art, and I think that we did that. I think that the installation evolved into what is on display. I always have a vision, yet it always turns out different and better than expected. My students were very dedicated to the project and committed to making sure that the theme, *Another Brick in the Wall*, was clear visually and conceptually." Mrs. Uttendorfer also added, "Each year I am surprised and impressed with what we make as a team. The arts at HHH are very strong, and this is just one example of how our art students are talented and continue to shine."

This year's art installation was a great success! Hopefully, all of the students at High School East have had some time to view and contribute their thoughts to the "wall" located near the West Gym. I'm sure that everybody is already anxiously awaiting next year's Art History class art installation!

Prepping with E-Prep

and Other Useful Library Tools...!

Jiyun Lee

Staff Writer

If you are a student at High School East, hopefully you have used the High School East Library. The school library is a place where students can not only learn to become effective and efficient users of information with books and state-of-the-art computers, but it is also a place for rest and relaxation, a place where students can spend their off periods catching up with extra work and friends. However, not many students are aware of the variety of programs that it offers to us.

The Hills East Library has been working together with the Half Hollow Hills Community Library for many years on a variety of programs. This year, **E-prep** is one of those programs. After being introduced by Mrs. Hartough, from the Half Hollow Hills Community Library, Mrs. Miceli, High School East's new librarian, registered and instructed students from the 11th grade English classes and Ms. Zarra's SAT prep classes in the use of E-Prep. E-Prep is a program that helps students prepare for all standardized tests, such as the SAT, the PSAT, or the ACT. It is divided into different sections so students can focus on areas where they have difficulties. There are even video sections where tutorials on specific vocabulary or mathematical concepts are accessible. Although this is a great tool for current juniors, anyone can sign up for an account through the public library; it is a free program that all students can utilize.

Mrs. Miceli and Mrs. Hartough along with some of Mrs. Zarra's students learning about E-Prep.

Another great program is **Live-brary**, a homework help service available to all students residing in Suffolk County. It includes a writing lab, where students can submit writing samples, have their work reviewed by English teachers, and get feedback within 24 hours about grammatical problems and other areas in need of improvement.

Both the Half Hollow Hills Community Library and the Hills East Library contain multiple **databases** where students can find immense amounts of information for their projects, research papers, etc. Both libraries are also connected to other community service centers, so students can easily find volunteering opportunities.

Mrs. Miceli believes that the library not only offers useful resources, but it also provides a beautiful and open setting; she enthusiastically noted that she is very glad that as a librarian she can aid students and update collections. Because she previously worked at Vanderbilt Elementary School, she noted that she enjoys the new environment of a high school library.

For more information on Half Hollow Hills Community Library, visit http://hhhlibrary.org/main.php! Visit the HSE library page for information on our library catalog and databases. Happy Reading!

Check out these Databases on the HSE Library Website

- Blooms Literary Reference
- E-Library
- Health and Wellness Resource Center
- Novelist Plus
- Student Resource in Context
- World Book Encyclopedia
- ProQuest Literature
- Occupational Outlook Handbook

Newspaper Staff Members attend Hofstra University for Student Press DAy

Natalie Haebich

Layout Editor

On December 12, 2011, members of the *Thunderbird* newspaper club went on their annual field trip to Hofstra University for this year's Student Press Day. The trip consisted of a keynote address, a panel discussion, and workshops for students to attend. The event provided students from high schools all across the island who are interested in journalism a better understanding of the field, as well as tips and advice to be successful in what they do.

Members of the newspaper staff at Hofstra University.

The trip commenced with an opening presentation by Walt Handelsmen, a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist and animator for Newsday. He gave information on his career experiences, tips for the students, and a slideshow highlighting some of his work. Next on the agenda was a panel of successful and well known news reporters discussing the events of Hurricane Irene and their role in its coverage. The panel included: Michael Amon, a news editor of the Greater New York section and the *Wall Street Journal*, Mario Diaz, reporter for PIX-11 news; Craig Allen, meteorologist for WCBS Radio; Bruce Avery, general manager for WRHU Radio at Hofstra University and meteorologist for News 12; and moderator Kelly Finchman, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Media Studies and Public Relations at Hofstra University. After their short discussion, students had the opportunity to ask questions to the panel regarding journalism. Some significant points the speakers made were the importance of integrity, ethics in news coverage, networking and passion for what you do.

The next activity on the agenda was a selection of informative workshops students could pick from depending on their interests. The workshops included Investigative Journalism, Social Media, Graphic Design, Business Reporting, and Sports Journalism. These workshops provided an informative preview to potential career options in the media.

Students were able to walk away from this trip with a better understanding of journalism and with some answers to the big question that everyone's been asking: where is journalism going in the future? This was an eye opening event for most, because there are opportunities to explore in the various fields of journalism and to have access to such successful and experienced reporters was very helpful. This trip provided students the potential inspiration to pursue their dreams of journalism and knowledge of whether or not to commit to pursue it as their future career.

Thunderbird Staff

Editors-In- Chief: Joshua Rosenberg, Matthew Rosenberg

Section Editors: Natalie Haebich & Victoria Sulenski (Layout), Michael Choi (Features), Jessica Gaspard (Op. Ed), Marlee Shnitkin & Abigail Brosnan (Entertainment), Nathaniel Schwartz and Ben Noskin (Sports), Connie Long (News), Tara Wirth (Photography)

Staff Writers: Heather Andelsman, Shari Bieber, Amanda Blum, Daniel Brizuela, Christy Chon, Sojin Chon, Alexus Haddad, Collin Giuliani, Lindsay Goldman, Samantha Ibrahim, Jake Irwin and Jiyun Lee

Contributor: Joshua N. Shinbrot

Photographers: Tara Wirth, Lifetouch Photographers

Advisors: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Dalton

EMAIL: ThunderbirdHSE@gmail.com

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Saving La Ceiba!

Christy Chon
Staff Writer

La Ceiba is a community located about 7 kilometers from León, Nicaragua. In this community, there are 162 families and approximately 600 inhabitants. Some immediate needs of the community include housing for impoverished families, "becas", or educational scholarships for primary and secondary students, and better water conditions. A relocation of the water tank is also necessary, as families are only entitled to four hours of water per day due to the poor location of the tank.

Mr. Lorusso, a Spanish teacher here at High School East, had the opportunity to receive some progressive ideas proposed by the leader, Profesora Martha Pichardo, and pastor, Juan Murguía, of La Ceiba. Some of these ideas include building a communal baseball field that can help to foster unity among communities and economic growth, a new dining area for the 118 children of this community, as well as better nourishment for these children.

As more people became aware of the plight of la Ceiba, more people wanted to help. On Wednesday, December 7th, Amnesty International and Spanish Honor Society, as well as many other clubs, joined efforts to raise money for this poverty-stricken area of Nicaragua. This fundraiser, held after school from 2:15- 3:00, included pizza, beverages, a wide variety of baked goods and snacks, as well as a piñata! According to Mr. Lorusso, it was a very successful fundraiser; however, this was just one step of the Spanish Honor Society's long-term project to reach the $4,000 needed to improve the difficult and destitute lives of the poor in La Ceiba.

***Editors' Note*:** Amnesty International and the Spanish Honor Society are hosting another *La Ceiba* fundraiser on February 15th. This one will be a Mardi Gras / Taco and enchilada themed party! Please come and show your support!

Mr. Lorusso along with members of the Thunderbird newspaper staff.

Christmas at Sears

Jake Irwin
Staff Writer

Not everyone is able to afford gifts over the holidays, especially in this poor economy. Right before Christmas, the Key Clubs from both High School East and High School West took a day trip to Sears to Christmas shop for a needy child. During this shopping event, volunteers were given one hundred and fifty dollar gift cards to spend on gifts for their assigned child. A group of four volunteers was assigned. They then walked around the store to search for items from the child's Christmas list. On the Christmas lists were items such as coats, winter boots, dresses, socks, etc. Many of them are unable to afford such everyday and essential items. Once the group completed the shopping, the day was not complete. Following the Sears shopping event, volunteers and children were taken to the State Farm office building in Melville. During this time, volunteers wrapped their child's gifts while the children went to lunch and met Santa.

This day has been a huge success since it began a number of years ago. It has ensured that children who are unable to receive Christmas gifts will be receiving something this year. The children and the volunteers enjoyed participating in this event. Opening gifts on Christmas morning is a rare event for these children, and the members of Key Club are fortunate to be able to give them a Christmas to remember.

L'interview Avec Madame Sirulnick

Michael Choi
Features Editor

Madame Sirulnick, a born and raised francaise, is one of the many teachers who aspire to instill global mindsets in students with their knowledge of foreign languages. She is also one of those teachers who do not perceive their teaching career merely as a job, but an obligation to enlighten their students to awaken and to blossom the desire to learn within themselves.

Although subject to personal preferences, first period, for the most part, is not the best time for students to stimulate their body and mind to absorb in the new academic curriculum ruthlessly thrown at them. As a student of her first period French class, I am also the victim of the early morning fatigue. However, the general drowsiness that engulfs the class does not affect Madame Sirulnick, who emits a sense of vigor that ends up giving the class a jump-start for the long day ahead of them.

Madame Sirulnick has one mandatory rule for her students: *never speak English.* This iron law that I have generally kept throughout my high school career was broken in the course of the interview, which had to be carried out in English. We were both uncomfortable at first, but I was soon amazed at how fluently she could speak English. She exercises certain fluidity in her speech to the extent that she very often succeeds in concealing her European origin.

She has worked in this district for ten years as a French teacher. When recalling the early days of teaching, she wistfully spoke of the old-fashioned and "less bureaucratic" systems and environment of the school.

Although her current career in teaching French has been a truly rewarding experience for her and her development as a person in general, it was not her original interest in occupation. As a matter of fact, her initial passion resided in marketing and advertising, in which she received her baccalaureate (a rigorous examination taken by high school seniors to prove themselves apt for entrance into colleges).

Born in Toulouse, a city located in southern France, and raised in Bordeaux, located in the southwest of France, Madame Sirulnick first moved to Paris to work at companies like OSEO (an organization that supports and funds new innovators and researchers).

Her passion for foreign languages and cultures did not suddenly appear out of nowhere; it was her parents sending her to England over the summers as a foreign exchange student that gradually influenced it. There, she was first introduced to the English language and culture, but it was not until she came to the U.S. to study marketing that she was fully immersed in the language and culture.

Not only was her short stay in America a time for education, but it was also a time for love. During her brief residency with a host family in Smithtown, she met her companion, who eventually became her husband.

Not unlike many other romantic European love stories, their first encounter, or Madame Sirulnick's personal account of the whole story, was something one can read in a Nicholas Spark book. She recalled the day when she took her host family's horse out to a nearby park. Yes, a real horse. Madame Sirulnick has been a horseback rider since her early childhood in France.

From then on, the story is the classic boy meets girl, boy falls in love with girl, boy marries girl, and the end result is a happy multicultural couple living on Long Island with two lovely daughters: Elodie and Juliette.

Madame Sirulnick's greatest talent in teaching comes from her ways of talking, persuading, and conveying her passion to others. She recalls how her close friends would respond every time she talks to them about her home country. They would often say, "I really want to go to France whenever I listen to you." This shows how passionate she is when it comes to spreading awareness of France and its culture.

Madame is also a great advocate of a multicultural mindset. She states that having more spices and flavors is more appetizing than being bland with a single flavor. In a way to uphold the multicultural mindset that she so adores, she encourages students to attempt learning and even just knowing the different cultures and languages of the world. Madame Sirulnick believes that traveling is also another essential method of developing character and broadening the mind. An au revoir from Madame: *You will find a new self in foreign places. By traveling abroad to different places, you will feel life. Le voyage forme la jeunesse! (travel forms the youth)*

Student Gov't Update

Shari Bieber

Staff Writer

Within the last two months, Student Government has been dedicated to planning and directing the important events and fundraisers that take place during the second quarter. One of the events that Student Government sponsors is *Rock for Refugees*. Before the event occurred, auditions were held to determine which bands would perform at *Rock for Refugees*. Student Government also supplied refreshments for the audience. Student Government also helped to organize the fundraiser called Operation Holiday. The money raised goes to a charity called Miyad Miyad. The charity gave Student Government a list of necessities that they could buy using the donations from students for less fortunate families. Envelopes were distributed to each social studies teacher so that they could assist in collecting donations from students. The class with the most money raised was rewarded with a pizza or bagel party; this year, that prize went to Mr. Pitman's 3rd period class.

Student Government has also been discussing important matters that our school has faced. Largely publicized, a car accident occurred involving a student from our school on Vanderbilt Parkway. Joshua Shinbrot, the Student Government Chairmen, has been petitioning for a traffic light at the intersection of Vanderbilt Parkway and Farm View Drive to prevent accidents, like the one that occurred in November 2011. This petition will be presented to the Suffolk Country Government once it has 1,000 signatures. For more information, please see Josh's article.

Student Government has also talked about the controversy of grade disparities among those who are equally intelligent and put equal amounts of effort into their work, but are not receiving the same grade because they have a different teacher. Members of the club brought up many ideas to prevent these grade disparities. One idea was to give all students taking the same type of class similar tests and similar opportunities for extra credit.

HSE Needs Another Traffic Light

Joshua N. Shinbrot

Student Government Chairman

High School East backs up to central office, borders a golf course, is directly across the street from the community library, and is located on a major thoroughfare to Deer Park Avenue. Although this is convenient for Hills East students and staff, it also makes their everyday lives unnecessarily risky. Since February 2010 there have been over six accidents on Vanderbilt Parkway in front of High School East. Several have left members of the Half Hollow Hills Community severely injured. In January of 2011, a Hills East alumna was involved in a motor-vehicle accident in front of High School East, which left her with permanent brain damage. Less than a year later, a Hills East senior was badly injured in a hit-and-run incident in front of High School East, while attempting to cross the street to get to the library.

Traffic simply moves too quickly on Vanderbilt Parkway because of the lack of signal lights along the road. Wolf Hill Road, where High School West is located, had the same problem. Now, over the past several years, traffic lights have been installed at nearly every entrance and exit from High School West, significantly reducing the speed of traffic and improving safety along the road. Hills East has one traffic light, at the easternmost exit from the building, which is not even where the students park. Clearly, this is not enough.

As the Chairman of Student Government, it is my duty to work to the best of my ability to keep the over 1700 students at Hills East as safe as they can possibly be. That is why in February of 2011 I started a petition to install a traffic light at the intersection between Vanderbilt Parkway and Farm View Drive (the westernmost exit from the building). I received little response from our local legislators until early December. On November 30, 2011, I digitized the petition. We currently have approximately 750 signatures. Since digitizing the petition I have been in communication with the local media and various people at the Suffolk County Legislature, including Legislator Steve Stern. Recently, I addressed various members of Suffolk County government including the entire Department of Public Works commission in order to convey the necessity of installing more traffic lights along Vanderbilt Parkway.

It is possible that the commission may suggest other forms of traffic regulation along Vanderbilt Parkway, such as the installation of "Slow Down" signs or "Stop" signs. Unfortunately, only regular, working traffic lights will improve the safety of Vanderbilt Parkway. We have "**Slow Down"** signs, despite the fact that very few people know they exist. There are "Stop" signs at the western exit from High School East, yet that hasn't solved the problem. Regarding cost, the installation of traffic lights would be a win-win situation for our school and the county. Red light cameras will generate revenue for the county and lights will slow down the traffic, thereby improving safety. Not to mention, that if we do not install these lights, it is the people who will pay for the consequences of these accidents anyway, if not in their tax bill, in their auto-insurance rates. And it wouldn't surprise me if a traffic light is less expensive than the medical bills of those who were injured in accidents caused by the nearly unregulated traffic on Vanderbilt Parkway.

Too many members of the Hills East family have been injured in front of High School East in accidents which may well have been prevented, or lessened in severity, by the installation of additional traffic lights in front of High School East. It's time that the Suffolk County government respects the rights of all members of the Half Hollow Hills Community to travel on safe roads, take responsibility for ensuring the safety of those roads, and pursue an excellent future for all Suffolk County residents.

For more information, or to sign the petition, please go to **http://tinyurl.com/hsetraffic**.

An entrance/exit from HSE where a light would be beneficial.

Upcoming School Events

Winter Recess: February 20 - February 24

Cap & Gown Measurements: March 1 & 2

Spring Varsity/JV Sports Tryout: March 5

Winter Sports Awards Presentation: March 5

Drivers' Ed Parent Assembly: March 6

Mini College Fair: March 19

Spirit Day: March 23

Spring Musical (8:00 pm): March 23 & 24

Senior Photos: March 26 - March 30

Nat'l Art Honor Society Induction: April 3

Spring Recess: April 5 - April 11

An Interview with Ms. Aull

Alexus Haddad
Staff Writer

Ms. Aull, an 8 year veteran of the Half Hollow Hills School District, joined HSE this year as a very dedicated Health teacher. Prior to coming to East, she taught at Candlewood Middle School for 7 years. During her free time, Ms. Aull likes to read and watch documentaries about health related topics. I had a chance to sit with Ms. Aull and interview her about what health means to her and the importance of the subject in all of our lives.
Q: What was your favorite subject in school?
A: My favorite subject was Health, but in academics, English. I am good at writing, but it's not my favorite thing. I wish I were a good singer.
Q: Who or what inspired you to become a health teacher?
A: I've always been interested in health. My high school teacher at Hicksville High School was Ms. Stiglitz. She now teaches at High School West. She's been my main inspiration and my colleague for 8 years now.
Q: Where did you go to college?
A: I went to Hofstra University for my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Health Education.
Q: How long have you been a teacher?
A: Ten years. I teach here and at Adelphi. My first year teaching, I taught for the Diocese of Rockville Center. My second year, I taught at the Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD and then ended up in the HHH District. I was a teacher at Candlewood for 7 years.

This is my first year at HSE.
Q: What is your favorite subject in health and why?
A: My favorite subject in health is nutrition because I think what you put in your body is so important. If you want your body to run efficiently, then you have to put good things in your body.
Q: What are fun, healthy tips that most teens should take?
A: Make sure you have time to have fun in life in a healthy way. I think that many teens deal with a lot of stress and they fill their schedules with too many activities. My tip for them is to always take care of their health. Try to have fun in physical activity. Exercise doesn't have to be boring. You can jump on a trampoline, cook with lots of colorful fruits and vegetables, and laugh everyday.
Q: Are there any health-related resources you would recommend for teens?
A: There is a new documentary called *Forks Over Knives* and I think everyone should watch it. It's a documentary about a plant-based diet, and it would change people's lives.
Q: What can you tell us about health that most teens don't know?
A: Most teens don't know that the things you do when you're young affect you when you're older.
Q: Did you ever think about becoming a nutritionist?
A: Yes, but then I realized that I really would like to work with people to help enhance their lifestyle. I am enrolled in a health program focused on holistic nutrition. I'll be a certified health coach and help people live a healthy lifestyle.
Q: What is your goal in teaching?
A: My goal is to encourage students to become excited about a healthy lifestyle. I want kids to take care of themselves and just understand how important it is.
After sitting down and speaking with Ms. Aull, I have learned that she is very passionate about her profession and we are lucky to have her as a teacher at HSE!

Senior Banquet 2012

Abigail Brosnan
Entertainment Editor

This year's senior class showed their school spirit at their Senior Banquet, held on January 27th. With the *Times Square* theme successfully pulled off by our student government, a good time was guaranteed for all. With the awesome DJs playing all of the favorites, practically everyone was on the dance floor. By the end of the night, everyone had meshed together and was dancing, eating, and mingling as a class. When we were all seated, our class video was presented. Everyone had a place in the video, and we all got to see the senior picture for the first time. With high spirits and pride for our class, we went right into the senior superlatives. Everyone had a great time whether they received an award or just enjoyed watching others receive their award. Congratulations to the class of 2012! Look how far you've come!

Dressed to impress!

Senior spirit!

Hitting the dance floor.

What's your PENference?

Sojin Chon
Staff Writer

What is the most needed and most used object in high school? The writing utensil. How are you going to copy notes, take tests, and more importantly, draw doodles without it? Everyone either has one or needs one. Some students, beyond actually having a pen/pencil, have specific pen preferences. They prefer ballpoints to roller balls or fountain pens to ballpoints. Some students prefer a supportive grip and others desire plain plastic. For some students, number two pencils are uncomfortable, while 0.7 mechanical pencils are more convenient.

A studious, hardworking student at Half Hollow Hills High School East named Carol Lee prefers pencil to pen. Carol Lee describes her ideal pencil as a mechanical pencil, which uses O.5 lead. She says, "When you write with a large, bulky pen, it's very unaccommodating. However, a thin mechanical pencil is neat, tidy, and helps me write compactly." To Carol, how the pencil writes is a very important factor of a good writing utensil. She also says, "If you have a pen or pencil that's always reliable, make sure you stick with it."
Having a constant, reliable writing utensil may also help you get good grades on your tests! It is known that if you have a study environment and a test environment that are similar, you have a chance of doing better on your exams. In other words, there is a chance that if you use the same writing utensil when you study and when you take your test, you'll get a higher grade. In other words, find the perfect pen or pencil for you!
Whether your preference may be gel pen, ballpoint pen, fountain pen, mechanical pencil, or the good ol' number two, always having a writing utensil that works for you is a helpful tool in the classroom.

THE VARIETY CORNER...

Collin's thoughts not related to sports

Collin Giuliani
Staff Writer

TEN GRAMMY THOUGHTS

- Seriously, what is the difference between the *Record of the Year* and *Song of the Year*?
- The *Best New Artist* category for the Grammy Awards is wide open, despite the fact that Nicki Minaj is the clear favorite. As Esperanza Spalding vs. Justin Bieber taught us last year, your guess is as good as mine for the nominations.
- Of the 5 albums nominated for *Album of the Year*, there is only one that we will be calling one of the greatest albums of all time 5 years from now--- Adele's album, *21.* It's been in the top 10 album sales for over a year.
- Kanye West got more Grammy nominations than Adele. Somebody please explain that to me.
- I wouldn't classify *Someone Like You* by Adele as a pop song.
- Every ounce of respect that I have for the Grammy voters will be lost if the Foo Fighters do not win every single rock category for which they have been nominated.
- I won't be upset if Bruno Mars wins *Song of the Year* with *Grenade,* but *Rolling in the Deep* by Adele should be a runaway for both *Song of the Year* and *Record of the Year.*
- When was LL Cool J ever good enough to earn the honor of hosting the show?
- If any category looks like a safe bet, it's *Best Pop Duo/Group Performance* with Maroon 5 and Christina Aguilera in *Moves Like Jagger.*
- Another near-lock category is *Best R&B Album*, with *F.A.M.E.* by Chris Brown.

X-TRA FLAT- HOW TO IMPROVE *THE X-FACTOR*

Collin Giuliani
Staff Writer

The X-factor was supposed to be the show that swept the nation and took over American Idol as the premier talent showcase. But it fell flat on its face. Between bickering between the judges that made no sense and Steve Jones, who is a terrible host, the show was disappointing. It was still good, but it didn't live up to the hype.

Here are some suggestions. For one, dump Jones; he is lifeless and, at times, he comes across as rude. Get rid of Nicole Scherzinger as well; she is a terrible judge, blatantly defending her own contestants while having terrible criticism. Her decision to let the public decide, which sent Rachel Crow home instead of the always-out-of-tune Marcus Canty was poor judging to say the least. Let's face it, she can't mentor anybody (Krajcik was already good before he arrived), and she always dances to the acts, yet she proceeds to criticize them or says comments that make no sense. Replace her with someone prestigious, such as Mariah Carey.

Finally, dump the groups' category. The groups this year were terrible, with all of them being eliminated before December. Instead, re-brand it into 4 categories: Under-18s, 18-30s Boys, 18-30s Girls and Over-30s. Groups can be brought into the category that their age fits. While we're at it, I'm all for dumping Paula as well because she can't take criticism with a grain of salt and couldn't mentor the groups properly. She, like Nicole, falls flat under the pressure.

If this show wants to survive post-hype, a major overhaul is needed.

Editors' Note: It looks like some of Collin's suggestions have already come true. Simon Cowell has already dumped Jones, Scherzinger and Abdul.

X Factor judges LA Reid, Nicole Scherzinger, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

HSE's "We the People" Team Heads to Nationals

Jessica Gaspard
Op Ed. Editor

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union…" This excerpt from the preamble to the United States Constitution is where HSE's *We The People* team derives its name. The team is a constitutional debate team for seniors who are in Mr. Pitman's AP Government class.

After being selected to join the team based on one's performance in a placement essay, the students are assembled into 6 "units" of 3 or 4 students. Each unit corresponds to a unit within the *We The People* textbook and creates three speeches, each four minutes in length, to answer questions based on their unit. Each question requires knowledge of history and current events and is judged on content as well as presentation and ability to answer questions based on your unit on the spot. The team must win first place at regionals and states before making it to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

This may sound like a lot of work, but the team is actually an amazing experience. As a member of this year's team, I have not only learned a lot about our nation's government, but about my teammates. The entire team becomes a family, sharing history related jokes and stressing and cramming at Barnes and Noble the night before a mock trial.

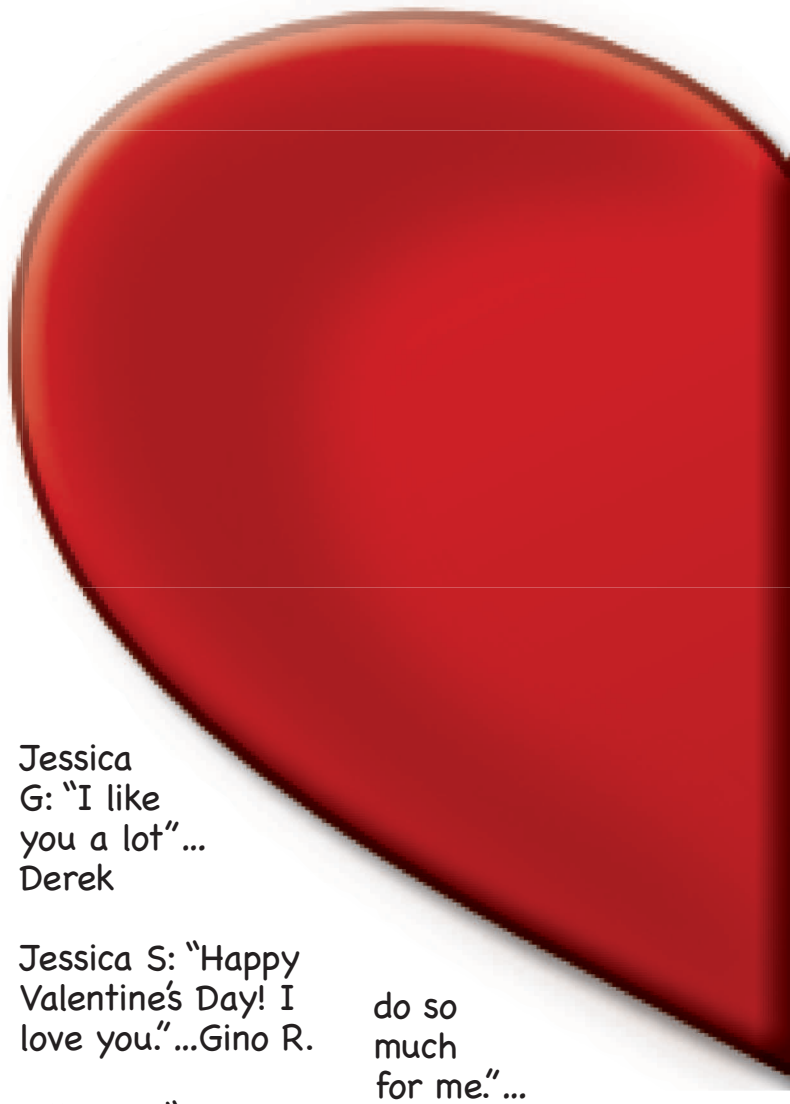
It has been stressful, but our work has been rewarded! By making it to the National competition, we get to compete against over 50 other teams and tour DC for 5 days! This trip to D.C. will not come easy, because as economic troubles have invaded our nation, the team has lost its funding. The trip will cost each student over $1,000. Although we do hold various fundraising events, it is not enough. We need help from various students, teachers, organizations, businesses, and anyone willing to donate any amount to our team. Anybody who is interested in helping our team, please contact Schuyler Berland, Mr. Pitman, or myself.

Joining *We The People* has truly made me a better citizen by educating me about our government and providing me with the skills to better analyze current events. The team is an enriching experience, and I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in government, American history, or public speaking.

Mr. Pitman with HSE's *We the People* team

Happy Valen

Send some love



Messages to your special someone:

Alexa: "Glad we are best friends! Happy Valentine's Day" ... Basant D.

Alexa M.: "You have mad basketball skills!"... The boys and Letitia

Alexa and Natalie: "Your eyes are as pretty as the sky...gorgeous!"... Anonymous

Alex W: " I love you bro! Good times!... Ben N.

Alissa P: "I love you so much! Best friends forever since 6th grade. We're more than friends. We're like sisters!" <3... Kassandra P.

Ally L: "I love you baby!! 05-27-11"... Chris S.

Areeta S: "I <3 U. You are the straw to my berry."... Helen

Ashley S: "I love you "Big Time" Ms. Patterson!"...Your best friend Matt

Ben: "You're my best friend!" <3... Christina B.

Ben N: "Ben, I love you!"... Ben N.

Ben N: "I'll see you at Shabbat dinner. Mazel Tov!!"... Anonymous

Cara G: "I love you, you're the best! 11-11-11 always!"... James M.

Chelsea S: "Babe, I love you. Be mine forever."... Anonymous

Chris S: "Baby I love you!"... Ally L.

Cristina H: "Happy Valentine's Day, yeah!"...Jeremy L.

Danielle H: "I love you!"... Allie L.

Danielle R: "I love you sooo much. You make me happy. You give me heavenly feelings."... Netanya L.

Devin: "You're really hot!" Anonymous

Gabby O: "I love you. <3 bye."... Ilyssa R. & Dan L.

Gio Monti: "You are the most special Valentine I ever had. I love you with all my heart. Forever and always." LYLLYL... Alessandro O.

Hayley L., Toni M., and Joe L: "I love you! <3 Will you be my Valentine?"... Your best friend Kristen M.

HSE Varsity Cheerleaders: "I love all you girlies and let's have fun on Senior Day! Remember, we're Pretty!... Jessica S.

HSE Varsity Cheerleaders: "You will always be prettier! So proud of all of your hard work! Happy Valentine's Day!"... <3 Your Coaches

Jamie: "Happy we met this year! Happy Valentine's Day baby!"... Anonymous

Jeremy: "I love you like peanut butter loves chocolate"... Crazyyy N.

Jessica G: "Hey, it's you from the past. Keep lookin' so good."...Jessica G.

Jessica G: "I like you a lot"... Derek

Jessica S: "Happy Valentine's Day! I love you."...Gino R.

Jillian B: "Love you baby!" <3... Nick I.

Joe L.: "You are the man!"... Anonymous

Josh P: "Thanks for the flowers. Love you so much. Happy Valentine's Day. Hope all is well. Love love you."... Anonymous

Josh P: "You've been the best. I love you and you've always been there for me."... Anonymous

Josh P: "I love you soooo much! You do so much for me."... Anonymous

Lauren C: "Happy Valentine's Day, My love! Always and forever! Xo...Marlee

Letitia: "You're so amazing and such a great friend!"... Alexa

Marlee: "I love you!"...Ricki B.

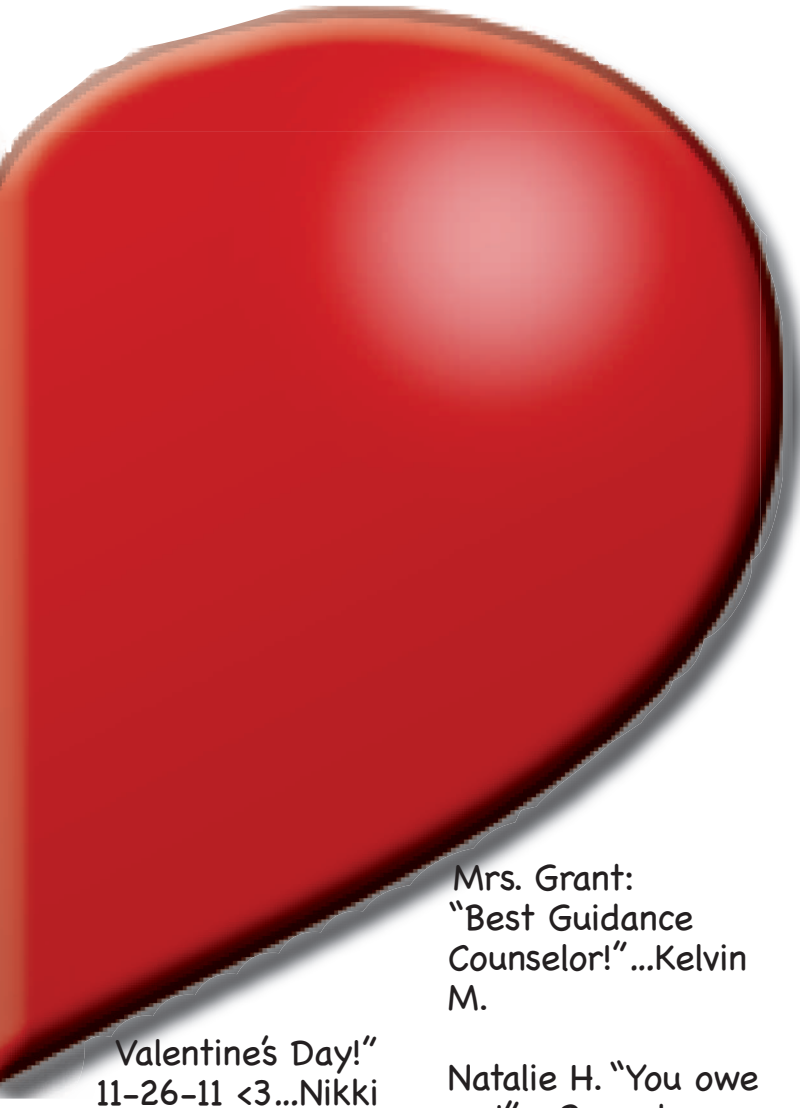
Marlee: "Happy Hearts Day! You are my one and only, my soul, my rock. I love you. xoxo... Lauren C.

Mike M: "I love you Mike! Happy

ntines Day!

e, Save a heart

Compiled by Ben Noskin



Valentine's Day!" 11-26-11 <3...Nikki M.

Mrs. Cappiello: "I miss you and you are the best! <3"... Ben C.

Mrs. Dalton: "Even though you're married, will you be my valentine? You are the best teacher!"... Jared S.

Mrs. Dalton: "Vampire Diaries is the best show ever!"...8th period English.

Mrs. Davis: "Be my Valentine!"...Mr. Hill

Mrs. Grant: "Best Guidance Counselor!"...Kelvin M.

Natalie H. "You owe me!"... Basant

Natalie and Alexa: "Have a great Valentine's Day!"... Joe the Monitor

Natalie and Alexa: To my two new beautiful friends, have a good one!"... Anonymous

Nick M: "You're the bomb!"... Nick M

Nikki M: "I love you so much, you have been like the big sister I never had from the very beginning. I really don't know what I would have done without you and I know Brooke and I will be lost when you leave. Since we can't get our own, will you share your Valentine with us? <3... Sam F.

Olivia T: "You are the best!"...Lyle the Crocodile

Philippe B: "Happy Valentine's Day <3"...Tabeetha G.

Rachel S.: "I love you and thank you for everything you do!"...Jessie S.

Sam D: "Love you!"... Nick F.

Sam M (Boo Bear): I love you so much and I will love you forever! Happy Valentine's Day!"... Giovanni S.

Shakita: "Happy Valentine's Day Bestiee"...Bryanna

Steve C: "You are so good at golf!"... Anonymous

Tivoni: "I <3 you sooooo much. I can't wait till we get married!"... Najee

Victoria: "You're the most beautiful girl and you have the most beautiful eyes!"...Anonymous

Facts about the Day of Love:

- The ancient Romans celebrated the Feast of Lupercalia on February 14th in honor of Juno, the queen of the Roman gods and goddesses and of women and marriage.
- During the Roman Empire, Emperor Claudius did not want men to marry during wartime. Bishop Valentine disagreed and performed secret wedding ceremonies. For this, Valentine was jailed and executed on February 14. In jail, he wrote a love note to the jailor's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."
- Many believe the 'X' symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an 'X.' The 'X' was then kissed to show their sincerity.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."
- In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14th the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.
- Physicians of the 1800's advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love.
- Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day.
- Over $1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S.
- 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day.
- Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- There are 119 single men in their 20s for every 100 single women of the same ages.

Sources:
http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day-facts
http://www.sheknows.com/holidays-and-seasons

The Newspaper club members held a fundraiser to benefit the American heart association. For every message, students donated $1.00. Thank you to all who participated.

History of the Animated film Genre

Daniel Brizuela
Staff Writer

There are many different genres in filmmaking that are all very successful. However, one genre that stands above all the others is animated films.

The first ever-animated film was the 1917 Argentinean 70 minute and now lost film, *El Apóstol*, or *The Apostle*. Eventually other people began to make their own long and short animated films. However, one man would change the world of animation forever; that man was the great Walt Disney. His works of animation shorts were put into theaters, and ultimately led to the formation of his theme parks in California and Florida years later. His work led to the creation of his own production company, Walt Disney Productions.

Disney won more Oscars than any other person for his many shorts and films, including *Mickey Mouse*, 1933s *Three Little Pigs*, 1932s *Flowers and Trees*, and many others. In 1937, Walt Disney changed the movie industry by making the first full-length feature animated film, to be in theaters, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Many people didn't think that anyone would want to see a full length animated film but Disney disagreed; when it opened, it became the biggest film of 1937. The film took four years to make, cost over one million dollars, and kept being called a failure during its years of production. It made over eight million at the box office thus showing that animated films were successful and because of it Disney made more and more of them all becoming as famous as the first. Many of these films, however, weren't as successful when they first came out and met with bad reviews and low box office success, such as 1940s *Pinocchio* or 1951s *Alice in Wonderland*. After Walt's death in 1966, his company re-released many of the animated films to a new generation. Because of that, *Snow White* has grossed over one hundred million dollars, making it the first film to make over one hundred million. Also, most of the early films that at first didn't do as well went on to get critical acclaim and succeed at the box office.

From the 1930s to the 1960s Walt Disney Productions was the main source of anything animated. Others tried, but not as much as Disney. The Walt Disney company made action films, like the Oscar winning *Mary Poppins*, but their biggest asset was with the animation genre.

By the mid to late 1980s, Disney's success returned, after a small slum following Walt's death. The success in advanced animation returned and more mature themes in such films as 1989s *The Little Mermaid* and 1991s *Beauty and the Beast* soon followed. *Beauty and the Beast* became the first ever animated film nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. It had to compete with other companies that also made animated films, but Disney became king again, especially after Pixar was formed, which made computer animated movies like *Toy Story* and *Cars*.

Along with Disney, other companies such as DreamWorks Pictures, Warner Brothers and Japanese anime films, have made great and successful strides in the animanted film genre.

Greyson Chance...
An up and coming artist

Alexus Haddad
Staff Writer

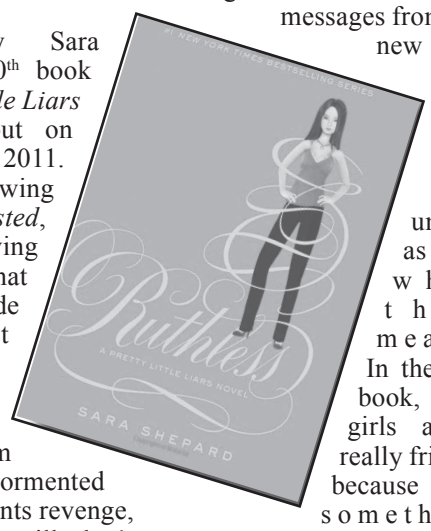
Greyson Chance, an up and coming teenage artist, is an amazing performer. When he was in sixth grade, Chance's brother recorded him performing "Paparazzi," by Lady Gaga, which he later posted on YouTube. He instantly gained millions of views. He then went on to create and perform original songs. Many viewers, including Ellen DeGeneres, admired his work. As a result, Chance was on the Ellen DeGeneres show a few times to perform his songs on live television! This was the beginning of Greyson Chance's career. DeGeneres added him to her music label called *eleven-eleven*. In August 2011, Greyson Chance's first album called "Hold On Til' The Night" was released. From this demo, he made two music videos, one of which, entitled "Unfriend You," included Ariana Grandes. He is also in the process of a making a music video called "Hold On Til' The Night." Many people, including myself, admire Chance's first song and music video called "Waiting Outside The Lines." This song is amazing and tells how teenagers need to define something about themselves, instead of copying what other people are doing.

Greyson Chance writes mainly about what other teens go through in life making his music very relevant. Chance admires many artists, including Lady Gaga, Christina Aguilera, and John Lennon from the Beatles. Chance also has been playing the piano since he was eight years old. Since Greyson Chance has been discovered, he has been touring and performing with other talented singers, such as Miranda Cosgrove and Cody Simpson. Greyson Chance is a very talented boy and will become even more successful than he is now. If you haven't picked up a copy of Greyson Chance's new album, "Hold On Til' The Night," you are missing out! I can guarantee that you will enjoy his songs for both their lyrics and their catchy rhythms.

Book Review: Ruthless

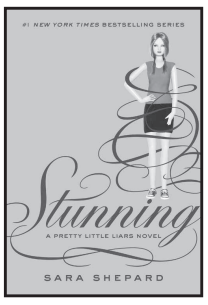
Heather Andelsman
Entertainment Editor

Ruthless by Sara Shepard, the 10th book of the *Pretty Little Liars* series, came out on December 6th, 2011. This book, following the 9th book *Twisted*, continues showing the mistakes that the girls made after a past experience. Spencer broke a few rules to get into her dream school, Aria is tormented by a girl who wants revenge, Emily's parents still don't know about the secret she's been keeping, for which she's already lost one sister and a friend, and Hanna makes a huge mistake with her dad's government campaign.



Along with these problems, the girls continue to receive messages from the new 'A' and are unsure as to what this means. In the last book, the girls aren't really friends because of something unspeakably bad that they did while in Jamaica. When they figure out that 'A' knows what they did, they become close again in order to talk about these new messages. At the end of the book, the four of them discover something that they never thought they would and are brought back to a place that haunts all four of them. It's where all of this began.

This book was very enjoyable to read. Make sure you read the first nine before you pick up this one! *Stunning*, the 11th book in the series, comes out June 1st, 2012.



Try Some Trendy Desserts!

Here's where:

- ***Crumbs Bake Shop***, Huntington & Woodbury
- ***Torta Fina Bake Shoppe & Patisserie,*** Commack & Babylon
- ***Starbucks*** (Great Cake Pops!)
- ***Cupcake Gourmet***, Huntington
- ***Cheesecake Factory***, Huntington
- ***Yogurt Crazy***, Commack

Dessert Fads

Sojin Chon
Staff Writer

Let's admit it: desserts are scrumptious, delicious, and adorable. They stimulate the pleasure senses of the brain and attract your attention with their convenient shapes and sizes. Up and coming trends in the dessert world include everything from the classic cupcake to French style macaroons.

Cupcakes are very popular nowadays; so much so that there are stores dedicated solely to this delicacy. This treat comes in mini size, regular size, and even extra large size. Cupcake flavor options are also infinite. Bakeries, chefs, and novice bakers are constantly bringing new types of cupcakes into the light. Red Velvet, Carrot Cake, Double Chocolate, and Vanilla are just a few of the many flavors that you can find.

Another trend that recently popped up was cake pops. These desserts are basically cakes in lollipop form. Little balls of cake batter are baked and put on a lollipop stick. This dessert has been served at parties, gatherings, and even weddings. Cake pop makers and cake pop recipes can be found all over the Internet.

In addition to cupcakes, an almond flavored French pastry called the macaroon has been surfacing on social networking sites, recipe websites, and in cookbooks. This adorable, circular treat can satisfy your sugar-cravings. This unique cookie is a fascinating trend especially because it was inspired by a foreign nation.

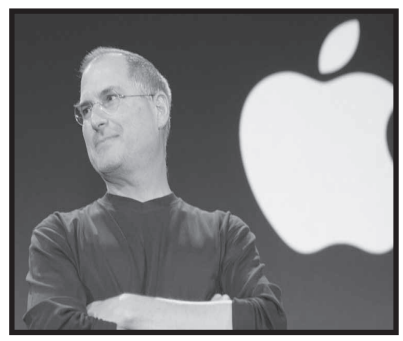
These trends are only a few of the many that constantly pop up into our lives. Dessert fads are fun, cool, and interesting to explore. Not to mention, it is a great treat after a meal. Hopefully, more amazing, delicious desserts will continue to be created for everyone to enjoy!

The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2011

Amanda Blum
Staff Writer

Barbara Walters' *10 Most Fascinating People* has been airing since 1993, and this year's most fascinating people list was much talked about in the media.

Some of this years *10 Most Fascinating People* were Amanda Knox, Derek Jeter, Herman Cain and also Donald Trump. Another person who made the list was Simon Cowell. Some things you may not know about him were learned from watching the show. For example, he has many fears including failure, being unhappy and being bored. Other people who made the list this year were Pippa Middleton and Katy Perry, as well as Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet, who play Mitchell and Cam on the ABC hit *Modern Family*. The Kardashians also made Walters' list. During an interview with the sisters, Walters said to the them, "you don't really act, you don't sing, you don't dance, you don't have any, forgive me, any talent!" That might have been a tough statement, but it was what viewers were thinking anyway! Right? And the number one most fascinating person of 2011 was Steve Jobs! He was responsible for many technological advancements, and he will always be remembered by that. Barbara Walters' program is a great way to wrap up the year. Who do you think will make next year's list?



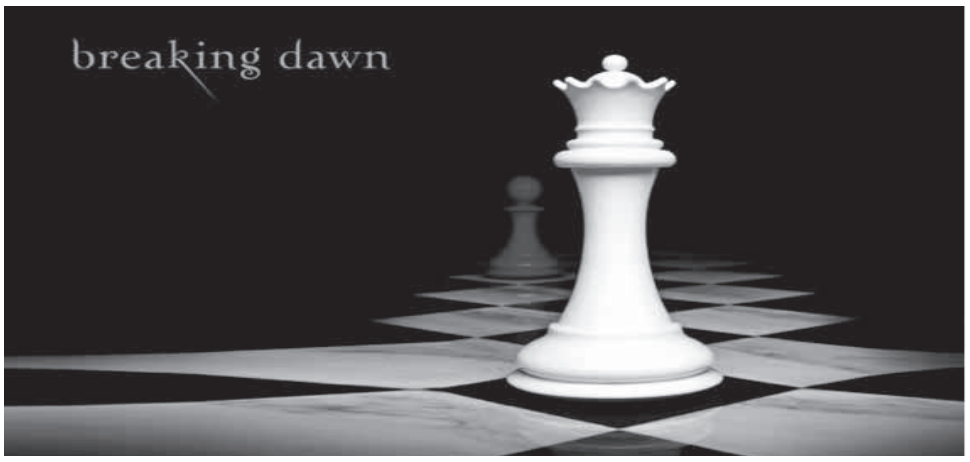
Movie Review: *New Year's Eve*

Heather Andelsman
Staff Writer

New Year's Eve, the sequel to *Valentine's Day*, which was about Valentine's Day from many different perspectives, has the same type of plot. This movie has many different characters with different ideas of how they want to spend their New Year's Eve. The movie starts out with the character of Claire Morgan (Hilary Swank) as the Vice-President of the Time Square Alliance, who is trying to make everything go right on New Year's Eve. Another story follows Sam (Josh Duhamel) a businessman for Ahern Records who is deciding whether to stay at the Ahern Records Masquerade Ball, where he needs to make a speech, or meet the girl who he fell in love with last New Year's Eve. Another story follows Ingrid (Michelle Pfeiffer), an employee working for Ahern Records, and the delivery boy, Paul (Zac Efron) whose friend Randy (Ashton Kutcher) gets stuck in an elevator with Elise (Lea Michele), a backup singer for the star Jensen (Bon Jovi). Paul's sister, Kim, (Sarah Jessica Parker) is having problems with her teenage daughter, Hailey (Abigail Breslin). A chef named Laura (Katherine Heigl) and her Sous Chef Anna (Sofia Vergara) are preparing to cook for the Masquerade Ball. At a nearby hospital, a young couple, Griffin (Seth Meyers) and Tess (Jessica Biel), are about to have a baby, and their baby might be the first baby born on New Year's. At the same hospital, a man in the last stages of cancer, Stan Harris (Robert De Niro) learns that he is going to die soon, but all he wants to do is watch the ball drop one more time.

This movie was full of excitement and suspense as you wait to find out how all the stories connect together. The storylines are all different, and they show that people can have such different experiences in the same night, but all be connected. I thought that the movie was a little confusing in the beginning, because of all the characters and different storylines, but as the movie went on they all came together nicely. I think this movie was a great movie to go out and see.

Movie Review:



Jessica Gaspard & Victoria Sulenski
Op Ed. & Layout Editors

Twi-hards came out in packs on November 18th before the break of dawn to see *Breaking Dawn-Part I*. Because it was the first part of the last installment of the cult-phenomenon, *Twilight*, the atmosphere was more charged than ever. The line for the midnight showing at the United Artists Farmingdale Multiplex wrapped around the entire outside of the theater, even though the temperature was about 35 degrees!

The movie itself took on a different approach than the past movies. For readers who are not familiar with *Twilight*, the plot of *Breaking Dawn* centers around Edward and Bella's marriage. The two have been facing struggles since they first met, and the marriage is no exception. Although this story may sound cheesy, the plot takes a twisted turn. An unexpected pregnancy, in which a half human - half vampire baby threatens Bella's life, adds a macabre aspect to the teen-vampire chick flick.

Overall, the structure of the movie and adherence to the plot of the book was fantastic. At times, the plot, and the overall movie, seemed a bit rushed. Some of the scenes did not carry that "wow" factor that existed in the last two films. It is safe to say that we were not the only people laughing after hearing the speaking between members of the wolf pack (yes, wolves talk to each other in the movie). The movie direction and general mood seemed toned down in certain parts, which took away from the more "epic" feeling audience members would receive after seeing *Eclipse* and *New Moon*.

Many audience members were unhappy at the amount of blood and gore featured in the movie. There was a dream sequence, several scenes involving a dying Bella, as well as the entire birthing scene, that was perhaps too graphic for a movie that is aimed at young teens.

Although *Breaking Dawn* was a success, the next, and final installment, has to live up to much higher expectations.

The Godfather Trilogy

Daniel Brizuela
Staff Writer

In the years 1972, 1974, and 1990 three films from the most acclaimed film series were released. Those three films are *The Godfather*, *The Godfather Part 2*, and *The Godfather Part 3*, from the *Godfather Trilogy*. The crime drama films were all directed by Francis Ford Coppola, who won Oscars for the screenplays, with author Mario Puzo, for the first two films, Best Director for Coppola for the second, and Best Picture for the first two. Coppola and Mario Puzo, author of the novel and co-author of the screenplay, wrote all three films for *The Godfather* series.

All three films deal with the saga of the Corleone mafia family, taking place from 1901 to 1980, starting with Don Vito Corleone. Vito was played by Marlon Brando in *Part 1,* and he won his second Leading Actor Oscar for the role. In most flashbacks, Robert De Niro, who won his first of two Oscars for this role, played him. Most of *Part 1* shows Vito as the head of the family until he dies near the end, which leaves his son Michael, played by Al Pacino, as the head of the Corleone crime family.

There are many memorable things about the Godfather films, one of them being that *Part 2* was the first sequel to win Best Picture. As all three films were nominated for Best Picture, it is only one of two trilogies, with the other being the *Lord of the Rings trilogy*, where all three films were nominated for that same award. Each of the films boast memorable lines, like "It's nothing personal, just business" or "I'll give him an offer he can't refuse." These reasons, and many more, are why the three *Godfather* films are one of the best trilogies ever made in Hollywood.

The Man behind the action hero

Daniel Brizuela
Staff Writer

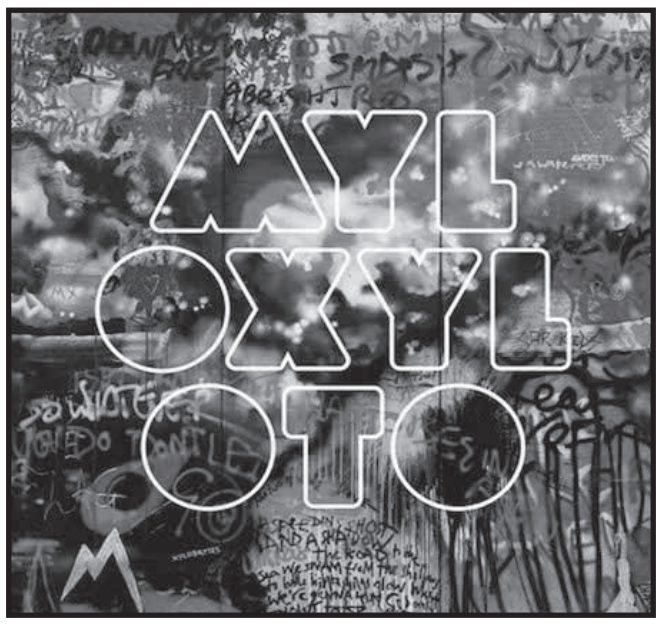
Since the invention of film, one thing that has been common in most films is the stuntman. A stuntman, double, or performer is someone who does the dangerous stunts seen in many films that are considered too dangerous for the actor to perform. These include the parkour chase, where you move around objects very quickly, as seen in 2006's *Casino Royale*, the helicopter in the freeway chase in 1991s *Terminator 2*, and Buster Keaton not moving when a part of a house falls on him, leaving him standing in an open window in 1928's *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*

Although these stunts are dangerous, there are a lot of safety mechanisms in place to make sure that the stuntman is safe. It is easier to do all this in movies, shows, and other media as opposed to doing it with a live audience because of the safety concerns. The clever editing can hide the fact that the actor isn't doing his or her own stunt.

Some famous stuntmen in films include: Jim Ford, who performed stunts in 2010's *Knight and Day* and *The Bounty Hunter*; Kane Hodder, who played Jason Voorhees in the 8th to 10th *Friday The 13th* films; and Bob Simmons, who performed the stunts in many of the early James Bond films and was the one who played Bond in the gun barrel opening sequence in the first three films. Even though it's recommended to have a stuntman, many actors like to do their own stunts. Jackie Chan was given the Guinness World Record for performing the most stunts as an actor. Recently, he's done less because of his age and the injuries he incurred from doing these stunts. In the past, Steve McQueen performed many stunts in his films that involved vehicles. Other actors known for doing their own stunts include silent film stars Harold Lloyd and Buster Keaton, and Angelina Jolie.

Even though there are numerous precautions and attempts to make sure that stunts are safe and okay to do, there are times when stunts go wrong and certain people, whether it be the stuntman or actor, can get hurt or even killed. In a 1984 Pepsi commercial, Michael Jackson's hair caught on fire, and he suffered 2nd degree burns on his scalp. In a flood scene in 1928's *Noah's Ark* ,three people died and others were injured. Most recently, a stuntman was killed while filming *The Expendables 2*.

Even through all of the dangers that they have to face and the risks involved, stuntmen keep performing. To them, being a stuntman is very exciting and worth the risk.



Coldplay's New CD... Mylo xyloto

Abigail Brosnan
Entertainment Editor

I recently heard Coldplay's newest album called *Mylo Xyloto*. The style is very different from their previous hits. This album is full of dance music with a very upbeat tone, with only a few exceptions. One exception is the single entitled *Us Against The World*.

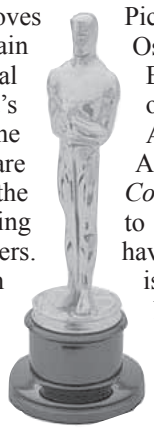
The band hasn't spoken of why it was named *Mylo Xyloto*, but they have mentioned how it was the only title they had all unanimously chosen. I really enjoyed every song, but my favorites are *Us Against The World*, due to its very signature Coldplay rhythm, and *Paradise*. In a completely opposing manner, both of these songs are different in their rhythm and tone, yet they have the same relaxing vibe of all of Coldplay's hits.

If you're interested in hearing a new style of the band buy this CD, especially if you're a fan. This CD will not disappoint, plus you'll have an entirely new playlist to listen to! Special thanks to Moxie who provided the CD for review.

Oscar Best Picture Winners

Daniel Brizuela
Staff Writer

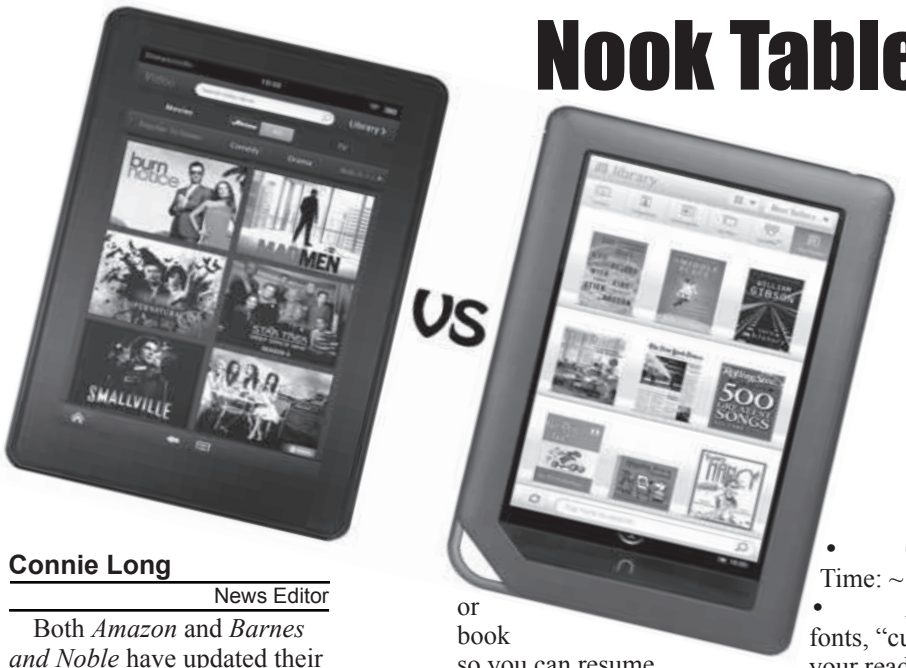
Each year, for the past 83 years, one movie has won the most important award in Hollywood: the Oscar for Best Picture of the year. Since 1927, the Academy Awards have given many different films the award that proves just how great certain films were. It is the final and biggest award that's given at the Oscars. The producers of the film are the ones who collect the coveted award, deeming them Oscar winners.



Every genre, of film except that of the superhero, has been nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. Science fiction, Comic Book-based, and Animated films are the only genres to have never won an Oscar. So far, only three westerns, *Cimarron* in 1932, *Dances with Wolves* in 1991, and *Unforgiven* in 1993, one thriller, 1940s *Rebecca*, one horror, 1991s *The Silence of the Lambs*, and one fantasy film, the third *Lord of the Rings*, have won Best Picture. Other films that have won the Oscar for Best Picture include 1986s *Platoon*, 2010s *The King's Speech*, 1959s *Ben-Hur*, 1970s *Patton*, and 1999s *American Beauty*. Some movies that have been nominated for Best Picture include 2009s *Avatar*, 1939s *The Wizard of Oz*, 1942s *Mrs. Miniver*, 1963s *Cleopatra*, and 1928s *The Racket*.

There are many milestones and superlatives for various films that have been nominated for or have won the Oscar for Best Picture. These include only three films: 1934s *It Happened One Night*, 1975s *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and 1991s *The Silence of the Lambs*. All three of these won Best Picture alongside the top Oscars for Best Director, Best Screenplay Adapted or Original, Best Leading Actor, and Best Leading Actress. 1969s *Midnight Cowboy* is the only film to win Best Picture and have an X rating, which is now replaced by the NC-17 rating. Another superlative is that 1939s *Gone with the Wind*, at about three hours and fifty-four minutes, is the longest film to win Best Picture. 1991s *Beauty and the Beast* was the first animated film to ever be nominated for Best Picture, and it wasn't until 2002 that the Best Animated Film was added as its own category at the Oscars. From the early 1930s until 1943, when *Casablanca* won Best Picture, there were ten films that were nominated for Best Picture. Each year, after that, it was only five until 2010 when ten films were nominated again after many were angry that *The Dark Knight* wasn't nominated. Now, however, the Academy is thinking of changing it again so that there could be anywhere from five to ten films being nominated. Who knows what 2011's Best Picture winner will be. Film fans are anxious to find out!

Kindle Fire vs. Nook Tablet



Connie Long
News Editor

Both *Amazon* and *Barnes and Noble* have updated their reading devices with features boasting ultra-fast web browsing, WiFi, and 169 ppi resolution on 7" screens. So, which one is right for you?

Kindle Fire
Amazon

- $199
- 14.6 ounces
- 8GB (6,000 books)
- Dual-core processor, 1GHz
- 8 hours of continuous reading, 7.5 hours of video playback (with wireless off)
- Charging time: ~ 4 Hours
- Free cloud storage
- 3.5 mm stereo audio jack, top mounted stereo speakers
- 1-year warranty, Optional 2-year warranty purchase
- Whispersync: keeps track of your last location in a video or book so you can resume across multiple devices (Kindle, PC, Mac, TV, blue-ray, etc)
- With an Amazon Prime membership: unlimited instant videos and Kindle owner's lending library

Nook Tablet
Barnes and Nobles

- $249
- 14.1 ounces
- 16 GB (10,000 books)
  - Add up to 32 GB with micro SD memory card
- 16 Hz TI OMAP4 (dual-core) processor with 1GB RAM
- 11.5 hours of reading, 9 hours of video
- Charging Time: ~ 3 Hours
- Adjustable fonts, "customize your reading experience"
- Look up words in the built in Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition
- Microphone: record narration for kids read and record books
- NOOK Reading App: syncs the last page you've read across your NOOK, smart-phone or computer
- With B & N membership: Save $25

Everyday I'm Tumblr'ing

Jiyun Lee
Staff Writer

Because we live in an era where social networking sites are becoming more and more popular and prominent, some worry about the loss of privacy and personality. Some even say that while *Facebook* and *Twitter*, the two most famous networking sites, allow for instant universal connections, they also contribute to the diminishing creativity and individualism of young people. However, these concerns don't apply to *Tumblr*.

Tumblr is a micro blogging and social networking website that was founded by David Karp in 2007. It allows users to easily post texts, pictures, videos, etc. It also enables users to "reblog" the posts of other users with a click of a button. *Tumblr* posts range from inspirational and motivational quotes to personal diaries/notes to simply hilarious and awesome *Youtube* videos. *Tumblr* has a wide range of users too. Not only do young teenagers use it, but everyone who loves to create their own space online uses it. Celebrities, including Lady Gaga, Zooey Deschanel, and John Mayer, can be found using *Tumblr*. President Obama hosts his blog there as well. *Tumblr* is a recent networking site that's gaining more and more popularity and recognitions; it currently hosts about 39.2 blogs and is adding a quarter billion pages per week. Its impact and power is also growing. For example, the Occupy Wall Street movement's slogan "We are the 99%" derived from a post that went viral on *Tumblr*.

After hearing all these facts, you might be saying, so how is *Tumblr* actually different from *Facebook, Twitter, WordPress*, and all the other social networking/blogging websites?

Well, David Karp answered this question in quite simple sentences. David Karp, although now called the brilliant minded 24-year old CEO of *Tumblr*, was once a high school dropout who just wanted some place original and easy to express his thoughts. He realized that blogging sites, such as *WordPress*, were too complicated for him and probably for other common Internet users as well. When he turned to social networking sites, such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*, he realized that most lacked room for creativity. He added, "Nobody is proud of their identity on Facebook" (interview with Chris Dixon, *Founder Stories*). So, he decided to make his own website. Tumblr not only provides simple and manageable tools for blogging, but also allows for individuality to prosper; users can now create their own personal space, displaying their true characteristics.

So, there it is. With *Tumblr*, there is no need to worry about ripping your hair out trying to figure out how to post a diary entry or everyone becoming the exact copies of one another. *Tumblr* is truly a site that incorporates both the positive aspects of blogging and social networking websites; it is a solution to the growing problems of social networking technology.

COLLIN'S CORNER
THE LOCKOUT IS LIFTED

WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE NBA AND THIS UPCOMING SEASON

Collin Giuliani
Staff Writer

The NBA lockout looked like it would never end. Both sides were far apart, players were planning world tour exhibitions, and some players were playing overseas (Deron Williams is an example). But magically, they struck a deal, and we have a 66-game NBA season that began on Christmas. The basis of the lockout is simple- the players receive 51.2% of all revenue while the owners receive the remaining portion. The collective bargaining agreement (otherwise known as the CBA) lasts for ten years, with each side having the option to opt out after six years. There is also a much stiffer salary cap ensuring league-wide parity (balance between the teams) so that less attractive cities, such as Milwaukee and Minneapolis, can compete with teams in big markets, such as New York and Miami. With that said, the lockout means many things for the upcoming season. Here are 5 things to keep an eye out for.

FREE AGENTS WON'T HAVE A HUGE IMPACT

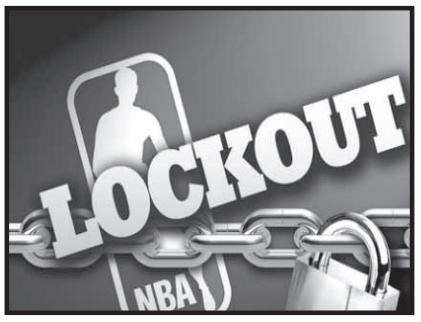
Compared to last season's free agency period, which featured LeBron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh to name a few, this period is dull. Tyson Chandler, Marc Gasol and Nene lead this weak class. Besides that, we saw during this past NFL season that teams that loaded up with free agents stunk (I'm looking at you, Philadelphia "Dream Team" Eagles). These free agents won't have a huge impact on their teams until halfway through the season when they begin to gel. Plus, it took Miami a while to gel together, so these free agents should be no exception.

THE SPURS WILL DOMINATE

Many people forget that last season the Spurs were the #1 seed in the Western Conference, and if they played a full roster in the final few games, they would've been the #1 team in the NBA. But they lost to Memphis in the first round, and the reason was simple- their top 3 players are old (Duncan, Parker and Ginobili) and were gassed out. But now, with a shortened season, this triple threat will play 25% less games, which means more gas in the tank for the Spurs.

THE LAKERS WILL STRUGGLE

When I say that the Lakers will struggle, I don't mean a season where they miss the playoffs. I mean a season where the Lakers make the playoffs with a 37-win season (about 49 games in an 82-game season statistically). Phil Jackson rode off into the sunset as head coach, retiring after 11 championships. And they still have Kobe Bryant to help the team. However, the Lakers aren't feared. They have to learn a new system under new head coach Mike Brown, who knows a thing or two about coaching star talent (he was the head coach while LeBron James ran the show in Cleveland). But adjusting to a new system within 10 days before the start of the season is awfully difficult, and they have to clear some cap room as well. Look for them to be sellers, not buyers (with the exception of a Dwight Howard trade proposal), when the trade deadline rolls around. Plus, Kobe is furious about the front office, Odom got shipped to Dallas, and the Clippers are the new kings in town.



ROOKIES WILL MAKE MORE MISTAKES THAN USUAL

Every rookie makes mistakes; that's expected. But rookies will make more mistakes than an average rookie does during this season. One reason is that during last season in college basketball there wasn't a major superstar, like Kevin Durant, playing. The #1 pick was Irving from Duke, compared to John Wall in 2010 out of Kentucky. Plus, these rookies have a shortened training camp with no preseason or summer league games. These rookies also have waited for months to step onto a court, and now that they have, the early jitters will be rolling. Early on, expect rookies to contribute in a negative way towards their team.

ATTENDANCE WILL HURT

In markets such as Miami, Dallas, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, attendance will be back to normal. It will be like the lockout never happened. But in the irrelevant cities of the NBA, such as Toronto, Milwaukee, Minnesota and Oakland (Golden State Warriors), where there is little hope for the future, nobody will show up. Attendance will decline in most cities, and many games will be played in empty arenas early on.

BIG SHOT CITIES

HOW THE NBA IS GOING DOWNHILL FAST

Collin Giuliani
Staff Writer

What's the beauty of the NFL? Even if your team stunk the year before, they have a chance at winning the next year. For example, look at Detroit this season, or Denver for that matter. But in the NBA, only a handful of teams have a chance at winning the championship or making the playoffs. It started when King "Ringless" James decided to take his talents to South Beach, and it's never going to end.

In the NFL, if a player drafts a superstar, they can put a franchise tag on him, enabling him to stay in the city. The only reason a team like Jacksonville is moderately competitive is because they can keep their superstar running back, Maurice Jones-Drew. But in the NBA, there is no franchise tag. When a player becomes a free agent, they can leave and go to wherever their heart desires. The simple solution is to do what Major League Baseball does and not have a salary cap so that teams can offer boat-loads of money to keep their superstars. Well, the NBA has a salary cap, so every offer will be pretty much identical. If you are an NBA player and can play in Sacramento for $23 million a year, or Miami for $21.5 million a year, where will you play? The money isn't that different, so most of you would probably choose the more ideal destination of the two, which is Miami (who says, "Let's take a trip to Sacramento for the weekend!").

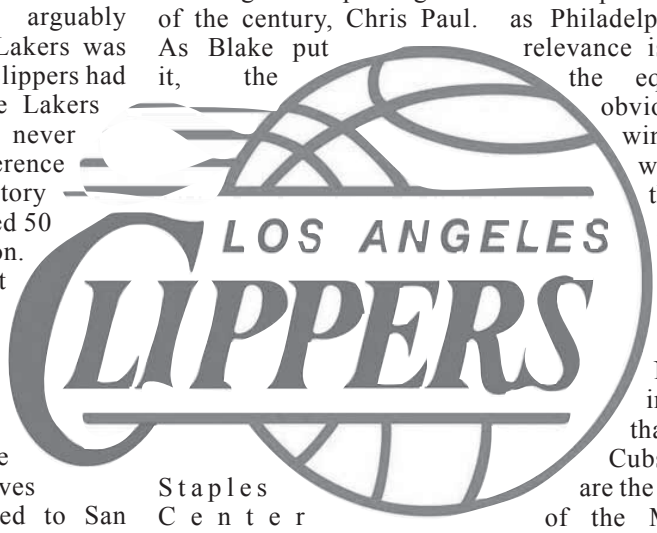
So teams are faced with situations- either hope that their superstar stays in the city (which never happens) or trade the superstar mid-season to get value (ex: Carmelo Anthony to the Knicks). The small-market cities are at a loss, and when they do try to trade, apparently David Stern can veto the trade (how can you block a trade?). All of the markets that are small are going downhill, and if you combine that with the lockout, the NBA has lost most, if not all, of its credibility.

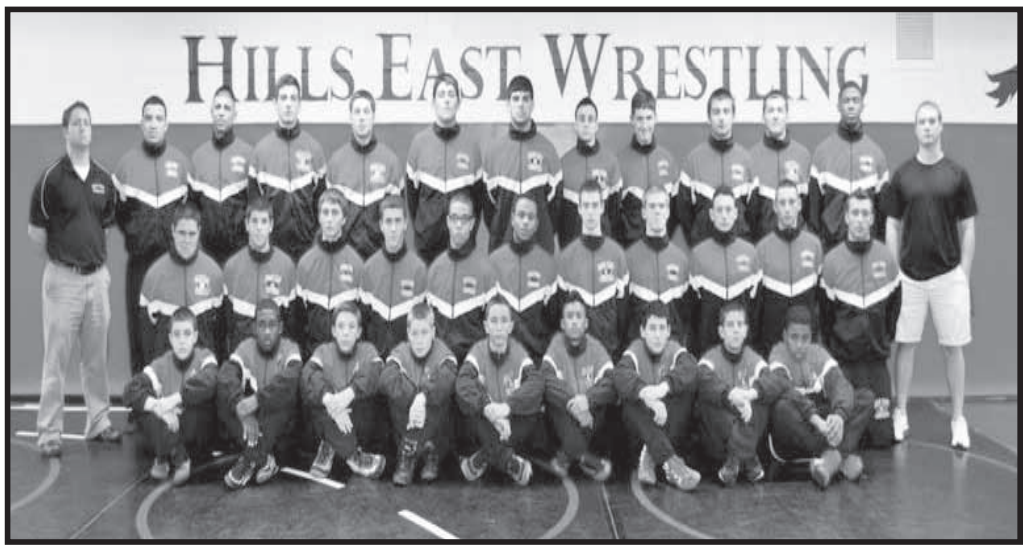
CLIPPING AWAY FROM FUTILITY

THE LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: CHARGE TO GREATNESS

Collin Giuliani
Staff Writer

The last time that the Clippers were arguably better than the Lakers was 2004, when the Clippers had 37 wins and the Lakers had 34. They've never won their conference in franchise history and never eclipsed 50 wins in a season. Their highest single-season win total was in 1974, when they finished 49-33 and were known as the Buffalo Braves (they then moved to San Diego and became the Clippers before moving to where they currently reside in Los Angeles). Now, however, the tides have changed in Los Angeles. Blake Griffin was drafted by the Clippers and made them an exciting team to watch last season. Despite finishing 32-50, the Clips were relevant because every time that Blake touched the ball, magic ensued. Now they have Butler, Billups and CP3, otherwise known as the greatest point guard of the century, Chris Paul. As Blake put it, the Staples Center will be Lob City this season. Combined with the fact that the Lakers are in an ultimate downfall and that the Western Conference isn't as strong as it was in previous years, the Clips are the talk of the town. For a while, L.A. wasn't big enough for 2 teams, with the Clippers being pushed to the side. But now, while that statement might hold true, it's the Lakers on the opposite end of the spectrum. Of course, as Philadelphia taught us, relevance is only half of the equation. They obviously have to win, but from what I've seen, they look darn good. It just feels weird, though- the Clippers are etched into NBA futility in similar style that the Royals, Cubs, and Pirates are the laughingstocks of the MLB and the Browns are the awful ones in the NFL. But now, that might change. With these new signings, the Clippers might win not one, not two, not three, not four… well, you get the point.





Members of the Hills East Wrestling Team.

Nathaniel Schwartz
Sports Editor

The Hills East boys wrestling squad is performing well this season with some outstanding contributions from a few key members. The team is currently 3-3 in the league, with wins over East Islip and Centereach. Ninety-nine pound Freshman Jack Scurti has placed in tournaments, as well as 170 pound Junior Malik Henry and 138 pound Junior Matt Haenel. Senior Tommy Shair, who weighs in at 160 pounds, is a returning league champion. He won the Sprig Gardner tournament, and was a runner up in the Hills East Tournament. 220-pound Senior Rami Saad-El-Din is also a returning league champion and has placed in all three tournaments the team has competed in this season. Head coach William Davey says, "The guys are definitely working hard, figuring out what wrestling is all about and training outside of practice. This is how they will get to the next level of competition". Coach Davey also suggests to "like" Hills East Wrestling on Facebook and visit the website Hilleastwrestlingteam.com!

Dixettes Kick Some Competition

Lindsay Goldman
Staff Writer

The Hills East Dixettes kicked off this year at Fall Pep Rally by putting on a flawless and impressive show! After Fall Pep Rally, the Dixettes were ready to embark on their competition season. They participated in the first LIKA competition at Uniondale High School on December 18th. They did a great job and placed 3rd in the kick category.

The captains of the team, seniors Nikki Fasiglione, Gianna Raio, and Taylor Marzouk, said that they were extremely proud of their team, but that they still had some kinks that they needed to work out. After the first competition, the Dixettes performed at Winter Pep Rally doing a pom routine to a salsa mix. It looked great, and the crowd was roaring with excitement after their performance.

The Dixettes then competed on January 15th at the LIKA Competition (Long Island Kickline Association), hoping to do even better than before. They placed second in High Kick and third in Pom. The captains were heard commenting after they performed that they couldn't be prouder of their team especially since the competition was fierce as they were up against nine other schools within each dance category.

Dixettes performing at the winter pep rally.

Scandals in College Sports

Matthew & Joshua Rosenberg
Editors-in-Chief

College athletics is a billion dollar business. College sports teams generate millions of dollars for their schools. College coaches are paid considerable salaries and then are given huge bonuses if their teams make it to national championship games. Players are treated like royalty on and off campus. With all of this money and power comes temptation, and of course, scandal.

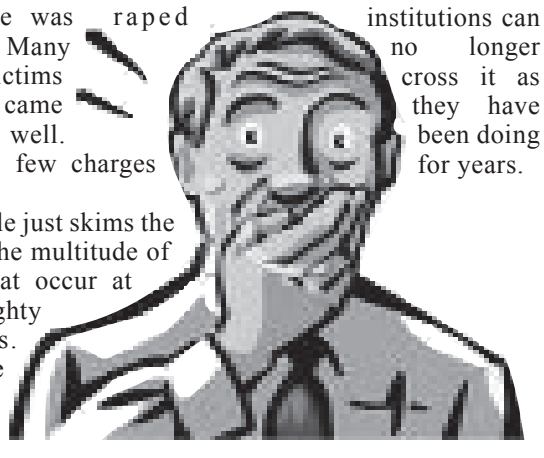
Most noteworthy of late is the Penn State sex abuse scandal. In November of 2011, former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was arrested on forty counts of sexually abusing eight boys over a fifteen-year period, including incidents in Penn State's football facilities. Subsequently, the university's athletic director, Tim Curley, and Vice President, Gary Schulz, were arrested on perjury charges and for failing to report the incidents. Head football coach Joe Paterno was fired and Penn State President Graham Spencer was forced to resign. Jerry Sandusky was first an assistant coach and then the defensive coordinator under Joe Paterno for thirty-one seasons. He also founded *The Second Mile* in 1977, which is a charity formed to help troubled young boys. In 1998, the University launched an investigation against Sandusky for sexual abuse, but no charges were filed. Coincidentally, he retired in 1999. A new investigation was launched in 2008, when a mother reported that her son had been sexually abused by Sandusky. Assistant Coach Mike McQuery testified before the grand jury that on March 1, 2002, he entered the locker room at Penn State and saw Sandusky subjecting a ten-year-old boy to inappropriate advances in the shower. He reported the incident to Coach Paterno who reported it to Athletic Director Curley. No action was taken. Besides the obvious horror that a Penn State coach has allegedly been tormenting and sexually abusing children for years, there is also the rising speculation of a cover-up by Penn State University, not only once in 1998, but also again in 2002.

Although the Penn State scandal could very well be the biggest and most deplorable in college sports history, there is a long history of sex scandals in college sports. In the aftermath of this scandal came the allegations against Bernie Fine, the assistant coach of the Syracuse University men's basketball team. Three alleged victims have come forward claiming that Fine abused them when they were boys. A damaging voice recording of Fine's wife has also surfaced where she acknowledges that her husband had sexually abused a young boy. While the investigation is ongoing, it appears that in this situation, head coach Jim Boeheim had no prior knowledge of Fine's alleged offense, and therefore, was not part of a bigger cover-up.

In addition, the Duke Lacrosse case meets all of the requirements for a major college sex scandal. In 2006, two strippers were hired to perform at a Duke Lacrosse team party. Subsequently, one of the strippers accused three players of rape. District Attorney Mike Nifong stated publicly that a rape had taken place. The three players were suspended from the university, and the remainder of the lacrosse season was cancelled. He prosecuted the three players vigorously despite evidence that raised serious questions about the accuser's credibility as well as evidence that ultimately cleared the players of any wrongdoing. Eventually, the charges were dropped, but not until these students were reported as rapists across the country. Mike Nifong was disbarred for the hardship he inflicted on the innocent players.

The Colorado rape scandal of 2004 had the entire country in an uproar. This scandal revolved around University of Colorado at Boulder football players who were accused of getting away with raping up to ten women over several years. The school was already under scrutiny because of a 1997 incident. A woman alleged that two recruits sexually assaulted her. The recruits did not go to Colorado and no files were ever charged. In 2002, the Boulder District Attorney put school officials on notice about rules being broken, including underage drinking and hiring strippers for parties. The scandal reached new heights when the team's female kicker claimed she was raped at a party. Many other victims then came forward as well. In the end, few charges were filed.

This article just skims the surface of the multitude of scandals that occur at these mighty institutions. There are so many more. The big question that must be asked is do we live in a society where preserving the reputations of these powerful institutions takes priority over protecting innocent people and doing the right thing? Clearly, the exercise and abuse of power within these large institutions is out of control. Innocent people are being victimized, and in most instances, there appears to be no repercussions against those inflicting the pain. Measures must be put into place to monitor these athletic programs and make sure that people are protected. College sports are an important part of our society, but that most certainly does not mean that these institutions and those involved with them are untouchable. There is a line that should never be crossed, and it is our job as a society to make sure that these institutions can no longer cross it as they have been doing for years.



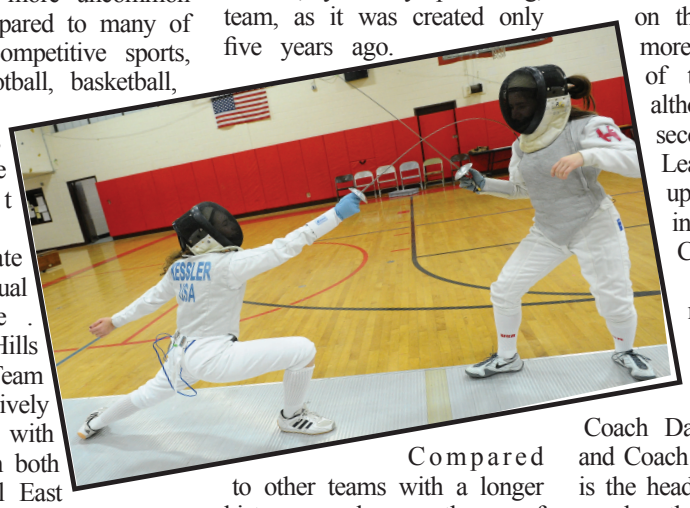
THUNDERBIRD

HILLS EAST SPORTS CORNER

HHH FENCING

Michael Choi
Features Editor

For many high school students, fencing is considered one of the more uncommon sports. Compared to many of the other competitive sports, such as football, basketball, or lacrosse, fencing does not earn the spotlight commensurate to its actual value.



The Hills Fencing Team is a relatively big team with players from both High School East and High School West. One of the more unique aspects of the team is that it is composed of both girls and boys, all of whom are dedicated to helping each other succeed in their individual and collective endeavors in the world of competitive high school fencing.

Another interesting fact about the Hills Fencing Team is its recent establishment. As a matter of fact, it is still considered a nascent, yet very promising, team, as it was created only five years ago. Compared to other teams with a longer history, such as those of Centereach, Newfield, Ward Melville, and Brentwood, the Hills Fencing Team is merely an infant, but the results that the team has been earning clearly contradict the common notion that history is proportional to success.

Last year, the girls' team was placed second in the Suffolk County League and fourth in the Long Island Championships. The record of the boys' team, on the other hand, was more peculiar than that of the girls', because although we were placed second to last in the League, we jumped up to second place in the Long Island Championships. The people most responsible for such success are the three coaches of the team: Coach Daly, Coach Gordon, and Coach Taylor. Coach Daly is the head coach who mainly coaches the girls' team, Coach Gordon is the boys' coach and Coach Taylor is specifically the coach for the epee team.

Basically, fencing is divided up into three weapons: saber, foil, and epee. The varsity meets are carried out in the order of three bouts from each weapon. One round is nine bouts in total: three from saber, three from foil, and three from epee. A whole meet comprises three rounds, thus a total of 27 individual bouts. The meets last quite a long time indeed; however, the intensity and excitement that they emit allows both the fencers and the spectators to lose track of time.

Witness the world of competitive fencing by attending either the home meets held in the East Gym, or the Long Island Championships, which will be held on February 14th in our school for the first time.

The coaches are eager to see new faces on the team next season. So, for those who are interested in fencing, devoted to the given exercises, and intent on doing something truly meaningful and productive, please do consider joining the fencing team as a top priority.

Editors' Note: HHH Girls' team, with a record of 9-1 is currently tied for first place in Suffolk County with Ward Melville. The team's season finale, a rematch against Ward Melville, will be held on Monday, Feb. 7th at Hills East.

BOYS AND GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Josh & Matt Rosenberg
Editors-in-Chief

The basketball season at East commenced at the beginning of December. Both the boys' and girls' teams were looking forward to successful seasons this year. Despite some early losses by the Hills East Boys team, they were eager to start up again after the holiday break. The team is led by head coach Peter Basel and assistant coach Tim Belz. They are excited about this season because of the return of many senior players. Senior Michael Chemtob, Junior RJ Nitti and Senior Nathaniel Schwartz are leading the team in scoring with a total of 69, 65 and 60 points respectively as of early January. Rob Reiser, Isiah Lewis, Julius Jackson and Jake Freeman have also helped the team with their offense. The team spent the break preparing for their upcoming games against Bay Shore, Connetquot and Whitman high schools. The coaches and players are confident that with their strong offense and continued efforts on defense, they will have a successful finish to the season.

Seniors Rob Reiser, Nathaniel Schwartz and Michael Chemtob

The Hills East Girls' Basketball team had a great start this year, winning six of their first ten games. Head coach Chick Hamm and assistant coach Nicole Palazzo coach the team. Julia Gneiser and Ashley Walker, who scored a total of 59 and 55 points respectively as of early January, lead the team. Gabby Diamandis, Sierrah Coleman and Kristen McKenzie have also helped the team with their offense. In the team's first game against Huntington, East was down in the fourth quarter when Ashley Walker's 12 points sparked a 14 point fourth quarter comeback. The team won the game in overtime by a score of 43-38. The Hills East Girls won their next game against Brentwood, 43-36, led by Julia Gneiser's 14 points. East was down 26-15 at halftime, but went on a 17-2 run in the third quarter to take the lead for good. Ashley Walker scored all of her 11 points in the second half helping East defeat Brentwood. East then defeated Comsewogue 64-61. Julia Gneiser scored a game high of 19 points followed by Gabrielle Malhotra who had 18 and Sierrah Coleman with 14. This game was senior Gabrielle Malhotra's season debut, and she went 7 for 9 leading East to the victory. The girls' team is eager to continue the season and currently has an overall record of 7-6.

We wish both teams continued success and will keep everyone posted as the seasons progress.