

THUNDERBIRD

HIGH SCHOOL EAST NEWSPAPER

Half Hollow Hills High School East

Issue 1 Fall 2013

Principal's Message For the 2013-2014 School Year



Natalie Haebich

Editor-In-Chief

Hills East Principal Dr. Woodberry took time out of his busy schedule to sit down with the Thunderbird Newspaper and answer a few questions addressing the Hills East Community with regard to the current school year. When asked to convey a general message to the Hills East affiliates, Dr. Woodberry stated, "I would like everyone to always keep in mind why they are here. Everyone in the school community is here to make sure that our students are prepared to be successful in this global society. Students need to always keep that in mind as that is their purpose here, no matter what else is going on. We do a lot of things in addition to educating students here. I just want to reiterate that students should always focus and remember their objectives." Dr. Woodberry was then asked questions regarding the 2013-14 academic school year, as well as his personal interests.

Thunderbird: What are your goals for this specific school year?

Dr. Woodberry: For this school year, probably the biggest goal and challenge will be getting prepared for the new Common Core State Standard Assessments. Students will be taking the Algebra Regents aligned to common core, as well as the English Language Arts Regents. It will be a challenge to make sure the curriculum is in line and make sure that teachers are embracing different teaching strategies to ensure that the skills necessary are being taught. It's a different mindset for students as well. The assessments aren't the traditional multiple choice exams. They're exams that require a lot more thinking, close

reading, and formulating arguments supported by evidence. It will be a challenge for both students and teachers; although, we're on our way, and we're doing well with it so far.

TB: How do you feel about students having to take 2 standardized tests in the same subject in the same year?

Dr. W: Actually, I think it's a good opportunity. It enables students to see this so-called "new form of learning" and assessment, while at the same

declining enrollment, there is talk of schools closing on the elementary level. That may change the district lines somewhat, but I can't see that directly impacting the High School. Students will receive a top notch education in any school in our district.

TB: What is one piece of advice that you highly cherish and wish to pass on to others?

Dr. W: Almost like Nike's slogan "Just do it," someone told me one time

TB: What is your favorite quote?

Dr. W: Carpe Diem -seize the day.

TB: What did you do this summer?

Dr. W: I actually spent a lot of time here at East planning for the upcoming school year. I also went to Orlando and Miami and spent a lot of time working out and running.

TB: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Dr. W: I'm thinking Bermuda. I hear such great things about it, and people who know me say I would love the environment there.

TB: What superhero would you be and why?

Dr. W: Superman. He is strong, he can fly, and most importantly, he helps people.

TB: What would you do if you won the lottery?

Dr. W: I would move to Bermuda. I would be sure that all of my family members are taken care of, and I would also find some way to spend my time doing good for society.

TB: Is there anything else you would like people to know about you?

Dr. W: The most important thing that I would like people to know about me is that I enjoy what I do here as the Principal of High School East. I want people to know, in case they don't already, that I am a very approachable person, and I welcome anyone to present any ideas to me that they think would improve High School East in any way. At the same time, I hope that everyone who is a part of the school listens to what I feel should be done to make High School East an even better place.



Dr. Woodberry is looking forward to another great school year

time, it provides the safety of taking a traditional exam. Although I am not a fan of more assessments, I think it minimizes the possible negative impact.

TB: Do you have any concerns regarding the future of HSE due to declining enrollment at the elementary schools?

Dr. W: I don't have any concerns for the future of HSE. I know with the

to not stop and think about how difficult a task might be, just get into the task and accomplish it. You'll find that it's not hard after all. You just have to do it and not get bogged down by thinking about it.

TB: Do you have a role model?

Dr. W: My role models are the former principals of East, my mother, and Dr. Martin Luther King.

Another Successful Safe Halloween

Lindsay Goldman

Staff Writer

This year, *Safe Halloween* was better than ever before. Since last year's event was brought to a screeching halt in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, the clubs went all out with decorations, costumes, and candy for this year's event. Trick or treaters and Hills East students alike paraded through the halls in an array of funny, spooky, and creative Halloween costumes. The Art Club's *Enchanted Forest Haunted House* was better than ever before, and all

who visited it, came out with a look of fear in their eyes and smiles on their faces. As in previous years, Interact sponsored the Safe Halloween carnival, full of innovative carnival games, along with some traditional favorites, and lots of prizes for the kids. The Dixettes and the Varsity cheerleaders put on their usual entertaining performances for a break from the flurry of candy and prizes. The best room this year has to go to AASO, where children became immersed in the Egyptian pyramids, complete with costumed pharaohs and glistening gold everywhere. Ms.

Cunningham, the advisor of AASO, was dressed up as Cleopatra and welcomed all who attended into her pyramid palace. A success as always, Safe Halloween continues to be a favorite tradition in the school community and promises to be bigger and better next year!



HSE teachers showing their Halloween spirit

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

Meet Our
New APs

Page 2

Homecoming Weekend
2013

Pages 8-9

HSE
Sports

Page 16

Meet Our New APs

Alexus Haddad

School News Editor

If you feel like there are some new faces in the administration offices of High School East this year, you are definitely correct! As we welcomed in a new school year, the High School East community also welcomed three new Assistant Principals: Mrs. Trot-



HSE welcomes Mrs. Trotter

ter, Mr. Kindelmann, and Mr. Wiley. Mrs. Trotter is the administrator for the Senior class, Mr. Kindelmann is the administrator for the Junior class, and Mr. Wiley is the administrator for the Freshman class. I had a chance to sit down with all three and found that each administrator is unique and plays an integral role in the Hills East leadership team.

Thunderbird: You are each famous for making your presence known in the halls and the cafeteria and seem to have a radar when it comes to cell phone detection. What are your official responsibilities here at HSE?

Mrs. Trotter: I supervise the math and science department and coordinate the testing schedule for the Regents and all in-year assessments, like the SAT and the AP exams. I also manage the school budget, supplies, furniture, and inventory.

Mr. Kindelmann: I supervise the Junior class and athletic clubs.

Mr. Wiley: I am the administrator for the legislative committee. I work alongside teachers' curricular with English, Art, Music, Business, and Family Arts and Consumer Science. I also have the table of organization which lists the administrative duties. I oversee the publishing of the Principal's Newsletter. I am in charge of the Senior Parking lot and early dismissal passes for Seniors; I also oversee everything that goes on the HSE website.

TB: How do you like working in your role at HSE so far, and what do you like best about being an administrator?

Mrs. Trotter: I love it! I like the campus and the way it's set up. The size enables different sections; for example, there's a math wing and a

science wing. Teachers can collaborate together. Of course I like the students and enjoy working with the administrative team here.

Mr. Kindelmann: It's great! Everyone is friendly, especially the staff and the students. Everyone is happy and nice to each other.

Mr. Kindelmann: HSE is bigger; it's just more people and more of everything. There are positives and negatives to both, but I think that's what you have with everything you do.

TB: How is being an administrator different from being a teacher?

Mr. Wiley: Being an administrator is a reactive job. There are a lot of spur of the moment activities that you have to deal with. A teacher's schedule is set, but an administrator's schedule could be different everyday. No matter how much you plan, something could change the dynamic of the day. You have to be extremely organized and manage your time wisely.

TB: Where did you attend college, and what did you study while there?

Mrs. Trotter: For my undergraduate degree, I went to UCLA for my Bachelor's in psychology and business. When I came back to New York, I went to NYIT for my Master's in instructional teaching. I taught high school math for 16 years. I received

Which one? My last experience as a student was when I received an education administration degree from the College of St. Rose.

Mr. Wiley: I studied fine arts at Hartford University for my undergraduate and continued on to City College for my Masters and art education degree. Then, I went to Tuoro College for my administration degree. I am currently enrolled in the St. John's Administration Doctorate Program.

TB: Are you originally from Long Island?

Mrs. Trotter: No, I was born in Queens.

Mr. Kindelmann: Huntington.

Mr. Wiley: No, I am from Upstate New York, near Syracuse. Its about 5 hours away. I grew up in a small district mostly made out of farmland and tractors. The lifestyle is slow, and Long Island is fast-paced and condensed.

TB: Just for fun, if you were stuck on an island and could only bring three things, what would they be?

Mrs. Trotter: My family, books and music.

Mr. Kindelmann: My radio/I-Pod, sunscreen, and a change of underwear.

Mr. Wiley: A FedEx plane full of supplies, a pet dog, and a backscratcher.

And with that we welcome our newest additions to HSE. We learned a little bit more about the three new Assistant Principals joining Dr. Woodberry and Mr. Pugliese here at HSE. The entire administrative staff is working diligently to make HSE the best place for students, faculty and staff. All five of them have exciting ideas about the future of HSE, and I am confident that our three newest members will bring some additional ideas to the table. On behalf of the Thunderbird staff, welcome to the HSE family!



Mr. Kindelmann, another new face at HSE

Mr. Wiley: I love HSE! I worked here as an art teacher for several years. I mostly taught computer art classes like computer graphics, web design, and video. I think HSE is a wonderful place to work. The staff is extremely friendly and supportive. They are good people. Basically students, administration, and teachers all work together.

TB: (Mrs. Trotter and Mr. Kindelmann have both worked at High School West in the past.) How much of a difference is there between the two high schools in the HHH district?

Mrs. Trotter: I worked at HSW for 5 years as an assistant principal there as well. It (East) is much larger. In HSW, a grade could be 340-360 students, and now my Senior class is 475, which definitely results in more students and teaching staff. The spirit is the same. I see more similarities than differences in education.



Mr. Wiley, a familiar face, but new position at HSE

my professional administration certificate from Dowling College.

Mr. Kindelmann: (jokingly replied)

Speech and Debate Club Brings Victory to HSE!

Arnav Goyal

Staff Writer

The speech and debate club is one of the most exciting, friendly, and thrilling clubs one could ever choose to join! The only real catch to joining the club is having to do a lot of work and research, but it is all worth it! You make new friends with whom you get to argue, your speaking skills will improve, and you will gain a broader understanding of current events on local, national, and international levels. Anyone who likes to argue and speak must join! If this is something that you may be interested in, take a look at the four different fields available for you to join in debate: public forum, congress, lincoln-douglas, and extemporaneous.

Public forum, or PF, is purely statistics-based debating. You gather research and factual evidence from newspaper articles and websites and implement them into an argument for the resolution that you are given to prove or disprove.

Lincoln-Douglas, or LD, is also a debate like PF, except that it is based

more on morals and philosophy rather than statistics. Here, you argue what is right versus what is wrong. Don't be fooled; it requires just as much work as PF.

Congress is a mixture of both speech and debate and completely different from both LD and PF. It is like a mock Congress; you create bills for pro or con to resolve a current events issue.

Extemporaneous speaking, or Ex-temp, is when you give a solo speech to one judge on one topic that the judge has brought in. This requires an intense reading of several current events articles concerning our nation.

Once you've found your niche, you get to move on to the exciting part: tournaments. On September 28th, HSE's PF and LD teams participated in the Long Island Forensics Association tournament. Everyone left for Kellenberg at 7:00 AM and returned many hours later, completely ex-

hausted. It was all worth it when the Debate team was victorious. In Varsity LD, Shantanu Havaladar achieved a fourth place victory, and Rachel Maiman got a first place victory, remaining undefeated in all four rounds. Emerging victorious in JV LD, Akash Wasil brought a first place victory. The Novice LD team was able to bring home victories as well! Ethan Stein came in sixth place, and Priya Perez brought home a second place trophy. In JV PF, Matthew Dorfman and Joe Davolio received a second place victory. Ryan Hsiao and I make up the only novice PF team, and we received a third place victory and trophy.

The second tournament took place here at High School East. Jullian Estreicher won second place in the varsity extemporaneous competition. For Congress, Grant Berland won sixth place, and Akash Wasil won third place. All three of these

award winners have already received half of the qualifications needed to go to the state championships.

The third tournament took place at Jericho on October 12th. Max Harris and Ethan Udell won fifth place with a half-qual in JV PF. In Novice LD, Ethan Stein won eighth place, Adarsh Rajeev won seventh place, Viren Sabhnani won sixth place with a half-qual, and Jen Heiko won fourth place with a half-qual.

The fourth tournament took place at Chaminade High School on October 26th. In JV extemporaneous, Ethan Stein won fourth place with a half-qual. Alec White and Akash Wasil also won themselves a position as Congress finalists after the tournament.

The fifth tournament at St. John the Baptist High School took place on November 2nd. Alec White won eighth place in Congress, and Ethan Stein won first place in the JV extemporaneous competition. Congratulations to all of the winners thus far and best of luck to all Speech and Debate members throughout the remainder of the year!



SADD Blood Drive

Heather Andelsman

Lifestyle/Entertainment Editor

Run by the SADD club, the first of the biannual Blood Drives took place early this fall. SADD stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions, and the Blood Drive is one of the many events that the club participates in to help our community and students. In order to help save lives, the blood drive collects as much blood as possible. One donation of blood can save up to five patients' lives, and these patients depend on the blood donated. Patients that are weak from low iron wait for platelets. Once transfused, the platelets allow their blood to clot again. Patients who are on organ transplant waiting lists need blood, because if they get an opportunity to receive their organ transplant, the operation cannot be done without the blood.

This year's blood drive was very successful. There were a total of 62 units donated. 34 units were whole blood donors, which is when a pint of blood is donated. This includes red cells, platelets, and plasma. The other 28 were automated red cell donors, which is when you donate two units of red blood cells during one donation. During this procedure, only your red cells are collected and your platelets and

plasma are returned to you along with saline solution. Benefits of red cell donors is your blood volume replaces immediately, and you help two patients who require red blood cell transfusions



HSE student giving blood

with only a single donation. To donate blood, you have to be at least sixteen years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and receive no tattoos in the past year.



Mrs. Wolff SADD members at the blood drive

Before you donate, make sure that you eat well and drink lots of fluids, otherwise you may pass out.

Donating blood can be a big decision, but it can help to save so many lives. Students and faculty will have another opportunity to donate blood on Wednesday, May 28, 2014.



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Making Strides Towards A Cure

Shelby Gosset

Staff Writer

On October 30th, over 60,000 people gathered at Jones Beach State Park to participate in the annual Making

any of the other walks that occurred throughout New York in October.

The American Cancer Society sponsored this 4-mile walk, and there were



HSE students participating at the Breast Cancer walk

Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Survivors and fighters, along with their loved ones, joined together donned in pink from head to toe to take a few more steps toward a cure.

While family and friends of those who have been personally affected by breast cancer made up a large contingency of those walking that day, they were not alone. Despite the chill of that October morning, students and faculty members of High School East joined forces, put on their pink and made their way down the boardwalk to show their support for this very important cause. Several HSE clubs and sports teams were represented at this year's event, including Interact, Key Club, Cheerleading, AASO and girls' soccer. Altogether, Team Hills East raised over \$3,000 toward the fight against breast cancer, becoming one of the top grossing school teams on Long Island for the fifth year in a row. Overall, the walk at Jones Beach raised over \$3.15 million, more than

volunteers aplenty from this organization cheering on the walkers and offering much needed hydration along the course. The money raised from this event, and others like it, will go towards providing free resources to support newly diagnosed women, research breast cancer in an attempt to discover a cure, and ensure access to mammograms for all women. Mammograms are the key to early detection and can greatly increase a patient's possibility for survival. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 232,000 women in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone, and nearly 40,000 of those women will die from the disease. That number includes 2,475 cases and 417 deaths from Long Island.

To all those who contributed, participated, or simply offered kind words of support to the Hills East team - THANK YOU! Every contribution is greatly appreciated and assists in bringing us one step closer to a cure.

Student Government Update

Shari Bieber

Staff Writer

Student Government is back for a brand new school year! The members met for the first six weeks of school to make sure that everything that needed to be done for homecoming and Competition Night was planned as early as possible. This year, homecoming was three weeks earlier than usual, so Student Government held meetings in August, three weeks before school even began. With the reinstatement of the student-favorite homecoming parade, Dr. Woodberry encouraged each class to make an eye-catching float and banner pertaining to the themes decided upon by Student Government representatives and officers. In addition to parade decorations, each class choreographed their own dance to an upbeat, popular song, which was performed at competition night.

Once the excitement of Home-

coming wore down, Student Government geared up for their annual Safe Halloween. The students were extra excited for this year's event after having lost last year's event due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy. All of the officers circulated through the halls, distributing candy to clubs that were running low as HSE became overrun with trick-or-treaters.

Next on the agenda, Operation Holiday! Student Government members are excited to begin Operation Holiday in early December. Like in years before, senior officers and representatives will buy gifts for less fortunate people



Taste of Immigration... HSE Food Fest

Hillary Schier

Art/Photography Editor

On Wednesday, October 9th, Seniors participating in *Senior Experience* held an immigration food fest in the cafeteria to expose students to foods of different cultures. The senior experience class has been studying immigration and reading the book *97 Orchard Street*, by Jane Ziegelman. The book enlightens its readers to the history of immigrants and how the food of their cultures made an impact on the multifaceted, assimilated society we know here in the United States. As part of their experience, the class took a trip to the Lower East Side of Manhattan and the Tenement Museum to better visualize what they had studied in their reading. Apparently, food plays a huge role in dis-



HSE students enjoy the food at our Immigration Food Festival

tinguishing the different cultures that came to America at various points throughout our history. This trip to the Tenement Museum inspired what would become the Immigration Food Fest. The food fest consisted of a wide variety of foods, all with interesting histories and different

origins. There were lemon drops, stuffed mushrooms, chocolate chip biscotti, and cannolis from Italy. Authentic latkes from the Middle East, kasha from Germany, ackee from Jamaica, Irish soda bread from Ireland, Pastizzi from Malta, and Puto from the Philippines were a few other dishes available to sample at the event. As the first annual of Hills East, the Immigration Food Fest facilitated by the students in senior experience was a great success for all involved!

Frosh Start Program Held at HSE

Lauren Peller & Carly Slattery

Staff Writers

There is a lot of anticipation for the start of school, especially as a high school freshman. At HSE, the Frosh Start program was put together to address many of the concerns that freshmen have as they experience high school for the first time. A key part of this program begins with freshmen meeting with their guidance counselors, becoming familiar with the school, and learning what to expect over the next four years. Freshmen obtain first-

hand information by interacting with upperclassmen about topics such as workload, managing time, and school activities. It is helpful to ask questions and listen to each student describe his or her unique path upon which they've traveled thus far in their high school career. Finally, student government representatives outline all of the upcoming events that take place at HSE, such as pep rallies and Homecoming, which are great opportunities to meet new people, get involved, and have fun!

in our community using donations provided by the students at High School East. A pizza or bagel party will be thrown for the social studies class that donates

the most to the charity affiliated with this fundraiser, Myad l'yad.

During the holiday season, Student Government members, along with several of the per-

forming groups from HSE, will attend a holiday show to spread holiday cheer and hand out candy to the students at James E. Allen High School and James E. Allen Elementary School. If you are interested in becoming a part of Student Government, we meet in the Student Center at 2:15 every Wednesday.

How the Government Shutdown Impacts Hills East Students

Matthew Gillam

Staff Writer

One of the biggest stories of 2013 was the government shutdown. While most of us didn't give it much thought, it could have affected High School East students in ways that may not have occurred to most of the student body at HSE. The 16-day-long shutdown from October 1st to October 16th, 2013, could have potentially been devastating for students. The Department of Education had 90 percent of its employees furloughed. When an employee is furloughed, they are forced to take a leave. With 90 percent of the Department of Education's employees furloughed, many research programs were shut down, and some of the research programs that were shut down are very impor-

tant. Specifically, a research program at the University of Hawaii was halted; this program is in charge of finding a vaccination for an infection that can cause types of meningitis in humans. The consequences of the government shutdown could have been much more severe, and students should consider themselves lucky to be out of the fire. Even though it may not seem like something occurring on the federal level could affect our day to day lives, that couldn't be farther from the truth; if the government shutdown had continued, who knows where that would have left the state of education in this country.

Bionic Man Visits HSE

Matthew Gillam

Staff Writer

Science fiction met reality as *The Incredible Bionic Man* came to High School East on October 9th. From head to toe, *The Incredible Bionic Man* is composed of the latest in prosthetics and bioengineering technology. The devices used in its body are currently used or being tested to help actual human beings in need of crucial body parts. Its body uses artificial body parts and organs, including the heart, the lungs, the windpipe, and even "plastic blood". *The Incredible Bionic Man* has been recognized worldwide and has its own documentary airing on the Smithsonian Channel.



Rich Walker, inventor and social psychologist Dr. Bertolt Meyer with the Incredible Bionic Man visits HSE.

The *Incredible Bionic Man* is made of four major parts of its "body": the head, the torso, the arms, and the legs. His head has skull implants made from a 3D printer that can be customized to fit a patient's head and utilizes technology from NeoSpeech, a company that creates natural-sounding speech from text. It has a chatbot to carry relatively humanlike conversation. The torso of the *Incredible Bionic Man* contains many artificial organs. Its torso contains an artificial windpipe, a heart, lungs, a pancreas, kidneys, a spleen, and "plastic blood". The synthetic windpipe can replace an actual windpipe, as body cells will accept it and grow around it as if it was a natural part of the body. The artificial heart pumps two thousand gallons of blood through the body per day and is a suitable replacement for an actual heart, lasting for close to four years. The artificial lungs are a technology that has not been perfected yet, and the artificial lung transplants will not be made possible for a long time. However, these artificial lungs work more as an external filter, helping some patients with breathing problems. The "plastic blood" found in *The Incredible Bionic*

Man is an incredibly innovative piece of technology. The "blood" is made from plastic molecules with an iron atom at its core and is completely capable of carrying oxygen throughout the body, replicating the purpose of natural hemoglobin, but even this is far off from completely replacing all of the functions of blood. The arms of the *Incredible Bionic Man* are composed of the actual arm and the hands, which have cutting-edge fingers. The arms used are battery powered and can last several days without recharging. The fingers on the prosthetic hand can bend at every joint and grip with varied strength levels. The fingers give the body levels of manipulation and dexterity of a human; they can tie shoes! The legs of the *Incredible Bionic Man* contain a prosthetic hip, knee, BiOM ankles, and a Rex exoskeleton. The hip rotates 130 degrees, allowing the body to complete many everyday activities. The knee of the *Bionic Man* allows it to step over many different obstacles and climb stairs without entering awkward positions. The Rex exoskeleton is the "wheelchair of the future". Operated by a joystick and 29 computer processors, it allows the body to sit, stand, walk, turn, and operate.

The purpose of the creation of *The Incredible Bionic Man* was to showcase all of the different parts of the human body we can replace. Through the *Bionic Man*, we can see how far bionic technology has come. With advancements in this field, quality of life can be increased for everyone. Bionic technologies can not only relieve pain and save lives, but can also bring a sense of security to many people around the world. As far as bionic technology has come, there are still many things to be done, but the *Incredible Bionic Man* conveys ideas and technologies that are incredible.

Adventureland's Nightmare on Midway

Fatima Ouedraogo

Staff Writer

This past October, Long Island's Adventureland, located in Farmingdale, held a month-long fundraising event for the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) and Adventureland's Helping Hands Foundation. While Adventureland has always done a fun Halloween event for kids, this is the first year that they've stepped it up to create scary fun by day and horror by night. As it was a new event, sponsors WBAB and BLI helped by airing daily advertisements to attract their listeners. Overall, the immense turnout in just one short month was amazing!



Mrs. Dalton's son enjoys his day at Adventureland

During the day, the park would open and function as it has all summer from 11:30AM to 6PM, with a few extra Halloween surprises. There was no admission fee to be in the park and the usual charge to go on the rides. The pumpkin patch was a favorite attraction, and many of the employees were dressed in fun, kid-friendly Halloween costumes. In addition, there were fall treats, face painting, and elaborate decorations. Once the weekend arrived and night fell, everything changed. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at 7PM, guests had to pay a thirty-five dollar admission fee to enter the park. Due to the event being catered more toward adults and teenagers, small children were not permitted inside.

Adventureland's Nightmare on the Midway boasted state-of-the-art audio animatronics, custom set pieces and live actors. During the day, employees and actors would spend hours upon hours getting into costume and having their makeup done to add to the authentic feel of the haunted event. With the exception of the dimmed lights from rides and the four haunted attractions, the park was in complete darkness. There were eerie sounds coming from the speakers throughout the night, a live DJ to play extra scary music, and live actors jumping out at every twist and turn. The park was decorated with themed inflatables, fake bodies and twenty foot robotic

monsters that yell and scream every fifteen minutes. Some actors patrolled the park with chainsaws, and zombies and limbless monsters were everywhere.

The bumper cars attraction, which closed down in September to prepare, was turned into the terrifying Zombie Asylum, full of live, interactive zombies. This was only one of the four haunted attractions that opened especially for the event. The other three were Slappy's Sadistic Circusland, Evil Express, and 1313 Cemetery Way. Overall, Adventureland's first-ever Nightmare on the Midway was a highly successful event and will be back again next October for another hair-raising month! The zombies will be waiting for you....if you dare....

HSE Performs *Our Town*

Brittany Cangero

Staff Writer

This year's fall drama was the American classic of *Our Town*. Once again, the HSE theatre department dazzled its audiences with extraordinary authentic performances. Set in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, in 1901, the entire play is narrated by a "Stage Manager," played by Jen Bender. In the first act, she took the audience through the affairs of the citizens, allowing the audience to get a feeling of their day to day lives. The stage managers introduced the characters and talked in a past tense, suggesting that she knows what the future will bring for each of them.



The cast of *Our Town* on stage during their fall production

The second act was set three years after the first and is appropriately titled "Love and Marriage." It focused more on Emily Webb, played by Ashley Johnson, and George Gibbs, played by Michael Worshoufsky. They fell in love and are soon to be married. The stage manager walks the audience through this "second stage" in life as viewers experience all the highs and lows that come along with it. The third act is

quite interesting as Thornton Wilder, the author, portrays life and death in a unique way. Nine years have gone by, and the third act takes place in a cemetery. More than half of the citizens represented in the cast have died in the past nine years, and those who passed

are sitting to the left, while the undertaker, played by Brianna Serra, is on the right. At this particular point, Emily's funeral is taking place. Samantha Craig, played by Anna Levy, is Emily's cousin and walks around raising awareness to how

the others died. The remaining characters bring Emily's coffin in as they hold a quiet, little ceremony. While this is occurring, Emily recites a monologue from her afterlife in which she asserts that all living people are ignorant, and they don't realize the fragile nature of life. Although people have differing opinions about life and death, the show brings the audience to an overall appreciation for what they're given and leaves something lingering in their minds after the show ended. Congratulations to Mr. Smyrk and Mrs. De Stefano, the Reres Family, the cast, crew, and publicity team for putting on another amazing Hills East production!

Miracle in a Glass

Nicole Keilitz

Staff Writer

Feeling tired? Cranky? Achy all the time? The solution to your discomfort may be simpler than you think. Sometimes the simplest things can have the biggest impact. Believe it or not, what you probably need is a big glass of water. Water is a miracle in a glass. People underestimate how important water is to their health. My doctor suggested that I try and increase my water intake due to the fact that I've been super tired and achy very often in the past months. Taking his advice was the best thing I have ever done.

About 70% of our body mass is made up of water, and doctors recommend drinking eight glasses of water a day for good health. My goal was to drink the suggested amount of water a day (60 oz) plus a little more. We lose nearly 6 pints of water a day; that's 12 cups! It is so important that we replenish it. Although this was not a true diet, I referred to it when discussing with my friends and family as my "water diet." Now, I want to share with you what I did and the benefits of what I did, because I'm not lying when I say I've never felt better.

Water has so many benefits. Wheth-

er you want shinier hair, clearer skin, or just a healthier body, drinking water is such an essential part to achieving those things. After just 2 days of drinking the daily suggested amount, plus a few extra glasses, I felt so healthy and awake that I couldn't believe it. I never thought that it would have such a huge impact on how I felt. Increasing my water intake was one of the best and simplest health decisions I've made. Now, I can't go anywhere without a water bottle in hand. Not only can it make you feel like a new person, but it also has additive benefits, such as keeping you fit. Drinking water during the day can help keep you feeling full without consuming high-calorie coffees and snacks. You may also eat less when you do have a snack, as you should already have the sensation of being full.

All in all, I think that people should be aware that something so accessible and common can make you perform better and feel better. So, start today! Drink a few extra glasses of water and see if you feel the difference.



Syria in a Nutshell

Madeline Bacchus

Op/Ed Editor

If you have paid attention to the news lately, or hopefully in your social studies class, you should have heard something about what is going on with Syria. How in depth those stories are may vary. So, for those who only know bits and pieces or who just want to double check the facts without having a plethora of complications spat out from a news station website, here is the "Sparknotes of the United States' Involvement in Syria."

Syria is a country located in the Middle East; it is east of Iraq, north of Jordan, south of Turkey, and east of Lebanon.



President Bashar Assad will still head any transitional stage in Syria.

For the past couple of years, this country has been in a very fragile, chaotic state. To begin with, Syria gained independence in October of 1918 when Arab troops, led by Emir Feisal, ended four hundred years of Ottoman rule. Following this, the country has gone through rapid change and military ordeals, struggling with internal and external conflicts to define itself as a prominent country.

To understand the internal issues of Syria, you have to gather an understanding of the country's society. The majority of Syrians are Arabs (Sunni Muslims). Before the civil war, their economy was rather diverse, including a balance of agriculture, industry, retail, and even tourism. However, two years of war has resulted in quintupled unemployment, reducing the Syrian currency to one-sixth of its prewar value. On top of that, more than half of the Syrian health care system's infrastructure has been destroyed.

While at first, protests were peaceful during the Arab Spring of 2011, but this triggered an increasingly violent backlash from the government of Bashar al-Assad, which, in turn, led to a civil war. As of now, the death toll is around 100,000 people. Those who have had to flee make up about 6.2 million. The government there enjoys its authoritarian rule and strong anti-Western policy, strengthened under President Hafez al-Assad's term. Any attempts to protest against this in 2011 and 2012 resulted in the use of tanks, gunfire, and mass arrests by security forces, which were growing more violent as opposition began to organize political and military wings for an uprising. Eventually, violence escalated to the government's use of chemical weapons in efforts to suppress a protest, resulting in the death of 1,429 people and the hospitalization

of many more. The chemical used in this is specifically referred to as sarin, a nerve gas.

Upon investigation, a 38-page report was released going into detail on the delivery of this chemical through the use of surface-to-surface rockets on August 21. It marked the most significant use of chemical weapons against civilians since the time Saddam Hussein used them in Halabja in 1988. This attack counts as a war crime through its violation of the U.N. policy banning the use of chemical weapons dating back to 1925. While the report held no

specific evidence that the Syrian government had called this attack, it did find the regime in possession of sarin. Through further

research, the government was found to be stockpiling more of the chemical weapon.

Faced with an obvious breach in policy, the U.N. needed to act. However, Russia, one of the major countries, blocked the vote supporting action thereby protecting its relationship with Syria. With no action coming from the U.N. and faced with the possibility that Syria may continue to use such weapons should they not be punished, the United States took it upon itself to act. President Obama, in an official address to the people, revealed his plan to take military action should Syria refuse to hand over all of its chemical weapons to the U.N. Backing up his statement, President Obama urged Congress to place five U.S. destroyers equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles in the Mediterranean Sea, poised to strike.

In wake of this threat, and the loss of support from Russia, Syria agreed to hand over all chemical weapons to be destroyed in the soonest and safest way. While Russia was not too happy about giving in, they were willing to compromise, warning that any violations will result in "measures" from the U.N. security council.

So, at the end of it all, the U.S. avoided entering someone else's Civil War, while defending the ban on chemical weapons. While 79% of American citizens find this diplomatic solution favorable, President Obama still received some backlash, criticized for being weak in the face of adversary. Obviously, those people have not listened to the voice of the majority of the population screaming "no" to another war.

Government Shutdown

Fatima Ouedraogo

Staff Writer

On October 1st, the United States Government shutdown, which curtailed most routine operations due to Congress failing to enact legislation appropriating funds for fiscal year 2014. The shutdown caused 800,000 workers to be out of work and another 1.3 million were required to report to work without known payment dates. The whole government was not shut down, as only essential ac-



controlled the House of Representatives with John Boehner as the Speaker of the House, while the Democrats controlled the Senate. There was a holdup in Congress with the new spending bill that was due because in order for the spending bill to be sent, both the Senate and House must agree upon the same bill. There were, however, aspects of the bill that Republicans disliked, with an intense focus on the Affordable Healthcare Act. They wanted to defund it, but when they sent those provisions to the Senate, the Democrats rejected it thus creating a jam in the government. Both parties were having a difficult time coming to a consensus as neither wanted to compromise.

The objections to the Affordable Healthcare act were that it requires all Americans to have health insurance. Opponents say it will hurt employers. Some have also criticized the medical device tax that is built into the law, saying that by imposing such a tax, jobs will be sent overseas. The government was reopened on October 17th on a bipartisan deal that brought hundreds of thousands of civil servants back to work and raised the \$16.7 trillion debt limit. The deal gave a bill to fund the government and increase the Treasury Department's borrowing power with no strings attached. Obama signed a deal raising the debt ceiling and ending the government shutdown. The debt cushion now extends through February 7th, which means that the situation and crisis has been averted for now.

tivities including anything related to national security, public safety, or programs written into permanent law continued on. However, of the activities that were shut down, many were important to the day to day lives of American citizens. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was forced to stop its seasonal flu program, and the Department of Homeland Security could no longer operate its E-Verify program, which means that businesses were not able to check on the legal immigration status of prospective employees during the shutdown nor could they issue passports. Federal agencies, parks, museums and monuments also closed, leading to a change in vacation plans for some and even a change in wedding venue for a few very angry couples. How did it come to this you may ask? Here is a quick recap of what led to an almost total government shutdown that crippled several important areas of this great nation.

In the US Congress, the Republicans

What Do We Want? Sleep! When Do We Want it? NOW!

Rachel Schwartz

Staff Writer

Sleep: the thing that kindergarteners have and high school students want. For most high school students, waking up at 6 AM isn't easy. After hours on end staying up, doing homework, and writing papers, the last thing we want to do is wake up to start another grueling 8 hour day of classes and hard work. The truth is that this desire for sleep is more than just a want; it is, in fact, a necessity. But why is sleep such an important necessity for high school students?

According to the National Sleep Foundation, American teenagers require about 9-1/4 hours of sleep a night, yet only 8 percent of them are getting it. A recent study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that as much as two-thirds of high school students get less than seven hours of sleep nightly. Teens tend to have irregular sleep patterns throughout a regular school week; they typically stay up late on school nights and sleep in late on the weekends, which can affect their biological clocks and hurt the overall quality of their sleep.

This affects teenagers negatively because their grades will eventually suffer as an extended period with a lack of sleep leads to shorter attention spans. Other consequences of a lack of sleep are that the student's abilities are limited in learning, listening, and concentrating. Along with this, students may begin to forget important facts, names, or numbers. Lack of sleep can contribute to acne and other skin problems, and it can also lead to aggressive or inappropriate behavior. Cornell Universities sleep expert, James Maas, says "Every single high school student I have ever measured in terms of their alertness is a walking zombie."

There are various solutions to the sleep deprivation epidemic that is rapidly spreading throughout the country. Students have to learn to make sleep a priority and that it is okay to take naps. They have to create a consistent sleep schedule in order to keep them on track. Although this is a large issue with teenagers across the globe, parents, school employees, and students are working together to come up with solutions to combat sleep deprivation before it takes over completely.

Not So Electric Zoo

Amanda Blum

Lifestyle/Entertainment Editor

Over Labor Day weekend, the annual *Electric Zoo Festival* started off on a great note, but by the second day, it all went sour. *Electric Zoo* is a three-day concert filled with the best of the best in dance/techno music. The hype for this year's festival was huge as a result of the highly anticipated performances by David Guetta and Avicii. Concert goers were excited and ready to dance the day and night away, until the unthinkable happened. After taking a form of the illegal drug ecstasy, called "Molly", two people died while at the festival. Molly is the powder or crystalline form of MDMA, commonly referred to as the street drug ecstasy. Unfortunately,



Molly is not uncommon at music festivals, and it is considered extremely dangerous.

As a result of these tragic deaths, the third and final day of *Electric Zoo* was cancelled. After the news came out, concert goers were filled with mixed emotions of sadness, anger, and disappointment, to name a few. Cancelling the third day of *Electric Zoo* is a wake up call for concert goers. The attendees of these event need to learn that music festivals are for enjoying music and the fun comes from the music itself, not from the consumption of deadly drugs. So what does the future hold for *Electric Zoo*? Well, we're not quite sure yet. But sooner or later we will find out the fate of the highly popular music festival.

The Cure For Malaria

Alexus Haddad

School News Editor

The world-wide disease Malaria may be cured sooner than we think and millions of lives can be saved! Malaria is a life-threatening blood disease caused by a parasite that is transmitted to humans by the Anopheles mosquito. The new Malaria vaccine, developed by GlaxoSmithKline, has been tested amongst children and other patients. The vaccine is developing everyday, but thus far there have been positive results. According to the *New York Times*, "Glaxo spent more than \$350 million over 25 years to develop the vaccine for military personnel and travelers and expects to invest an ad-

ditional \$260 million to complete development." Malaria is a two century year old disease that was discovered in 1880, but GlaxoSmithKline has only been working on developing a vaccine for 25 years. For more than a century, Malaria has been killing millions of people annually, and it is not recent history that an attempt has been made to find a cure. Malaria mortality rates have fallen by over 25%



MTV Mayhem: Top 3 Fails from the VMAs

Collin Giuliani

Sports & Layout Editor

Where do I begin with the 2013 VMAs? While it was definitely the most memorable VMAs in recent years, it was definitely the most controversial one in quite some time as well. There were some (rare) good moments from the 2013 VMAs (such as the incredible Justin Timberlake performance with the *NSYNC reunion, Bruno Mars' incredible performance of "Gorilla," and Macklemore shining yet again), there were still some equally awful ones. What were the top three fails from the VMAs, either on the part of the performers or on the part of MTV, you ask? Let's take a look...

3. Taylor Swift

If her personal life is anything like her attitude at the 2013 VMAs, then she needs to grow up... real fast. If there was a loser who didn't perform at the award show, it was her. She was the center of two controversies and rightfully so. First, we'll start with her acceptance speech after winning an award for the best female video for her song "I Knew You Were Trouble," and it was classless. Instead of a gracious acceptance, Swift took the time to bash Harry Styles, stating that she wanted to thank the guy that inspired her to sing this song, because now she's got a VMA. When Styles has been nothing but classy about the entire situation and you're on your fifteenth boyfriend, maybe it's not him. And secondly, when One Direction presented the award for Best Pop Video, Taylor mouthed, "Shut the f*** up," and it was very obvious. Throughout the night, she showed herself as classless, and if that continues, she might not make it 10 more years in this business.

2. Kanye West

If it wasn't for a certain performance that's the clear runaway for the #1 spot, than Kanye West would've had the worst performance of the night. He was supposed to perform his song "Black Skinhead," but instead, changed it up at the last minute to perform "Blood on the Leaves," and it was an abysmal performance. Remember when Taylor Swift was rudely interrupted by Kanye West at the VMAs a few years ago? Someone needed to interrupt Kanye

during his performance, because it was a train wreck. First off, he didn't even use any real vocals, using an auto-tuned microphone the entire time. Who uses auto-tune to perform live? About halfway through his performance (we never actually see him perform, as he's behind a jungle screen the entire time), he just loses it and starts screaming and jumping all over the place. And then, he got to the bridge of the song, and I just started hysterically laughing. Why? Every other word was censored. People watching the performance were wondering whether or not their televisions were having technical difficulties, but nope- it was just Kanye completely losing it and swearing all over the place. It was one of the worst performances by one of the biggest idiots in the pop world today. However, it wasn't the worst. I think we all know what the #1 choice is...

1. Miley Cyrus

Where on earth do I begin with this performance? There's not enough shame to be passed around here, but we'll start with the performer herself, Miley Cyrus. Shame on her for, well, doing that. I'm a believer that when an artist is performing live and gives a good performance, if you don't stand up and applaud, you're being incredibly disrespectful. However, I wouldn't have a problem if everyone just started booing her off of the stage. Twerking and sticking out her tongue? Making out with bears? Acting like a stripper? The singing was awful, although that's not even in the top 10 things wrong with this performance. Shame on MTV for even airing this. Everybody has a dress rehearsal before And shame on America. That's right- shame on America, because this is exactly what she wants. She's not stupid enough to think that her performance would be applauded by critics- she knew it was bad and controversial and disgusting, and she wanted America to talk about it and watch it on Youtube over and over again. And... we bought into it. Is this what society has come to, where controversy beats talent? It was the most disgusting performance, most sickening performance, most vile performance I have ever seen, and it was, without doubt, the lowest light of the 2013 VMAs.

since 2000, especially in Africa where Malaria accounts for more than 40% of all deaths worldwide.

The Malaria vaccine contains weakened forms of the live parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*. Forty healthy volunteers agreed to test this vaccine. It was found that those who were injected with the higher dosage of the vaccine were more immune to malaria than those who received the lower dosage and who contracted Malaria. The Malaria parasite's proteins were fused with the proteins from the Hepatitis B virus to enable one's immune system to fight against the disease. Research is still under analysis with regard to the widespread use of the Malaria vaccine.

During a study involving children, in the first year that the vaccine was

given, their immune systems fought against Malaria. However, by the fourth year, the effects of the vaccine were deteriorating. The problem here is attempting to make the vaccine less ephemeral and expanding the defenses of the immune system. Since then, another study was performed with children and was more successful. Children aged 5 to 17 months old were injected with the Malaria vaccine. The outcome was 46% fewer cases of clinical Malaria than those children who did not receive the Malaria vaccine. Everyday, researchers receive new results regarding the vaccine and are closer to finding the cure for Malaria. GlaxoSmithKline predicts that the Malaria vaccine will be available for widespread use in 2015.

HOMECOMING

2013 Homecoming Competition Night

Helen Kim

News Editor

High School East has done it again! The 4th annual Homecoming Competition

Night was held on September 28th in the West Gym. Comp Night began with high spirits from all four corners of the decorated gym. There were the Fiesta Freshmen, Sophomore University, Junior Jam, and the Friends-themed Seniors. The four grades competed against each other in the Egg and Spoon Race and the Scooter Race, where the Sophomores and Juniors tied in the lead. With the Three-Legged Race, the classes rushed to the opposite sides of the gym with the Seniors in last place. Seniors were anxious as the Under-Over Race started, but they were able to focus and finally secure a first place finish! However, as the games continued, the Juniors were able to pull through in the lead.



Mr. Nolan and some Juniors trying to win at Tug of War

rated all sorts of dance moves, including Senior Samantha Fondacaro's gymnastic talents. However, without a doubt, the Sophomore class had all the grades cheering as people with morphsuits ran around, and President Philip Chang danced to "Gangnam Style" in the center of the gym. After all of the festivities, the moment we'd all been waiting for had finally arrived. The results were in for the Homecoming King and Queen were Matthew Boyd and Lisa Diasparra. Additional awards went to the Sophomores, who won first place for their entertaining dance, and the Seniors who won for their amazingly designed float and banner. Congratulations to the Junior Class for winning the games portion of the 4th Annual Competition Night and to Matthew Boyd and Lisa Diasparra for becoming the newest royalty of HSE!

Between games, there were dances performed by each grade level.



Aikta Rajput, Colin Makarius and Andrew Freedman in "Thrift Shop" Skit

Fall 2013 Pep Rally

Heather Andelsman

Lifestyle/Entertainment Editor

Every fall brings a new Homecoming Court, brand new Thunderbird teams, and

Elie and Prince Jake Diehl, along with escort Antoine Goldson, came out dressed as the Avengers. Princess Kristi Amico and Prince Bryson Owens, along with escort Bridget Catania, also went with the superheroes



The Dixettes dazzling the crowd

the first pep rally! Pep rally day is always exciting for the staff and students of HSE as it marks the start of what is always sure to be an amazing homecoming weekend. The West Gym is transformed for the event. Each grade decorates its own section of the bleachers with specific colors and a specific theme. The energy and school spirit is at a maximum when the pep rally begins.

The opening performances by the JV and Varsity cheerleaders got the crowd pumped with their routines. JV performed first, getting the crowd into the pep rally spirit. They were followed by Varsity who wowed the crowd with their amazing cheers, gymnastics, and stunts. As the cheerleaders left the floor, they made way for the fall sports teams. The Girls Gymnastics team impressed students

theme, as they were dressed as Batwoman, Bane, and the Joker. Princess Shatasha Fields was also a part of their group, but was unable to attend pep rally. Princess Jillian DeLuise and Prince Cameron Weissler walked out as Rihanna and Chris Brown. Princess Lisa Diasparra and Prince Matt Boyd walked out with escort Anthony Diasparra. They were dressed as Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke, dancing to Miley's song "We Can't Stop", a reference to the VMA's questionable performance of "Blurred Lines". Princess Chandler Dowd and Prince Corey Simmons did a reference to the movie *King Kong*; Corey dressed as King Kong himself! Princess Neilofar Rahimzida and Prince Wesley Jackson dressed as Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, along with escort Dwayne Young, who



HSE Cheerleaders at the Pep Rally

with their flips, and everyone got louder to cheer on the Varsity Football team. After the teams were announced, the Dixettes began their performance. They dazzled the crowd with their high kicks and awesome dance moves while keeping a smile on their faces the entire time. The Expressive Movements dance club was next, and, as always, they impressed the crowd with an outstanding, original hip-hop performance. The Girls Volleyball team and their coaches even joined in to do a dance called the Wobble!

Finally, it was time for the announcement of the Homecoming Court! As always, the themes were extremely well thought out and creative. To start it off, Princess Amanda

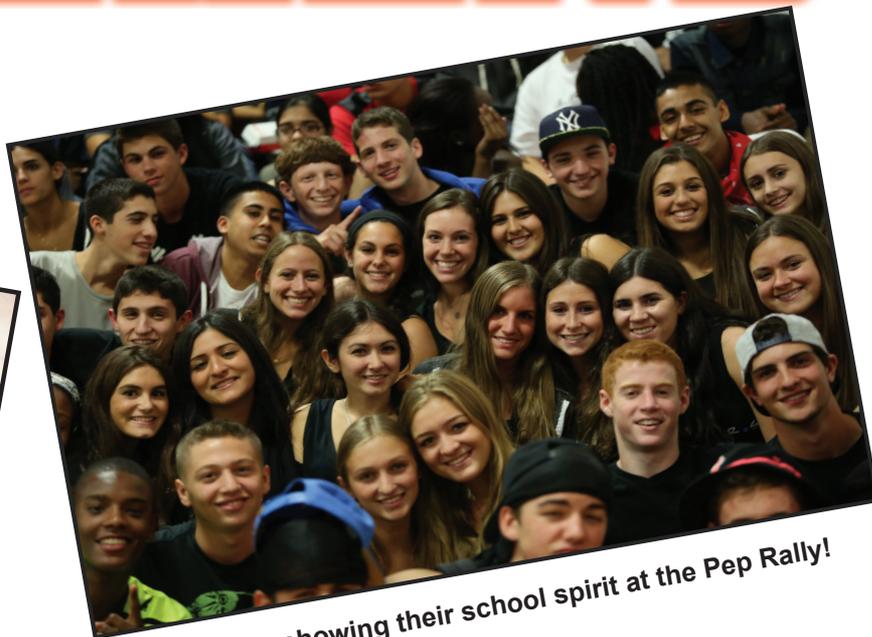
ran after them as baby North, which got a lot of laughs from the crowd. Princess Aikta Rajput and Prince Andrew Freedman danced out to Thrift Shop, along with escort Collin Makarius. Princess Sarah Williamson, along with escorts Ally LaStella and Cara Gallagher, dressed up with blonde wigs and pink shirts as if they were right out of the movie *White Chicks*. And lastly, Princess Marisa Fitlin and Prince Tristan Vozzolo, along with escort Jake Burcham, wore Christmas-themed outfits reenacting the famous scene from *Mean Girls*.

A special thank you to the Student Government for putting together another great event!

LONG WEEKEND



Homecoming Court winners: Lisa Diasparra and Matt Boyd



HSE Seniors showing their school spirit at the Pep Rally!

Hills East Loses Homecoming to Commack

Collin Giuliani

Layout & Sports Editor

Following their home opening loss to Longwood, Hills East (0-8, 0-2 at the time of this game) took on Commack

After one quarter, the game was scoreless. But that would soon change, as on Commack's third drive of the game, they drove down the field on a 13 play,

64 yard drive that would result in a rushing touchdown. Following the extra point that



Football Pre-game Huddle



(8-0, 2-0 at the time of this game) in the annual Homecoming game. With sophomore quarterback Ron Woodhull out for the season, Derek Merckling would get his first career start in this game. However, the Thunderbirds would lose their third consecutive game of the season, as Commack extended their unbeaten regular season with a 35-7 victory over Hills East. With the exception of a Kamal Williams kickoff return for a touchdown in the third quarter, the Thunderbirds could generate little excitement on the offensive side of the football.

The game started off poorly on the offensive side of the ball for the Thunderbirds as Derek Merckling would throw an interception on the very first offensive play of the game for Hills East. The interception gave Commack good field position as Commack started their second drive of the game following the interception at the 18 yard line of the Thunderbirds. However, a good defensive hold by Hills East pushed Commack back 7 yards and great coverage by junior cornerback Alex Feldman on 4th-and-17 would give the Thunderbirds the football back with no damage done.

made the score 7-0 in favor of Commack, Merckling and the Hills East offense would get the ball back. However, the offense would go 3-and-out for the third consecutive drive, and Commack would capitalize, scoring another touchdown on a 5 play, 26 yard drive. The Thunderbirds would get some offense going at the end of the first half, as the team picked up 3 first downs on an 8 play, 40 yard drive. However, the drive would give the offense no points, and the 3 first downs on that drive were the only first downs that the Thunderbirds would get all game.

The second half started with a 99 yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Kamal Williams. Junior kicker/punter Anthony Morici would tack on the extra point to make the score 14-7. But Commack scored 21 unanswered points, including a touchdown on the ensuing drive that went 5 plays for 80 yards and ended on a 62 yard passing touchdown, and would never look back. A third rushing touchdown was then scored in the third quarter, and early in the fourth quarter, Commack picked up

their fourth rushing touchdown of the game. Commack would be too much for the Thunderbirds to handle as Hills East lost by a final score of 35-7.

Quarterback Derek Merckling went 4-for-10 with 33 passing yards, no touchdowns, and 2 interceptions. Senior halfback Quentin America had 11 carries for 33 yards, while junior

halfbacks Blaise Spinelli and Maikk Williams-Wells each had 2 carries. Anthony Morici had a solid game, with a punting average nearing 40 yards per punt. On the defensive side of the ball, linebacker Blaise Spinelli had 10 tackles, and junior defensive lineman Kai Nero-Clark recorded 5 tackles in the losing effort.



Homecoming Court 2013

POP OR FLOP? ... What's Your opinion?

AN ANALYSIS OF KATY PERRY'S SONG "ROAR"

Collin Giuliani

Layout and Sports Editor

There's not much to discuss in terms of background information, so let's dive right into the actual review of the song. How does this Katy Perry song hold up? Well, let's start with the sound. Many critics have compared this song to "Brave," by Sara Bareilles. And... they've got a point. The song does sound awfully similar to the latest hit from Bareilles' discography, but I wouldn't go as far as saying that it's borderline stealing, especially when compared to "Best Song Ever" by One Direction (blatant rip-off of The Who). This song by Katy Perry definitely has a resemblance to Sara Bareilles, and while it will go against her, I won't say it's a copycat.

Lyrically, however, this song is a copycat of Katy Perry's own "Part of Me". Come to think of it, the entire song is just your typical Katy Perry song. As usual, she doesn't really take too many chances with this song. Is that a bad thing? Not necessarily, as I do like a lot of Katy Perry's music, and I did heavily enjoy her second

album, *Teenage Dream*. However, she didn't really break any new ground with this song, and while she's not going to lose any fans, she's probably not going to gain any fans either.

Why do I say that this is another typical Katy Perry song? Sure, she did release "Last Friday Night," but for as catchy as a song that it was, when you look at the lyrics, it literally looks like she just wrote down random sentences and tried to combine them into a story. And, this is the example of the empowerment song, which is a style that Katy Perry seems to be leaning heavily towards nowadays (two of her last three singles, including this one, have been about that topic).

Now, let's flash forward to August of 2013, with the release of "Roar." Not only were there no chances taken in this song, but there was nothing new about this song from any other Katy Perry songs. This is just the updated version of "Part of Me"; lyrically, it's the same thing. In the first verse, she uses actions to vaguely describe the situation, as she does in the first line, "I used to bite my tongue and hold my breath, scared to rock the boat and make a mess." Then,

in the pre-chorus, Perry uses the guy as the scapegoat, but states that she came out on top, as she states, "You held me down, but I got up, already brushing off the dust." And finally, in the chorus, she proclaims that she came out on top. The conclusion when you compare these songs side by side? They're the same exact song. Do you really want the first single from your highly anticipated album to be a recycled version of a previous single? The first song of a new album should symbolize a new era.

This also might be a minor complaint, but how come there is no roar in this song? You would think that in a song titled "Roar," where Perry proclaims that you're going to hear her roar, there would be an actual attempt at a roar. This could either be a plug-in at the end of a lion's roar (much like the roar at the end of "Harlem Shake," and that might've been the only remotely good thing about that atrocity of a song), or Perry's attempt at trying a lion's roar. Instead, we just hear her state that we're going to hear her roar... but there's never a roar. So, when are we going to hear her roar?

THE VERDICT:

Is this song terrible? No. It's a catchy tune with a pretty good message and a vocal performance that might be Katy's best efforts yet in that department. However, this is definitely not one of Katy Perry's better songs. In fact, having heard the majority of her songs, I probably wouldn't even put this song in the top 15 of her catalogue. There are a few main reasons for that, with the primary reason being the fact that it's the same exact song as, "Part of Me." The beat is somewhat similar to "Brave," however, the lyrics are entirely similar to Katy Perry's songs about power. Combined with the fact that the bridge is also fairly lazy and comes across as a wasted opportunity, this is not one of her better efforts. It's just another Katy Perry song, with nothing new being introduced whatsoever. She won't lose any fans with this song, but she won't gain any fans either. Especially considering the fact that this is the leading single off of *Prism*, and it's a somewhat disappointing result. FINAL SCORE: 2.3 out of 5

Defined Lines

Madeline Bacchus

Op. Ed. Editor

Virginia Woolf once said, "Women have served all these centuries as looking glasses...reflecting the figure of a man at twice its natural size." As Woolf describes, a common belief in the misogynistic community is that women exist to aid in the development of and boost the egos of men. Women should be subordinate to men so that they may exist as the superiors. Robin Thicke is well aware of this sentiment and openly supports it in his song "Blurred Lines". Since its release, it's been played non-stop on the radio, television, and the internet. However, the majority of the popularity of this song by the previously unknown artist lies not in the music itself, but the controversy it has caused. In short, this has to be one of the most offensive songs ever released.

"Blurred Lines" is the atrocious combination of multiple verbal sexual harassment phrases put to a catchy beat. Thicke runs through themes such as the subordination and domination of women and the idea that there is no boundary as far as harassment goes because even if a woman rejects a man's advancements, somewhere deep down she really is attracted to him, and her greatest desire is for him to jump her.

In response to the outbreak of protest against this song on the grounds that it promotes sexual assault, sup-

porters of Thicke comment, "but it's just a song!" To put the lyrics into perspective, Project Unbreakable, an on-line photo essay exhibit, had victims of assault hold up signs of what their attacker said to them before or during the act. For example, the chorus of the song

has Thicke singing "I know you want it" three times in a row twice. Participants held up signs which said the same exact thing, the only variation being "you know you want it." Don't tell someone to "calm down and

enjoy the song," (as I have been told) when there are rape victims having these words spat back out at them and being accepted by society. Thankfully, not everyone has decided to let this slide. A group called the Law Revue Girls put together a phenomenal parody to fight against Thicke's song, which they named "Define Lines". Taking the previously stated line, they changed it to read, "Yeah we don't want it/ It's chauvinistic/ You're such a bigot." Other videos exist that expose the ridiculous and horribly sexist nature of this video through the swapping of gender roles in the video.

As if the lyrics alone were not bad enough, the clean music video for "Blurred Lines" has reached over 200 million views, while the unrated version only gaining 25 million views due to YouTube's censoring policy for minors. In the video, Thicke and artists T.I. and Pharrell degrade the women around them by treating them as more of animals and property than actual human beings. In the unrated version, all the women are topless while the three

men are fully clothed in suits to show their superiority. Thicke claims that his video was based on his masculine experience with cat-calling women. In an interview, he comments, "We started acting like we were two old men on a porch hollering at girls like, 'Hey! Where you going, girl? Come over here!' That's why in the video we're doing all these old men dances. It was great."

Yes. Cat-calling women and making them feel uncomfortable sounds like the best pastime to have ever existed.

The point is that there are no blurred lines in consent. There is only one, sharpie-thick line of consent. If there is no consent given, it is a crime. Knowing that there is a viable mindset that justifies assault on a person makes me extremely uncomfortable when I find myself alone in a public space. Someone please send Robin Thicke back to kindergarten so he can learn that "no" means "I don't want to", not "do it anyway." If a man ever breathes, "I know you want it," down my neck, the only blurred lines he'll be getting are the ones in his vision after I punch him and run away.

Movie Review: Ender's Game

Heather Andelsman

Entertainment Editor

Ender's Game is a 2013 science fiction movie based on the book of the same name written by Orson Scott Card. The main character, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, played by Asa Butterfield, lives in a world that is very dif-

ferent from ours. In his world, aliens have attacked the planet twice already, leading to vicious wars and many human deaths. Now, preparations for inevitable future attacks include training kids that the government deems eligible for a battle program. Ender's two siblings, Peter (Jimmy Pinchak) and Valentine (Abigail Breslin), were already considered for the program, but were deemed ineligible. Ender, being the third child, is already under pressure to succeed and be chosen to move on to Battle School. Peter was unable to control his anger, and Valentine was unable to control her emotions, but Ender has a perfect balance between both. Colonel Graff (Harrison Ford) and Major Gwen Anderson (Viola Davis) personally choose him to come to Battle School, believing that he could be the answer to saving the entire world. Once at Battle School, Ender has to prove himself superior to the others in order to show his potential. He has difficulties with some of the other kids, like the leader from whom he is supposed to take orders, Bonzo (Moises Arias), and a plain old mean kid, Bernard (Conor Carroll). Ender makes friends with one of the other new kids, Bean (Aramis Knight), and a girl who helps him train, Petra (Hailee Steinfeld). Ender learns that there really is not anyone he can trust, and on his journey to become the commander that he wants to be, he realizes that he has to make a lot of tough choices involving what he believes and who he can believe in. *Ender's Game* is a great movie to see if you're interested in science fiction or aliens. Head out the movie theater to see *Ender's Game* on the big screen!



Fall Premieres

Madeline Bacchus

Op. Ed. Editor

The month of October was a crazy one and not just because of Halloween preparations. Every night, there's bound to be the new season of a television series airing, promising a wide variety of genres to fit a wide variety of tastes. Some of these premieres have been heart-wrenching and some comforting. Either way, it's safe to say that viewers are in for a wild year.

I suppose it's fitting to begin with "Glee", a show that I don't personally watch, but I know has affected many people deeply, especially with actor Cory Monteith's recent tragic death. The fourth episode of the current season paid tribute to the actor through the characters mourning the loss of their classmate, Finn. Though the character's cause of death was never explicitly stated in the episode, all the raw emotion was real. It was difficult for fans to watch the actors in such pain on the screen knowing that this was going beyond acting and reaching into the real world. With regards to Monteith's untimely death, some fans are calling for the cancellation of the show altogether. Prior to Monteith's death, however, the show had lost approval ratings. The show, according to many viewers, is at this point just recycling old storylines, much like the Teen Nick show, "Degrassi", but at a faster pace. Without some new breath of air into the plot lines, "Glee" faces a downturn in viewer numbers and ratings. Gleeks across the globe were saddened once again when it was announced that next season will, in fact, be the last for "Glee".

Tuesday nights hold host to a new show that was moved from its regular slot on Wednesdays. The CW's "Supernatural" has transitioned into its ninth season, one that appears to be promising.

Though recent episodes have been highly entertaining fillers, the plot line could not be stronger. Anxiety over Human Castiel's state of being combined with a "friendly" angel hopping a ride inside Sam's mind has put fans in a distressed state of mind that even the cutest filler with the beloved character Charlie can not ease. All viewers can do is hope that the writers don't have too much pain in mind for this season (which all fans know is a fruitless action).

Wednesday nights have returned to their creepiness with the premiere of the third season of FX's "American Horror Story: Coven". Back with a completely new storyline and completely new characters, this season so far has proven that even when compared to the horrifying mental asylum from last season, the writers continue to find inspiration elsewhere to freak out viewers. Taking place in modern-day New Orleans, this season focuses on a small coven of witches, the newest of which is the very unfortunate Zoey who discovered her witch heritage when she accidentally killed her boyfriend with powers she never knew she had. Events keep piling up, and already, a monumental climax is to be expected later on in the season.

While many shows have come back this fall and some new ones have joined the ranks of fan favorites, some fans are still left waiting in the dark. Specifically, fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" and "Doctor Who" are anticipating the return of both, planned for the same night, a night meant for the "Sherlock" season premiere and the 100th anniversary special of "Doctor Who". Until then, there are a plethora of shows currently on air to pass the time, unless you're waiting on "Game Of Thrones", in which case, good luck holding up until next year.

Apple's i-nnovative New Products

Hillary Schier

Photography Editor

September 20th, 2013, brought another whirlwind of Apple product fanatics to Apple stores everywhere, some with sleeping bags prepared to be in it for the long haul, for the opportunity to purchase the newest, highly anticipated Apple products to hit the market: the iPhone 5s and the iPhone 5c. Apple has been diligently developing two new iPhones complete with the newest iOS7



software. Unlike its predecessors, the iPhone 5c is available in 5 vibrant colors: yellow, blue, green, pink or white. It costs \$99 for the 16GB iPhone 5c, and \$199 for the 32GB iPhone 5c, which is relatively cheaper than prior models making it more readily available to a wider audience. In addition, iOS7 complements the colors of the 5c with its bright, user-friendly features. With various layers and dimensions, multi-tasking has never been so easy.

This new, minimalistic design was the brainchild of the Apple technicians responsible for the creation of iOS7. Apple also introduced the iPhone 5s. The developers of this phone managed to fit all of the new technologies that the iPhone 5s has to offer in a tiny space that is 7.6 millimeters thin and weighs only 112 grams. The iPhone 5s comes in 3 colors: gold, silver and space grey. It comes equipped with a dual LED flash and a fingerprint identity sensor, which enables your phone to recognize you by touch. Your password has become your own unique fingerprint. The iPhone 5s is the first 64-bit smartphone ever created, yet it is still fairly reasonable in price when compared to its predecessors. The iPhone 5s costs \$199 for the 16GB phone and \$299 for the 32GB phone. Apple's newest creations are innovative and successful, which we've come to expect with all of their products.

Book Reviews:

Allegiant by Veronica Roth

Heather Andelsman

Entertainment Editor

The shocking conclusion to the *Divergent* trilogy by Veronica Roth, *Allegiant*, was released in bookstores everywhere on October 22nd, 2013. The first two books in the series, *Divergent* and *Insurgent*, follow the story of Tris and Four as they manage their lives in a conformist society, escaping corrupt leaders and often facing risks. Throughout the series, Tris has to make life-changing decisions that not only affect her, but also affect the fate of her city. This is no different in *Allegiant*, where Tris and her friends have to decide whether to stay in the city, which is destroying itself from within, or head out into the unknown. Leaving behind the safety of their city and the crumbling society within it, Tris and Four, along with friends from their former faction, venture into the world beyond the fence that keeps them in the city's boundaries. Even though this goes against the leadership, they do it because they have to know the truth.

Once outside, Tris and Four discover information about their society that blows their minds. This information changes everything, and each character handles it in different, but intriguing ways. Along with this, Tris must deal with the mystery of her deceased mother and her brother's presence after he had already betrayed her. Four finds out information about himself that he never would have thought to be true, leaving him to believe that he is broken. They both go through so much, leaving them in a devastating place by end of the story. If you've already read the first two books of this series, then this book is a must read! If you're a fan of books like *The Hunger Games*, then this is definitely a series for you. This final installment brought the series to an exciting and fantastic ending. *Divergent* is a series that shows the true meaning of bravery and sacrifice. You can get *Allegiant* at bookstores everywhere, and the movie adaptation of *Divergent*, starring Shailene Woodley and Theo James, hits theaters March 21, 2014.

House of Hades by Rick Riordan

**Sophia Lettieri and
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Staff Writers

The House of Hades, a gripping fantasy novel based on Greek and Roman mythology written by Rick Riordan, picks up right where *The Mark of Athena*, his previous book, left off. Percy and Annabeth fell over the side of the pit and straight into Tartarus, which is, essentially, the worst part of the underworld. In the beginning of *House of Hades*, they're falling for what certainly feels like eternity, while their friends, who are literally a world away, are continuing their quest to save them. The House of Hades is by far one of the most exciting tales Riordan has written in his Percy Jackson world, and you surely won't be able to put it down! It is full of horrific beasts, terrific psychological thrills, and nail-biting fights. Not only do our heroes have to face creatures that they've already defeated once before, but they must face their own true fears — something that can be just as incapacitating as a physical wound.

Our beloved hero, Percy, in particular will be thinking of the consequences of his actions and of everything he has done over the last few years that he thought was in the name of all that was right in the world, as now he must face things such as the arai, the embodiment of the curses that people or monsters have wished upon him and Annabeth over the years. Percy has grown and matured so much since we first met him in *The Lightning Thief*, and it is almost unbelievable how much he has changed from his innocent, disbelieving, young self to the incredibly courageous, strong, and unrelenting boy he has become. Over the years in which we have gotten to know Percy, we have learned him to be almost overly selfless, humorous, entertaining, and brave, yet somewhat clueless at times. In the *House of Hades*, after almost five years of constant quests and battles, we have witnessed a drastic shift in his personality. Although he has retained most of his amiable characteristics, we now see a darker side of him, one that we would have never expected. Percy and Annabeth have come to a point in their lives where they are tired of unrelenting monsters, titans, and giants; the dank and

depressing atmosphere of Tartarus is getting to them. They begin to feel as if they have done enough for the gods and just yearn for a normal, peaceful life. The strength and love of the pair cannot strain even in the depths of Tartarus. They must learn to put their sense of duty ahead of them before they can even fantasize about a normal, monster-free life.

As for the other characters, the other four in the *Prophecy of Seven*, we may think that we have known, it is certainly interesting to see another side to them. Each one of them has strengthened to their full potential and blossomed into a new, dissimilar version of themselves. Throughout the novel, they become more confident and prepared to take on their biggest threat yet: Gaia. Assumptions will be re-established and some will find themselves having to travel a different path than they might have expected. They'll have to learn to cope with their newfound strengths after many of their captivating battles, and each of them will find someone within themselves whom they never dared to see. Each person is written with thought and care as secrets are revealed and friendships continue to blossom, and the character development for each and every one of them is astounding. New love interests are revealed in addition to the unexpected uncovering of a love from the past in one of our least suspecting characters. They all have to learn to overcome their differences for the greater good and the fate of the world and all those living in it, and their journey is certainly worth reading about.

Ultimately, the newest edition to Rick Riordan's captivating series, *The House of Hades*, was wildly successful on all levels, and it certainly moves the plot forward to where it needed to be. This new, already popular book, is for readers of any age. We can ensure you that you will be yearning to have the final edition to the series, *The Blood of Olympus*, as soon as you finish, and we highly recommend the series to those of you who have not read it, especially if you enjoy action, adventure, and mythology. Join Percy and his friends in their final epic quest as they re-emerge from Tartarus and defeat Gaia's forces. Will they all survive? Will the Seven have the strength to defeat Gaia and her minions? You can only find out if you read along.

The Myth of White Jeans

Emily Shanker and
Jordan Schmidt

Staff Writers



Everyone knows about the myth of white jeans that warns “you can’t wear white jeans after Labor Day.” Everyone just seems to take this myth at face value, but does anyone ever wonder about its significance? Believe it or not, this myth is well known around the world, and it has been explored by many newspapers, magazines, and tv talk shows. If people prefer not to wear white jeans after Labor Day, that is their choice, but an article from TLC entitled “10 Fashion Myths” explains why there is nothing wrong with wearing white jeans after this particular day in early September. Why limit your color scheme just because the season has changed? You would think it would be a good idea to wear white in the winter because often the color white is associated with winter. Sayings

like “hoping for a white Christmas” and “a white Christmas morning” are often heard around the holiday time. The snow on the ground is white, so why not your pants? You’ll often find coats and sweaters available in the hue of “winter white,” which is perfectly acceptable to wear. Everyone loves those tight fitted white jeans, so why be embarrassed to wear them publicly after labor day? At the other end of the controversy is the people who question whether or not it is a fashion faux pas to bring out the white jeans before summer. That can be answered with a simple NO! The only relation the white jeans have to the seasons is weather, perhaps the cold of winter would contrast with the cold of white denim. So, if its warm in the spring, like it can often be, why not wear them? During the most recent NYC fashion week, many designers were debunking the myth and promoting the idea of white jeans year round. Next time you are struggling to pick out an outfit and you convince yourself that white jeans are not acceptable because of the season or the month, think again! Wear those white jeans any time of the year! The myth of white jeans is one myth that has been disproven and is fading over time.

She Came In Like a Wrecking Ball

Lauren Lopez

News Editor

Recently in the music industry, Miley Cyrus broke the Vevo record for most views in 24 hours on a video with her video for “Wrecking Ball”, however many say that Cyrus is less deserving of those views in comparison to previous artists who held the record. They claim that she releases videos for shock value rather than for pure enjoyment.

According to Vevo’s official *Twitter* and *YouTube* accounts, Cyrus’s new video, “Wrecking Ball”, acquired 19.3 million views in 24 hours that followed the video’s release on September 9th. According to the same accounts, the Vevo record was previously held by British-Irish Boyband, *One Direction*, for their “Best Song Ever” video. *One Direction*’s video obtained 12.3 million views which broke the previously held record of 10.7 million views. The previous record, also confirmed by the Vevo *Twitter* account, was also held by Cyrus but this was for her “We Can’t Stop” video.

The huge gap between *One Direction*’s record and Miley Cyrus’s record is obvious, but the reason behind it is much more subtle. Cyrus going from obtaining 10.7 million views on one video, to a record smashing 19.3 million views on her next video is definitely mind blowing, but is there a reason behind it may be difficult to spot at first. The answer is simple: Cyrus releases her videos for the sole purpose of shocking the world. “Wrecking Ball” gathered so many views because of the controversy it created. If Cyrus hadn’t been swinging from a wrecking



ball naked, word wouldn’t have spread as quickly; it’s as simple as that.

As for *One Direction*, the five boys released a video not only with them singing their song, but acting as well. The beginning of the video has a plotline meant to demonstrate that the boys won’t let big corporations control them. To someone who isn’t interested in *One Direction*, watching a six minute video of the five boys singing, dancing, and acting probably isn’t at the top of their agenda. However, if the world is abuzz about a naked Miley Cyrus singing in a video, that is something to a viewer will automatically watch, whether they are a fan or not.

The majority of the views *One Direction* acquired on their video were most likely from dedicated *Directioners* who chose to spend the 24 hour period after the release of the video refreshing the *YouTube* page and hitting replay again and again until the words the boys sung no longer sounded like english anymore. Now this isn’t to say that Miley’s *Smilers* didn’t watch “Wrecking Ball”, because they probably did. The views on “Wrecking Ball” were probably just comprised of more demographics than just the *Smilers*.

The proof is in the numbers. On the *Vevo Wikipedia* page, there is a chart which shows the top ten most subscribed to Vevo accounts. Number two on that list is *One Direction*’s Vevo account which has 8,514,665 subscribers. Cyrus’s Vevo account isn’t even on the list, but a look at her account

Console Wars: Xbox One vs Playstation 4

Jake LaFauci and
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Staff Writers

A new generation of video game consoles is about to come upon us, and many people are getting excited as the release date approaches, with pre-orders spiking to all time highs. However, there is always one major decision that causes sudden opinion wars to break out as gamers everywhere have to choose between one of the two new consoles. To help everyone a better idea of what these consoles have to offer, we’re going to offer pros and cons of each. In short, the question is: Xbox One or PS4?

We are going to start off with the pros of Xbox One. Xbox One offers many sources of entertainment in addition to gaming, such as Netflix and ESPN, as well as social networking applications like Skype. You can download games onto your Xbox One while playing another game, so you’re never bored while



waiting for the newest game to load. There are also about 300,000 servers on Xbox One, resulting in increased accessibility to Xbox Live gaming sessions. This is a major improvement from what Xbox 360 offers, which is only 15,000 servers. Xbox One also has live streaming capabilities, with Twitch, and the console itself is ready for release, complete with a lot of cool

new games coming exclusively for the Xbox One. Among these new games are: *Killer Instinct*, *Quantum Break*, *Dead Rising 3*, and *Titanfall*. Overall, the Xbox One console seems very impressive.

However, there are also cons. Xbox One cost \$100 more than the PS4, summing up to a pricey \$500. Kinect, the motion sensing attachment originally from Xbox 360, which was a pretty big flop, is required for Xbox One, so you’re getting it whether you like it or not. Even with the great titles that Xbox One is offering, they seem to focus more on a third party game, *Call of Duty: Ghosts*, which is also available for PS4 and previous generation consoles. Microsoft is basically giving the new *Call of Duty* a bit too much credit. Lastly, the controller has hardly any changes to its overall design, so you aren’t getting anything new with the control scheme.

Now on to the PS4, and like before, we’ll begin with the pros. The PS4, for starters, is \$100 less than the Xbox One, so people looking to spend will be more likely to look at this system. Major improvements have been made to its controller from previous versions, including an updated control pad model and a touch pad. PS4 also has a slight power advantage over Xbox One, giving third party games the possibility of looking better on the PS4 than they do on Xbox One. Unlike the Xbox One, the PS4 has no policy on used games, meaning that if you have already played a game and your friend want to borrow it, then there’s nothing more to it—no charge, no hassle.

With all of the pros, come a few cons to the PS4. There is a huge lack of launch titles with the PS4. There are only two to be exact, so PS4 is relying solely on third party titles, like *Call of Duty: Ghosts* or *Battlefield 4*. Like the Xbox One, there is also no backwards compatibility, so you are unable to play PS3 games on the PS4. The PS4 also has very little ventilation, so the console will either be very noisy or more prone to overheating. There are also less servers making online gaming harder to get into.

That just about does it for the console wars pros and cons. But one question still remains: Xbox One or Playstation 4? The choice is yours.

on Vevo shows that she has 2,191,184 subscribers, a number far less than the views on her recent video.

While there is no actual way to tell how many fans both Cyrus and *One Direction* have respectively, the number of subscribers on their Vevo accounts can be related to the number of fans the artists have. So, if it’s taken into consideration that the majority of the fans are subscribed to the accounts, then *Directioners* clearly outnumber *Smilers*. So even if the 2 million or so *Smilers* all watched the video multiple times, it still wouldn’t be enough to amount to the sheer number of views on the *Wrecking Ball* video. Since Cyrus created such controversy in her video, other people watched just for the sole purpose of being up to date with what people were talking about.

Cyrus seems to have an upward trend regarding controversy in her newer videos. “We Can’t Stop” created controversy over the lyrics and whether Cyrus was being a good role model to her younger fans left over from her Hannah Montana era. This more subtle controversy, however, bloomed into downright blantancy with her stunt in *Wrecking Ball*.

While *One Direction* and other artists have dedicated fans who will undoubtedly do anything to break Cyrus’s record in the future, if Cyrus continues to use controversy to get the world on her side as far as views are concerned, then the rest of the hopeful artists looking to hold the Vevo record probably won’t stand a chance. So unless *One Direction* is willing to strut in their birthday suits for the next video, they might have a hard time beating Cyrus’s record.

With all of the talk connected to Miley Cyrus lately, no one knows what she has in store for the world next. One thing’s for sure though; it’s bound to be shocking.

NHL Season Preview

**Alex Andelsman and
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Staff Writers



New Jersey Devils Preview

2012-13 record: 19-19-10 (11th place in eastern conference)

Key additions: Ryane Clowe, Jaromir Jagr, Cory Schneider, Damien Brunner
Key Departures: Ilya Kovalchuk, David Clarkson

Last Season:

The New Jersey Devils went from being one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference in 2011-12 to one of the worst teams in the Eastern Conference in 2013. The Devils, who made the Stanley Cup Final in 2011-12, missed the playoffs in 2013.

Outlook:

Although they lost Ilya Kovalchuk due to retirement and David Clarkson due to free agency, the Devils reacted swiftly and made some big signings such as Ryane Clowe, Jaromir Jagr, and Damien Brunner. Also, with Marty Brodeur being 41 years old, the Devils acquired goaltender Cory Schneider in a trade with the Vancouver Canucks. Schneider is their goalie of the future with him being very young (27 years of age). Devils fans should look forward to seeing the rise of their young stars in the 2013-14 season.

Predictions:

We do not see the Devils making the playoffs this season. The Devils will finish at the bottom of the Eastern Conference despite the offseason acquisitions. They still lost their two stars in Ilya Kovalchuk and David Clarkson, which put them in a big hole. The Devils are now in the rebuilding process and have a lot of young talent. Fans should be patient as they see their stars being born this season.

New York Islanders Preview

2012-13 record: 24-17-7 (8th in the eastern conference)

Key additions: Thomas Vanek

Key Departures: Matt Moulson, Mark Streit

Last Season:

The Islanders had an unexpected playoff run in 2013. After the Islanders nearly finished in dead last in the Eastern Conference, they improved and got the 8th seed in the standings in 2013. Although the Islanders did not win a playoff series (losing to Pittsburgh in the first round), they were still glad to be in the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

Outlook:

The Islanders made a lot of improvements in 2013, and Islander fans have a lot to look forward to in the 2013-14 season. The Islanders acquired Thomas Vanek in a trade with the Buffalo Sabres in exchange for Matt Moulson, a 1st round draft pick, and a 2nd round draft pick. Vanek is just another scorer in the high-powered Islander offense. He will be on a line with captain John Tavares, who led the team in scoring last season. Islanders fans should expect a lot of great things from their team in 2013-14.

Predictions:

With the acquisition of Thomas Vanek, the Islanders have another goal scorer in addition to John Tavares. If goaltender Evgeni Nabokov plays exceptionally well this season and the Islander offense lives up to their potential, expect them to be a top 5 team in the eastern conference.

New York Rangers Preview

2012-13 record: 26-18-4 (6th in the eastern conference)

Key additions: Benoit Pouliot, Dominic Moore, (coach) Alain Vigneault

Key Departures: (coach) John Torterella

Last Season:

The Rangers had a disappointing 2013 season after a promising 2011-12 season. The Rangers went from 6 wins away from a Stanley Cup in 2011-12 to losing in the 2nd round of the playoffs in 2013. The Rangers had a lot to look forward to last season. They acquired Rick Nash in the offseason, which seemed like the final piece to the 2011-2012 puzzle. The Rangers needed a big time scorer, and that's where Rick Nash was supposed to fit in. However, Nash only had 1 point in last year's playoffs, and the Rangers also had one of the worst power plays in the league.

Outlook:

Rangers fans have a lot to look forward to this season. In Henrik Lundqvist's final year of his contract, you should expect to see his best numbers. He is one of the league's best goaltenders and a candidate for the Vezina Trophy (award for top goalie) almost every year. Also, fans will get to see Rick Nash's first full season with the team after last season was shortened due to the lock out.

Predictions:

We expect the Rangers to sneak into a wild card spot in the playoffs in 2013. Although the Rangers have a new coach and brought in a few new players, they have failed to stay healthy in the beginning of this season so far and that will hurt them later on.



2013-2014 NBA Preview

Matt Tisch

Ass't Sports Editor

Title Contenders: These teams that are locks to make the playoffs and are expected to compete for the title: Heat, Thunder, Spurs, Clippers, Nets, Pacers, Warriors

Playoff Teams: These teams are expected to make the playoffs and will legitimately challenge some of the "Title Contenders" early on during the playoffs: Bulls, Rockets, Grizzlies, Knicks, Timberwolves, Hawks

On the Bubble: The following are middle of the pack teams that will either barely make or miss the playoffs, but provide no challenge to any of the "Title Contenders" they would face in the first round: Pistons, Cavaliers, Wizards, Pelicans, Mavericks, Nuggets, Raptors, Trail Blazers

NBA Lottery: These teams have almost no shot at making the playoffs and are looking to develop themselves for future years: Kings, Celtics, 76ers, Bobcats, Magic, Bucks, Lakers, Suns, Jazz

Awards: MVP-

1. Kevin Durant (Oklahoma City)- Voters are going to eventually get tired of giving LeBron MVP, and this year, Durant should be able to narrow the gap enough to justify voters giving him the award.

RUNNERS UP: LeBron James (Miami), Chris Paul (LA Clippers), Derrick Rose (Chicago)

Defensive Player Of The Year-

1. Dwight Howard (Houston)- When healthy, Dwight Howard is, by far, the best defensive player in the league. This year, it sounds like he is ready to buy into playing defense, and if he does, then he is a near-lock for defensive player of the year.

RUNNERS UP: Joakim Noah (Chicago), DeAndre Jordan (LA Clippers), Roy Hibbert (Indiana)

6th Man of The Year-

1. Jamal Crawford (LA Clippers)- If the Clippers are going to make a run at a championship, then they're going to need Jamal Crawford to lead their 2nd unit. He thrived last year, as he almost won the 6th man of the year award, but with a more talented supporting cast and Doc Rivers as his new coach, Crawford is the clear favorite to win the award this year. **RUNNERS UP:** Tyreke Evans (New Orleans), Harrison Barnes (Golden State), J.R. Smith (NY Knicks)

Most Improved Player of The Year-

1. Derrick Favors (Utah)- Favors has more room to improve than any of the other players on this list. He was picked 3rd overall in 2010 and just signed a massive contract, but he is still under the radar. Favors will see a huge increase in minutes and production on a young Utah team. **RUNNERS UP:** Anthony Davis (New Orleans), Eric Bledsoe (Phoenix), DeMarcus Cousins (Sacramento)

Rookie Of The Year-

1. Ben McLemore (Sacramento)- McLemore's the purest scorer out of

the incoming rookie class and he'll have a good chance to be in the starting five as the season progresses. If he does, then he'll thrive alongside pass first point guard Greivis Vasquez.

RUNNERS UP: Victor Oladipo (Orlando), Michael Carter-Williams (Philadelphia), Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (Detroit)

Coach Of The Year-

1. Doc Rivers (LA Clippers)- Expectations for Doc Rivers are going to be extremely high considering the price the Clippers had to pay to get him. But, with a revamped Clippers lineup, Rivers should be able to make a title contenders out of Lob City. The Clippers are still led by star point guard Chris Paul and big men Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan, but Doc Rivers also has a two 3-point specialists in J.J. Redick and Jared Dudley to round out the starting lineup. The bench is much improved with 6th man of the year candidate Jamal Crawford still in town along with new additions Darren Collison, Antawn Jamison and Byron Mullens.

RUNNERS UP: Mark Jackson (Golden State), Frank Vogel (Indiana), Gregg Popovich (San Antonio)

Division Winners:

ATLANTIC: Brooklyn Nets
CENTRAL: Indiana Pacers
SOUTHEAST: Miami Heat
NORTHWEST: Oklahoma City Thunder
PACIFIC: Los Angeles Clippers
SOUTHWEST: San Antonio Spurs

Playoff Predictions:

East: 1st Round-

(1) Miami Heat vs (8) Washington Wizards: 4-0 Heat
(2) Indiana Pacers vs (7) Detroit Pistons: 4-1 Pacers
(3) Brooklyn Nets vs (6) Atlanta Hawks: 4-2 Nets
(4) Chicago Bulls vs (5) New York Knicks: 4-2 Bulls
Conference Semi-Finals-
(1) Miami Heat vs (4) Chicago Bulls: 4-3 Heat
(2) Indiana Pacers vs (3) Brooklyn Nets: 4-2 Pacers
Conference Finals-
(1) Miami Heat vs (2) Indiana Pacers: 4-2 Pacers

West:

(1) Los Angeles Clippers vs (8) Portland Trail Blazers: 4-1 Clippers
(2) Oklahoma City Thunder vs (7) Memphis Grizzlies: 4-1 Thunder
(3) Houston Rockets vs (6) Minnesota Timberwolves: 4-3 Timberwolves
(4) San Antonio Spurs vs (5) Golden State Warriors: 4-3 Warriors
Conference Semi-Finals-
(1) Los Angeles Clippers vs (5) Golden State Warriors: 4-3 Warriors
(2) Oklahoma City Thunder vs (6) Minnesota Timberwolves: 4-2 Thunder
Conference Finals-
(2) Oklahoma City Thunder vs (5) Golden State Warriors: 4-3 Thunder

NBA Finals:

Indiana Pacers Vs Oklahoma City Thunder 4-3 Pacers

NBA Champion: Indiana Pacers

Finals MVP: Paul George

Off the Hot Seat?

Rex Ryan's Job Status for 2014

Collin Giuliani

Sports & Layout Editor

There was some serious debate prior to the NFL Draft about how bad the New York Jets actually were. People were calling them the worst team in the league and saying that this could be the worst season in franchise history. The NFL Draft didn't do much to change that opinion either. The team had just lost their franchise cornerback in Darrelle Revis and acquired Dee Milliner, who, while a rookie, is significantly worse than Revis. Then, with their other first round pick, they chose Sheldon Richardson, who would improve the one position where the Jets didn't need help. Sure, they got Geno Smith in the second round, but after a second half slump at West Virginia, there was a reason why he slipped so far.

Then came the preseason, and the team still stunk. Mark Sanchez was playing poorly, and Geno Smith wasn't playing much better. It got so bad that at one point, they were seriously thinking about starting Matt Simms, who had a relatively solid preseason and is currently on the active roster as the backup to Geno Smith. In game three of the preseason, the Jets defeated the Giants, but the bigger story was the postgame press conference. When asked about the quarterback controversy, he turned his back to the reporters and said that he could say anything that he wanted to because that was the beauty of this country (America). Some wondered whether or not Rex Ryan would get fired before the season even started, and after an offseason where they didn't pick up too many notable players, had a massive hole at wide receiver, and had uncertainty at the quarterback position, everyone thought that the New York Jets were going to be terrible.

I mean, did anyone seriously think that the New York Jets would ever be legitimately good? On paper, the rest of the AFC East was either good or got better, and the Jets got worse. They didn't have Dustin Keller (left to join the Miami Dolphins), didn't have Darrelle Revis (traded to Tampa Bay), didn't have Jeremiah Bell or LaRon Landry (two key pieces to their sec-

ondary last season), didn't have Bart Scott, and didn't have Tim Tebow (although that one's sarcastic as he was nothing more than a locker room distraction and a media circus).

But, here we are. As of this writing, if the season ended today, the New York Jets would be 5-5 and in the playoffs. They have not won 2 consecutive games this season and have not lost 2 consecutive games this season, meaning that they play great one week and play poorly the next. The only other team to do that was the 2005 New England Patriots, who alternated wins and losses through their first nine games (that team made the AFC Championship before losing to the Indianapolis Colts in a second half comeback by Peyton Manning and company). With a roster that looks terrible on paper, the New York Jets are doing incredibly well this season. Yes, the same New York Jets that were regarded by many as worse than the Jaguars when the season began. Yes, the same New York Jets that had a massive quarterback controversy in the preseason. Yes, the same New York Jets that have loud mouth Rex Ryan at head coach. If someone told you at the start of the season that one New York team would be last in their division and one of the worst in the league halfway through the season, and the other would be 5-5 with a real chance at making the playoffs, I'd say about 99% of all people would say that the Jets would be the team in the cellar and the Giants would be competing for the right to play the Super Bowl in their home venue.

Prior to the start of the season, it was declared that this season would be playoffs or bust for Rex Ryan. At the time of this statement, it was translated into Rex Ryan being guaranteed to lose his job by the start of next season, if he even lasted that long (many predicted that he would be fired by now). The possibility of the Jets making the playoffs was insane. As Jim Mora would put it, many were wondering whether or not they could even win a game. Entering the season, though, Rex Ryan was clearly on the hot seat. He was manning a locker room laden with dysfunction and chaos, was coming off of the poorly managed Tim

Tebow debacle and was coming off of back to back non-playoff seasons (this contrasted to 2 consecutive appearances in the AFC Championship). So, let's just say that the Jets finish the season with an 8-8 or 9-7 record, but miss the playoffs. Is Rex Ryan's job safe? Is Rex Ryan going to return as the head coach of the New York Jets next season?

My guess is that he will and that he should. If Rex Ryan was a coach that kept his mouth shut like Bill Belichick (and, with the exception of the post game rant in the preseason, he's done a fairly good job at doing so lately), this wouldn't even be a discussion. It's just the fact that, sometimes, Ryan's words can become a distraction to the actual play on the field. What many people fail to realize, however, is that since Rex Ryan entered the league in 2009 as a head coach (he was the defensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens prior to that), he's gotten more wins than Tom Coughlin, including the playoffs. Through 4.5 seasons, Ryan has 39 wins, and he's got the same number of playoff wins (4) as Coughlin does (4) since that time. In fact, Rex Ryan has made the playoffs more times than Coughlin has since 2009 and has made the same number of conference championships as Coughlin has with the Giants. Might Rex Ryan be a little bit on the crazy side? Perhaps. However, he gets results.

All that aside, let's just remember the fact that the New York Jets are sitting at 5-5 right now. If the Houston Astros next season recorded 75 wins (keep in mind that this past season, they had a 51-111 record, which is one of the worst seasons in MLB history), there's no way that the manager would be fired, even if it was playoffs or bust. The only thing that was remotely possible at the time of that statement was whether or not the New York Jets would be in mathematical contention for the postseason entering December. The fact that Rex Ryan is winning with this roster is remarkable. If the season ended today, the New York Jets would be ahead of the following teams for a playoff spot: the Houston Texans (defending AFC South champions), the Miami Dolphins (went on a massive spending spree in the offseason which has produced marginal results at best so far), and the Baltimore Ravens (the defending Super Bowl champions).

You can't say that Rex Ryan doesn't get his guys to play and compete under him. From all indications, and from watching him on Hard Knocks, the players seem to like playing for him.

Another key reason why Rex Ryan should keep his job is because he's found a way to revive that run defense. Sure, a lot of the problems from last season can be blamed on the fact that the Jets had confusion at quarterback and didn't have any success whatsoever under center (the Butt Fumble is a prime example of that), but the rushing defense was not so good either. The Jets allowed over 133 yards per game on the ground last season, while this season, they're only allowing 73.8 yards per game. A big part of that can be because of Sheldon Richardson (as planned as the pick was due to the needs of the Jets at the time, he has turned out to be a pretty good player), and there's obvious improvement with the team this year, even if the roster might be significantly worse. The most important thing for a head coach from year to year is that the team gets better, and there's improvement. For the most part, there's been improvement, and that's a big reason as to why the Jets are in it right now.

So, based on the way that the New York Jets have been playing, my guess is that he'll stay with the Jets for another season, even if they miss the playoffs. Barring a monumental collapse, why get rid of Ryan? He's getting results with one of the worst rosters in the league, has the team in playoff contention, is helping Geno Smith and this offense function productively despite no help at wide receiver, and is defying all preseason expectations. If the game was played on paper, there'd be no way that the Jets would have 5 wins on the season, let alone in 10 games. That's why the game is not played on paper, and why it's played on the field. Should the New York Jets be able to make the playoffs, the possibility of the team playing the Super Bowl in their own venue (it's never happened before, and the last team to make the playoffs in the same season that their city hosted the Super Bowl was Tampa Bay all the way back in 2000) will be one of the biggest storylines to follow as the season progresses. To sum it all up, this season for the Jets has been remarkable so far. We're only halfway there, though.

Filling the Void

How the Thunderbirds will be Impacted by the Loss of Seniors

Collin Giuliani

Sports and Layout Editor

The Hills East Thunderbirds went 0-8 this season in what can best be described as a transitional year. This was the first season in a long time without RJ Nitti at quarterback, and because there was no quarterback on the varsity roster after his injury last season, the 2013 season was about getting the man under center accustomed to the varsity speed of the game. Ron Woodhull was supposed to be the quarterback during this season, but an early

season injury left junior Derek Merckling to be the man under center for the final 6 games of the season. And while the team did go winless this past season, the pieces are there for improvement in 2014. Why is there a chance for improvement? The answer is simple- the team won't be losing many seniors.

The majority of the varsity roster consists of sophomores and juniors. Only 7 players on the active roster this past season were seniors, as the senior class made up less than 25% of the varsity roster. Compare that to

a team like Lindenhurst, where over 50% of the roster from this past season consisted of seniors, and there won't be an incredible amount of transition next season on the field. Following the 2012 season, the Thunderbirds lost quarterback RJ Nitti, halfback Rasheed Williams, and wide receivers Brandon Brightman and DJ Paul. But, the Thunderbirds will only lose 7 seniors next season, so the core of the roster should be kept in tact for the 2014 season. With that said, the losses of the seniors will still have to be replaced somehow. How will the losses of some of the seniors impact the team in 2014?

KAMAL WILLIAMS and DAN BOCKELMAN: A quarterback's best friend is his wide receiver, and whoever is the quarterback for East next season, whether it be current sopho-

more Ron Woodhull, current junior Derek Merckling or someone from the junior varsity roster, will need to find some wide receivers to whom they can throw. On the majority of the sets this season, Kamal Williams and Dan Bockelman were the two wide receivers lined up, and Bockelman was even named as a captain for his determination and hard work. While the entire passing offense was not entirely dependent on these two wide receivers (Merckling and Woodhull often targeted their halfbacks on dump-off throws, such as Quentin America (more on him later) and Blaise Spinelli), the losses of these two players will be felt. So, what happens in 2014 at this position? Later in the season, sophomore wide receiver Brian Dice was getting lots of reps as the #3 wide receiver, so look for his role to increase drastically entering the 2014 season,

Football (Anti)Fanatics...

The Lack of Support for the HSE Football Team

Collin Giuliani

Sports and Layout Editor

It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon. There's that cool autumn breeze that hits around late September and early October, and it's a perfect day for some football. That's what happens for 3 Saturdays every year with the Hills East Thunderbirds, as the varsity football team takes on some other Suffolk County opponent in hopes of picking up a win and representing the school proudly. But, despite all of this, there's just one problem. There's no one there to see the game.

There's an old, but overused saying questioning whether or not a tree makes a sound if it falls in the forest and nobody is there to hear it. The same can be applied to the football team of Hills East. If the Thunderbirds win/lose a game and nobody is there to watch it, does it really count? At the final home game of the season against Lindenhurst, I noticed a disturbing amount of apathy a few minutes prior to kickoff from the fans. When the national anthem was performed by the band, I would probably say that, excluding the band for obvious reasons, there were the same number of Hills East fans as there were Lindenhurst fans.

Every Saturday when the Thunderbirds play, there seems to be empty bleachers. Sure, the blackout game is a fun event, and that always packs the house, but it was semi-easy to get a seat for the game this year because a lot of people were discouraged because of the poor weather just an hour before the game. All things considered, there was still a decent sized crowd there. During Homecoming, there was a bit of a crowd, though it wasn't even remotely close to a packed crowd or even a half-filled section of the bleachers. For the home opener and the home finale, I'd be generous if I said that 15% of the bleachers were filled by gametime.

My cousins live down in Texas, which is the high school football capital of the world. I was actually able to visit Eagle Stadium in Allen, Texas, because that's not too far from where my cousins live. To say that high school football is a religion down

there is an understatement. Eagle Stadium even blows some professional sporting facilities away. The stadium cost \$63 million to build (even scarier is the fact that it was funded by the public, who voted on building this stadium) and holds 18,000 seats. Season tickets are almost impossible to get. In addition to its main job as a football stadium, it also has a built in wrestling room, weight room and a golf simulator. Obviously, if high school football in terms of support was a scale, this is on the extreme end of the scale.

As for Hills East, they're probably on that other extreme end of the scale. I've yet to engage in a conversation about any Hills East football game with any student this season. The number of students that are seriously engaged in the game at any given moment could probably be counted on one hand. Most of the students that are at the game treat it like an event, socializing and barely paying attention to the actual game. So, this raises the question- why is attendance so low at football games? There are a few reasons why this may be the case.

1. A Poor Record

It's no secret why attendance at Mets games in April is better than attendance at Mets games in September. The reason is obvious. In April, the season has just begun, and there's anticipation for what's in store. There's the belief that this could be the year that they turn things around, and that this could be their special season. But then, come September, when the team is 15 games out of first place and has been eliminated from all postseason contention, attendance dips because there isn't much to play for other than pride. Does a poor record by the football team this year have something to do with the poor attendance at games? Hills East did manage to go winless, and while I'm not saying that the game against Lindenhurst would've been sold out if the Thunderbirds were 4-3 entering the game and were competing for a playoff spot, attendance would've probably been higher than it was. However, this cannot be the sole reason for the poor attendance, as for the past two seasons, the Thun-

derbirds have been right in the thick of things with regards to the playoffs. The offense consisting of guys like RJ Nitti, DJ Paul and Brandon Brightman (none of whom were on the team this year) helped put Hills East in playoff contention in 2011 and 2012, and yet, attendance still wasn't superb by any means. But, a poor record where there's nothing to play for in terms of the playoffs definitely could've been one of the contributing factors to the poor attendance of this season.

2. Lack of Advertising

The blackout game is almost impossible to not know about. Facebook events are created, many people have parties after the game, and it spreads very quickly by word of mouth. And the Homecoming game is almost impossible to not know about as well, as everyone knows when homecoming is, and the game is the sole reason why there's a pep rally (they don't just introduce each member of the football team individually for nothing). But, was there any advertising done for the other two games? Unless you went on sectionxi.org and looked at the schedule for the Thunderbirds, or unless you know friends on the football team, it was almost impossible to know when games were being played. There were no verbal announcements made in the morning or afternoon, very few teachers mentioned the games, and there were no signs saying when the games were. How many people knew that there was a home game on November 2, and prior to the actual game, how many people knew that the opponent was Lindenhurst? Based off of a lack of advertising, it wouldn't be surprising if less than 5% of all non-football players knew any of the answers to those questions. If attendance is going to increase at games next season, there's definitely going to need to be an increase in advertising.

3. Lack of Spirit

And finally, it can come down to a lack of spirit altogether. The season finale ended with a loss against Lindenhurst, and the final play of the game was a brawl that was a controversial way to end a game, and certainly something

that not many have seen before in high school football. But, anybody that was not at the game wouldn't know it. I checked Facebook and Twitter in the 24 hours after the game, and with the exception of tweets by the actual players, there was absolutely no mention of the brawl on either social media feed. It's clear that there is, for lack of a better word, a lack of school spirit when compared to other schools. At pep rallies, a good portion of the seniors leave prior to the event, and with the exception of the blackout game, attendance at sporting events is somewhat pitiful. Consider this- overall attendance at Competition Night during Homecoming has gone down in recent years as well. For the very first competition night, there was not an empty seat in the bleachers. However, for the 2013 event, attendance was somewhat down. The senior section, which is normally standing room only, was about 70% full, and the junior section, which was packed to the masses just 2 years ago, was about 50% full this year. Competition Night was advertised heavily this year, and yet, attendance was down. The same holds true for sporting events as, with or without advertising, it has become a struggle to get people to attend these events.

Neither of the three reasons are the sole reason why attendance is so low and interest is minimal, at best. However, all three of them combined contribute to the poor attendance at the games. We'll see whether or not this changes during the 2014 season, but it's going to most likely take a change in culture in order for this trend to be reversed. If advertising improves, if students become more engaged in the school and the school functions athletically, and if the football team can manage to win a few games next year, then attendance could be on the upswing. As it stands right now, however, it's not looking pretty.

as Dice could wind up being the #1 wide receiver. The rest of the wide receiving core from that point on is a bit iffy, as not too many guys from that point on in the depth chart got many reps at wide receiver. With the losses of Williams and Bockelman, the wide receiver position is going to be one of the biggest holes for the Thunderbirds entering the 2014 season.

QUENTIN AMERICA: Another captain that will be graduating this year is Quentin America, who primarily plays at halfback, but also gets some time at safety. America's biggest home game of the season was the blackout game, where he had nearly 100 yards on the ground running in East's best offensive home game of the season. He was asked this year to receive an increased workload with Rasheed

Williams gone, and America rose to the occasion. Now, who will rise up to the occasion in 2014? This shouldn't be a problem for East, as Blaise Spinelli is the halfback of the future for the Thunderbirds. He received a large portion of the carries for the Thunderbirds, as the junior halfback/linebacker was the only non-senior to be a team captain. Backing up Spinelli is junior halfback Malik Williams-Wells, who received his fair share of carries in the final game against Lindenhurst. Malik's burst of speed is something promising to build upon. Arguably the deepest position for the Thunderbirds is the halfback position, and the loss of America shouldn't impact the Thunderbirds too much on offense. This isn't a knock on America, but rather a sign of how strong the halfback position is for Hills East. On the defensive

side of the ball, that's another story. Quentin America was also a solid safety for the Thunderbirds, and most likely, sophomore safety Seth Garvin will get an increased role in the secondary next season when he becomes a junior. Garvin got some reps in the final game against Lindenhurst, and he did somewhat struggle, getting beat on a passing touchdown in the first half. Even though America was known primarily for being a halfback, his impact will be most sorely felt on the defensive side of the ball.

MICHAEL DWOSKIN: And finally, one of the defensive anchors for the Thunderbirds for the past few seasons has been senior linebacker Michael Dwoskin. He was named as a captain this past season, and the 6'0, 205 pound senior linebacker was dominant.

There were numerous games where he recorded over 5 tackles, and he always seemed to be on the ball. So, who will step up at linebacker in his absence? In the traditional 4-3 defense, the Thunderbirds had a solid core of linebackers in 2013, and two of those linebackers will be returning next season, as current sophomore Joey Tesoriero and current junior Blaise Spinelli will have an increased role with Dwoskin's absence. As for the third linebacker, this is a major question mark. Hills East has a few options at this position, as they can turn to either Brian Dice or Eric Davis, a sophomore who is listed as an outside linebacker. But, with neither of those guys getting an immense number of reps during the season, the third linebacker position for 2014 will be a major question mark.

THUNDERBIRD

HILLS EAST SPORTS CORNER

2013 Girls & Boys Soccer Season Wrap-up

Carly Fasciglione

Staff Writer

Girls Soccer

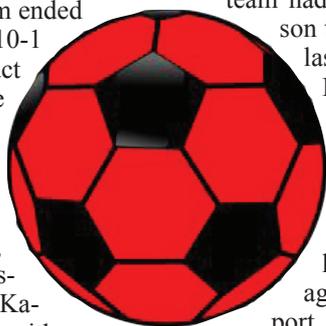
After missing the playoffs by one game last season, the varsity girls soccer team was determined to make the



whopping 121 saves. The girls all put forth very impressive performances this year with wins against West Babylon, Bay Shore, and Whitman. When I asked senior Jessica Schwartz about the season, she said, "We played really well together as a team. It was a great last season here at East and I'm going to miss my team a lot next year!" Unfortunately, the Thunderbirds did not make the playoffs this year, but that won't stop them from coming back strong next year!

Boys Soccer

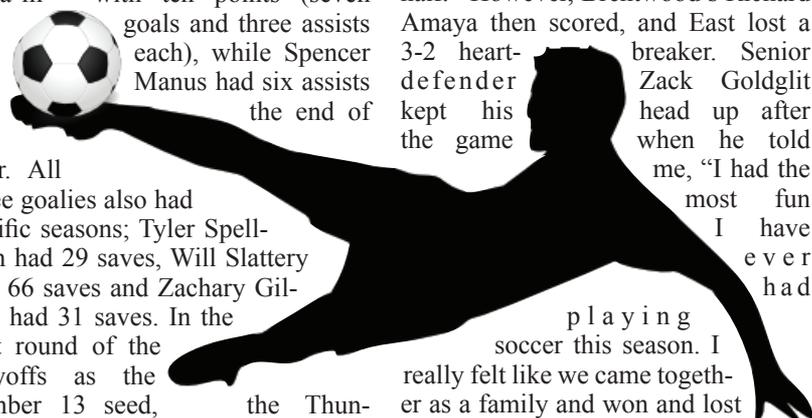
The Hills East varsity boys soccer team had yet another strong season this year. The absence of last year's star senior Tyler Kirschner didn't hold the boys back. The Thunderbirds had a bit of a rocky start, however they did not put their heads down. The boys had some great wins against Whitman, Northport, and Central Islip, three



playoffs this year. Under the direction of Coach Mayo, the team ended the season with a 3-10-1 record. Despite the fact that they did not make the playoffs, there were many positives throughout the season. Christina Bellerio had another unbelievable season, scoring 11 goals and 2 assists. Goalie Mackenzie Kagan also had a great year with a

incredibly competitive teams. Casey Barone and Wesley Bosse both led the team with ten points (seven goals and three assists each), while Spencer Manus had six assists by the end of the year. All three goalies also had terrific seasons; Tyler Spellman had 29 saves, Will Slattery had 66 saves and Zachary Gilam had 31 saves. In the first round of the playoffs as the number 13 seed, the Thunderbirds faced their rival Brentwood, who defeated the team in last year's county championship game. Andrew Kunoff and Noah Waxner each scored

one goal to tie the score up at two with two minutes left in the second half. However, Brentwood's Richard Amaya then scored, and East lost a 3-2 heart-breaker. Senior defender Zack Goldglit kept his head up after when he told me, "I had the most fun I have ever had playing soccer this season. I really felt like we came together as a family and won and lost as a team". With so much talent and heart on the team, it won't be a surprise to see East have another great season next year.



Hills East Volleyball 2013

Mary Reiser

Staff Writer

The HHHE girls' varsity volleyball team had their best season in years. With a 9-6 record, not only is the great year evidenced, the team also made the playoffs. In just her second season as the varsity coach, Coach Lauren Weber has already seen major improvements in her team.



Talented members of the HSE Girls Volleyball Team

She was especially proud of how hard this team worked and the many accomplishments they achieved. Some of these accomplishments include beating Ward Melville (the best-ranked team in the county) and beating Lindenhurst, who has always put up a good fight against East. JV Coach Lori Graham was by Coach Weber's side the whole season helping and supporting the girls. Both the JV and Varsity teams worked hard and had a lot of fun this season.

of the five seniors who will be graduating this year; both Coach Weber and the rest of the team will truly miss the outgoing girls. Seniors Stefanie Alpert and Vanessa Broncado have been a part of varsity for all four years of their high school careers. The combination of Vanessa setting the ball and Stefanie killing the ball has earned many points for Hills East. Their teammates have often said, "It's an amazing thing to watch. You just know when Stef's going to kill the ball by the face she makes when she jumps."

Fortunately, all members of the team are talented, so the future looks bright. Sophomore Julia Steward, who is already a 2-year varsity player, is one to watch in the future, as she is already one of the team's key players. Although the team lost in the first round of the playoffs to Sachem East, the girls should be proud of everything they've accomplished this season.

Girls Tennis: Undefeated



Natalie Haebich

Editor-in-Chief

The Girls Varsity Tennis Team has completed yet another undefeated season, making this year their 3rd Suffolk County Championship in a row and winning 8 of the last 9 League 1 Championships. Of the 19 games played this season, 15 were shutouts. This year's

team made Hills East history by winning 51 consecutive games and sending 4 players to states (Allison Huber, Vanessa Scott, Ester Chikvashvili, and Stephanie Chikvashvili). Coach Tom Depeltau commented, "the girls set themselves a goal and achieved it. I hope they had as much fun as I did."



Suffolk County Champions