

THUNDERBIRD

HIGH SCHOOL EAST NEWSPAPER

Half Hollow Hills High School East

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Explore New Mysteries at Our New Planetarium

Anish Pisipati

Staff Writer

below, which strains to raise it up into the center of the Planetarium's spherical dome. This is the star projector."



Newly renovated planetarium now has the ability to project in full color! The dome as well as the software also changed to fit the new projector.

An essay written by one of last year's graduating seniors and former Astronomy Club President, Su Norris, stated that "the planetarium is ancient, and it shows. At the center of the room, there is a dusty old metal contraption standing on two pairs of long metal struts like a Seussian bird. The projector is from an age when the Moon landing was still a far off dream. Its spherical head has thousands of tiny eyes, pinpricks of light streaming out of them. Its slender neck is covered with plastic and steel buboes, devices that spin and twist and light up. The strange creature is perched atop a platform with a wheezing hydraulic piston

What a difference a year can make as this school year, the HSE planetarium received a major renovation. The old star projector has been replaced by a new, more advanced projector. It is a fully

digital, 2.5 megapixel projection system. This new projector does not just show stars, but it also shows stunning visualizations including pictures of space probes, constellations, and even the surroundings of wherever one is stargazing. For the first time, the sky can be seen in color! Now, the planetarium has the ability to show videos as well. The old star projector used small holes in a sphere to let some light through and create images of stars. The new digital system, according to Mr. Affatigato (Mr. Tom), uses two projectors, each with a computer on opposite sides of the planetarium that are connected

by another computer to seamlessly display whatever is desired. The applications of being able to display video can lead to many other possible uses, including the ability to virtually transport oneself anywhere one desires, such as a different country or even a cell; the dome can be a multipurpose tool.

Some of the downsides of this new system include not being able to show full darkness. With any projector, there is always a small amount of ambient light that seeps through, making the screen look a very slight gray instead of pitch black. The holes in the old optical-mechanical projector only used to have the light shine through them, allowing for darkness in between; however, this is not the case with a digital system. Fortunately, the amount of grey is so small that most people would not notice it.

Differences also exist in how the two projectors show the brightness and size of stars. In the old, optical-mechanical projector, the size of the hole determines how much light comes through. In order to increase the amount of light, the hole in the sphere is enlarged. In order for the star to not appear larger with the larger hole, there is a lens that focuses the light into a smaller dot, making it appear brighter, according to Mr. A. With the new projector, it is necessary to increase the brightness of a star in order to increase the number of bright white pixels for the image of that star. While this might not make the star look as realistic as the dots of light that are seen in the sky, the planetarium sky will still look amazing!

The whole renovation took place at the beginning of this school year. The

astronomy club, which usually meets in the planetarium, had to be relocated to a music room for a few months while it was being updated. In the meantime, the old star projector was removed, the new projectors were put exactly into place, the computers were set up with the new program to run the simulations, and the dome was modified to become more ideal for the new projector. Also, since this projector is much more complicated when compared to the old one, it took some time to adjust to its new system. Mr. A said that he learned how to use the system with the manufacturer in Salt Lake City, Utah, and it took a couple of weeks. While it is difficult, he said that everything complicated is difficult if one is not used to the software.

In the new planetarium, the familiar large star projector in the middle of the room is now gone, leaving empty space (and room to walk); however, the planetarium experience is better than ever as it is enhanced with color, videos, visualizations, and, of course, stars.



One of the views our new projector can project

HSE Newspaper Club Members Attend "Student Press Day"

Maddy Propis & Rachel Rosenstein

School News Editors



Members of the newspaper staff attend Student Press Day at Hofstra University

Staff members of High School East's very own Thunderbird newspaper took a didactic, yet exciting field trip to Hofstra University on Friday, December

11. Those in attendance were fortunate enough to experience a highly informational day that Hofstra calls "Student Press Day." Student Press Day is when Newspaper/Journalism clubs from all over Long Island come together to participate in engaging workshops about specific communication-related occupations and various college majors. Communications is a broad term that includes news (in all forms), television, and magazines. Hofstra administration and alumni who majored in this field in college and pursued careers in these fields following their Hofstra education spoke to the visitors about positive experiences they had, as well as a typical day in their occupation.

When the newspaper club arrived at Hofstra, Hofstra administration kindly offered students breakfast, snacks, and drinks. They gave students draw string bags to keep filled with notepads, pens, and information sheets on guest speakers who would be present that day. The students were first directed to Hofstra's auditorium where they listened to speeches about Hofstra and

its communication programs. Next, students in the Newspaper club got a tour of the facilities for several of Hofstra's various communications' programs, such as broadcasting and journalism. Following their tour, students were then allowed to choose to attend a lecture from one of four different guest speakers, including Investigative reporter Ann Givens, Digital Reporter Delia Paunescu, and Sports Journalist Adam Rubin. Students went to not only one, but two lectures that afternoon based on their specific personal interests. Some of these workshops included information on photojournalism and graphic design, social media/digital reporting, TV and investigative reporting, and sports journalism. There were extensive options from which participants could choose. All of the students who attended these lectures thought they were extremely interesting and informative. Lastly, students ate lunch at Hofstra and then boarded the buses back to HSE.

Overall, this trip was very interesting to anyone who may want to major in the field of communications.

The trip to Hofstra gave students a sneak peek into a day in the life of a communications major. Hofstra is ranked the second best school in the country for media professionals, so learning about their communications department was very beneficial.



Daniel Van Benthuyzen from Hofstra's School of Journalism addresses the students.

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A Sweet Senior Banquet

Shelby Gosset

News & Features Editor

On January 29, the senior class spent a sweet evening at the Candyland-themed Senior Banquet. The gym was transformed into a candy wonderland filled with bright colors and yummy treats. The evening was successfully coordinated by both Student Government and the National Art Honor Society. Student government planned the much anticipated banquet, while NAHS turned the gym into a candy lover's heaven. The night was a lot of fun as students danced to music provided by an high energy DJ. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by a local favorite, Cirella's. After dancing until our feet hurt and eating

until we were full, the Senior Class superlatives were finally announced. This senior class tradition is one of the students' favorite parts of senior year. To culminate the evening, the senior class gathered around to watch a montage of their high school memories prepared by the Senior Class Student Government Officers. A special thank you to Jared Brown and Daniel Curray as this video would not have been possible without their help. As the evening came to a close, the senior class was grateful for one of the last milestones in their high school journey and left reminiscing about the last four years.

Senior Superlatives

Best Personality: Brian Rhee/Richard Hogan & Brooke Duncanson
Typical Dix Hillian: Tyler Spellman and Morgan Singer
Most All-Around Senior: Jared Brown and Deeya Naval
Best Dressed: Blake Duncanson and Christie Lorenzo
Most Likely to Succeed: Joseph Davolio and Cassandra Grello
Best Body: Griffin Arcuri and Cameron Calderon
Most Artistic: Christopher Waller and Amanda Greenfield
Class Cutie: Akash Patel and Jordan Linde
Most Athletic: D'Nathan Knox and Adaugo Chimezi
Class Flirt: Tyler Spellman and Samantha Francucci
Nicest Eyes: Nick DiPietro and Allison Schuler
Most Humorous/Class Clown: Michael Sivin and Sari Sosnick
Most Changed Since 9th Grade: Armaan Bhasin and Maggie Levine
Most Musical: David Lerner and Jenna Swerdlow
Best to Bring Home To Mom: Richie Hogan and Nicole Vivona
Attached at the Hip: Ashley Mayne and Tamaya Braddy
Teacher's Pet: Bradley Weltman and Joley Schneider
Most Likely to be President: Mitchell Siegel and Julianna Hong



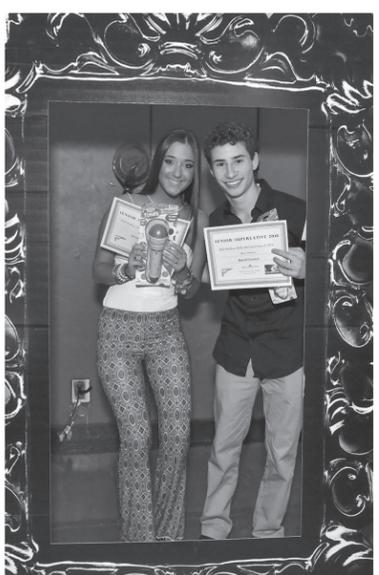
Class Cutie: Jordan Linde & Akash Patel



Class Clown: Michael Sivin & Sari Sosnick



Best Personality: Richard Hogan & Brooke Duncanson



Most Musical: David Lerner & Jenna Swerdlow

Senior Experience:

An Opportunity to Make Your Senior Year Special

Juliana Jacobsen & Kate Smith

Contributors

A fairly new program has surfaced in High School East's already wide selection of classes: Senior Experience.

This class is an innovative new form of learning that is centered around "hands-on" experience. The class satisfies both the English and Social Studies requirement for senior year and offers an out-of-school internship in a variety of career fields. Two days a week, instead of spending the entire day in school, students attend an internship of their choice. On the other three days, students attend an interdisciplinary class of English and Social Studies that focuses on current political issues through class discussions and reading contemporary novels, plays, and nonfiction. The class takes place during periods seventh through nine.

Senior Experience does not have a set curriculum, and it develops as history forms around us in the modern world. Our discussions and debates are intelligent and involved, where the teachers treat us as equals and our opinions are taken seriously. The course's format is heavily based on that which we can soon expect in a college environment. Also, students learn skills that are vital to life in the real world such as doing taxes, paying bills, budgeting, and preparing for college. Students will no longer wonder if they are learning something that they will use later in life.

One of Senior Experience's other central components is frequent field trips to enhance that "hands on" motif. Our previous trips include a New York City food tour, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the 9/11 Memorial Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of

Art, a screening of the film "The Big Short," and the fan favorite, Skyzone.

There is such an immense variety; there's really something for everyone! Many seniors currently taking this course had never been on high school field trips before, so it has really granted many students an opportunity for that unique and gratifying experience.

The internships are something that Senior Experience students take great pride in as well. There are so many things that one can never learn in simply a classroom or a lecture. It's that raw experience that really teaches one how it feels to be in a certain field of work. Student's gain both interpersonal skills and a detailed understanding of the technical side of the career. The sky's the limit when it comes to choosing one's internship, with an endless world of opportunity for one to reach out and grasp. Mr. Cappiello, the internship manager of Senior Experience, is simply wonderful and is very willing to help students find and manage their internship.

Overall, the benefits of taking Senior Experience are great in number. It is weighted as an honors class, adding the benefit of receiving honors credit for having a great time in an interesting, relaxing, and unique atmosphere. The class is very inclusive, even of those who are quite shy, and the members of the class end up bonding much like a family. Senior Experience is not an opportunity to be missed.

If you interested in taking Senior Experience get your application into guidance as soon as possible. See Mr. Breig, Mr. Cappiello, Mrs. Scully, or your guidance counselor for more information.



Congratulations to the top scorers at the 23rd Annual Suffolk Math Tournament held on Friday, January 8, 2016

12th grade level individual winner: David Morales, 5th place

11th grade level individual winner: Anton Wu, 1st place (perfect score)

11th grade level individual winner (9th grader): Rinni Bhansali, 2nd place

10th grade level individual winner: Ryan Li, 4th place

9th grade level individual winner: Jared Bank, 5th place

Lower Division (9th/10th grade level) winning team: 3rd place Jared Bank, Ray Chang, Kaitlyn Hoxha, Ryan Li, and Aaryav Nagpal

Upper Division (11th/12th grade level) winning team: 1st place Rinni Bhansali (9th grader), David Morales, Brian Rhee, Raymond Weisbrot, and Anton Wu.



S.A.D.D. Update 2015-2016

Nicole Shanker & Jolie Freedman

Staff Writers

Students Against Destructive Decisions, better known as S.A.D.D., is a 35-year old international organization that was created in order to empower kids



Officers and members of the S.A.D.D. Club

to become more educated about making difficult decisions. A few years ago, S.A.D.D. stood for Students Against Drunk Driving, but the club's name was changed so students could expand their knowledge. In the club, we often learn about drug abuse, drunk driving, texting while driving, depression, and other defective decisions that can lead to dangerous outcomes. S.A.D.D. has enhanced our knowledge in many situations and helped us to become more aware of our decisions.

In our school, students in S.A.D.D. get involved by making a contribution to those who need help, learning about the history of S.A.D.D., and discovering the mission to stop students from making bad decisions. The advisor for the S.A.D.D. club is Mrs. Wolff. Throughout the course of the school year, S.A.D.D. takes part in many charities and drives. One drive that S.A.D.D. took part in earlier in the year was a blood drive. The blood drive took place at Hills East and was offered to students aged 16 (with pa-

rental permission) and above, as well as adults in the community. More recently, S.A.D.D. took part in a sweatshirt drive. Students donated new or gently used sweat-shirts to shelters in Suffolk County during the holidays.

At our meetings, we also watch interactive videos that allow us to get insight on why certain decisions can be harmful. After we watch the videos, we discuss and share our opinions. One video we watched talked about a mother who had been an alcoholic for six years. This video really helped us to gain some perspective because the mother talked about how a small problem can develop into a major issue. This video also showed how her addiction to alcohol deeply affected her husband and two children. We also watched a video about a girl who was texting while driving. In addition to the texting, she was also not wearing her seat belt. Her death was not only caused by not wearing a seatbelt and being thrown from the car, but also because she was distracted while texting behind the wheel.

We encourage others to join this club and to become more educated on the impact of destructive decisions!

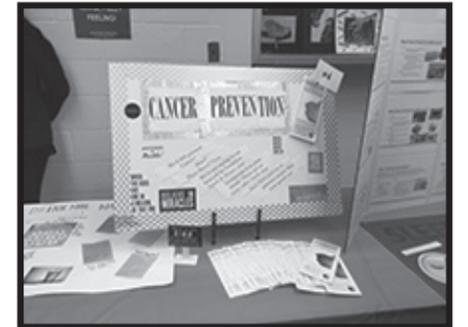
HSE First Annual Health Fair

Alexa Grill

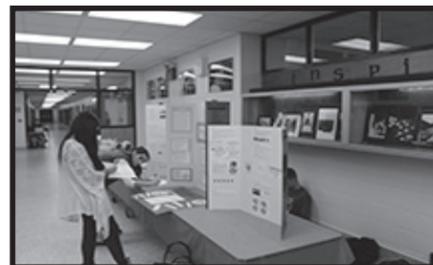
Entertainment Editor

This year, Ms. Aull and the students in her health classes set up an outstanding health fair with the intention of raising awareness and offering healthy snack options to students and staff at HSE. This was the first of this event, and many people hope it will become an annual occurrence. The purpose of the health fair was to advocate for subjects in the areas of health that apply to teenagers. With this being said, the health fair did not consist of a bunch of research papers, but rather of vibrant and colorful posters and informative brochures on the various topics. The students got to choose any topic relating to health for which they would like to advocate, so the result was multiple projects in a wide variety of interesting topics. Everyone who attended the fair was able to vote for their favorite projects; at the end of the fair, first, second, and third place prizes were awarded. The project that got third place was "Music is Life (That's Why Hearts Have Beats)," by Haley Califano. Second place was awarded to "Importance of Sleep," by Julia Nicolosi, Gali Sha-

roni, Emily Silvino, and myself, and finally, first place went to "Cancer Prevention With A Plant-Based Diet," by Brittney Adler, Hallie Braunstein, Ali Price, and Lauren Rosenberg. Each winner received a different amount of money to donate to a charity of their choice: \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third. Overall, the health fair was a huge success and made Ms. Aull very proud! The three organizations that received donations are the *Long Island Crisis Center*, the *American Cancer Society*, and the *Long Island Children's Choir*.



1st place winner: using a plant based diet for cancer prevention.



Students from Ms. Aull's health class view their classmates' work



2nd place winner: the importance of sleep for teens.

Model UN Club Competes at Columbia University

Jamie Miller

Contributor

Students in the Hills East Model United Nations Club traveled to Columbia University to compete in an aggressive battle of nations. Mrs. Merejo, the club advisor, was excited for her students to compete in their first competition of the year. The day consisted of sessions filled with heated debates about the future of various world nations, namely the Central African Republic, Puerto Rico, and Argentina. There were also many more creative debates focusing on topics such as Avatar and the Iroquois Convention. During the tournament, delegates "declared war", invented the Macarena, seceded from the Union, actually achieved world peace, and so much more. For many in the club, this was their first time participating in a Model United Nations tournament. Despite this, the newcomers, along with the experienced members, did a phenomenal job.

Congratulations to the following delegates who each received awards:

- Most Improved: Vaidehi Patel
- Most Improved: Marc Klinger
- Most Improved: Rachel Anselowicz
- Most Improved & CESIMS Winner: Antonio Cruz
- Outstanding: Natasha Bajaj
- Honorable: Mashell Rahmizadeh



Members of the Model UN club participate in a tournament at Columbia University



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The International Feast at the International Banquet

Alexa Grill

Entertainment Editor

The 2015 International Banquet was a huge success! For those who don't know, the International Banquet at High School East is an after school feast prepared by the Spanish, Italian, and French culture clubs and honor societies that is held in the cafeteria. The members from each club contributed by bringing in ethnic foods from their club's particular culture. The food that students brought in could either be store bought or homemade. Some examples of the delicious dishes that students and teachers got to enjoy include: pizza, catered by the Italian Club; burritos, actively made by Spanish Club members; and crepes, excellently prepared by the French Club members. These are just some of the numerous scrumptious cultural foods that each club prepared. Although the banquet officially started at 2:30 in the afternoon,

the line was out the door from the minute the school bell rang at 2:00. Turnout was outstanding, leaving very little in the way of leftovers! In addition to the fact that the International Banquet is a great way to learn about different ethnic foods from various cultures around the world while having fun with your friends, there is also a charitable aspect to it. In order to enter the banquet, students and teachers alike needed to purchase a five dollar ticket. All of the money that was collected was donated to the Cody L. Byrnes Foundation, a charity near and dear to our school. Overall, this year's International Banquet ran very smoothly and was definitely a fun experience for all who attended. If you were not able to make it to this year's International Banquet, I strongly recommend coming next year... everyone is invited!

Spreading Holiday Cheer at James E. Allen

Maddy Propis

School News Editor

This year's holiday show was a huge success! Each year, students from Hills East attend and perform

in a show at both of the James E. Allen schools. These schools are for children with disabilities, including Down's Syndrome and Autism. The student government, with the help from our wonderful advisor, Mrs. Grant, organizes the event and makes sure everything runs smoothly. This year, the Dixettes, cheerleaders, step team, concert choir, and jazz band performed at the Holiday Show. The Dixettes executed an exhilarating dance to Mariah Carey's version of "All I Want For Christmas Is You." The cheerleaders dazzled with their cool stunts and cheers. The step team's performance was extremely entertaining to watch as the kids from the James E. Allen schools had fun trying to "step" along with them. The choir and jazz band demonstrated their excellent techniques,



Dixettes getting into the holiday spirit!



The Concert Choir enjoy some down time before they perform.

bringing exciting music to the school allowing the kids to dance and sing along. At the end of the show, Santa Claus surprised the children, and they all broke out in a delightful sing-along. Hills East students walked around, smiled, and danced as they brought a big dose of holiday cheer to the students at James E. Allen. The Holiday Show is a great way to raise the spirits of young boys and girls during the holiday season.

It also is a great way to give back to the community and help these children smile. The teachers and administration at James E. Allen often tell Hills East students that their students beg for the Holiday Show all year round! The Holiday Show has made a great impact on not only the James E. Allen students, but also High School East students who take part in this event. It is an extremely gratifying and rewarding experience for all involved.

The New PSAT

What is different from the previous PSAT?

Rachel Schier

Staff Writer

Tenth and eleventh grade students across the nation took the PSAT on October 14, 2015. The new PSAT is different from PSATs in the past in many ways, and it is modeled after the impending new SAT, which will be debuted this March. The new PSAT offers only four multiple choice answers instead of five. This is seen as a benefit to many students because when guessing, their chance of getting the answer correct is greater than on the previous PSAT. There are also many changes in timing and questions per section on the new PSAT. The "Reading" section of the new PSAT is 60 minutes and has 47 questions. The "Writing and Language" section of the exam is 35 minutes long and contains 44 ques-

tions. The "Math" section is 70 minutes long and includes 47 questions. Also, while the former PSAT was 2 hours and 10 minutes long, the new exam is now 35 minutes longer at 2 hours and 45 minutes. Many students felt that this exam was too long and believed it should have been less questions. The length of the PSAT is a fraction of the length of the SAT that many students will be taking in the near future, so the longer the test, the better the practice for the real SAT. Overall, it is a good opportunity for sophomores and juniors to get a realistic assessment on where they stand with regard to the upcoming standardized tests of their near futures.

It's Tango Time!

Shelby Gosset

News & Features Editor

¡Vamos Tango! All of the Senior Spanish classes took an amazing trip to the restaurant *Tango!* in Queens, New York. It was an enriching experience in which we learned about Latin American culture, dance, and food.

The first part of our day included two professional dancers teaching us the basics of the tango, the traditional dance of Argentina. We first learned the proper foot steps with our partners. Then, we started to move around the dance floor. After we took our beginner's lesson in tango, the professionals gave us an outstanding performance. When watching these amazing dancers, learning to tango looks extremely challenging. However, once you learn the basics and follow



the music, it's as easy as saying ¡Hola!

After learning to tango, we indulged in some traditional Argentinian food. We tasted everything from empanadas to flan. Empanadas are a stuffed fried pastry filled with meat, cheese, and vegetables. Flan is a custard dessert with a layer of soft caramel on top. All of the food was delicious and very different from the food to which we are typically accustomed. Even though this trip was only for a few hours, it provided us with a wonderful opportunity to learn about a foreign culture. If

you can't travel across the world, you can simply travel across Long Island and learn about these unique cultures that make up our diverse community!

This...is HILLS IDOL

Rachel Penzer

Staff Writer

Saturday, January 30 marked the ninth year of the annual district-wide event known as *Hills Idol*. This is a PTA sponsored event that allows middle and high school students who have a passion for singing to perform in front of their entire district. Students from each middle and high school in the Half Hollow Hills district audition to participate in this event every year. Hills Idol is not just a show, but a competition as well. After auditioning, students who get accepted move into the competition phase. This stage took place this year in the Half Hollow Hills High School East auditorium where over fifty acts were featured.

I interviewed two contestants and West Hollow Middle School students, Maia Penzer and Liv Polani, to find out how they feel about competing against their peers. "We hope we win, but if our friends win, we will be excited for them," they said. The two contestants performed the song "Count on Me," by Bruno Mars as a duet. "We saw the song on the list and thought it was perfect for us because we have to count on each other to perform together," said Maia. I asked them why they felt that this experience would be good for them. "We both love to sing and wanted to have a new performing experience in front of more people," the girls explained. All contestants had to audition at their local high school in order to enter the competition. About fourteen students from each school in our district made it through. After entering to compete, rehearsals took place to prepare

the students for their big performances. Aside from out of school practice, there was one formal rehearsal at both High School East and West. I asked Maia and Liv about the rehearsal process. "Well, we did practice a lot at home to prepare, but the rehearsal at the high school was really helpful. We got to sing with microphones one at a time to get an idea of what our performance would

be like," said Maia. "The staff told us what to work on to make our performance better, like focusing more on the timing," Liv explained.

Students this year sang hits from every genre, both modern and older songs. All of the acts that performed this year showed how hard they worked and displayed incredible talent. However, three acts that stood out to the judges were selected to be the winners of the competition. The winning act representing Half Hollow Hills' middle schools was Shaun Phillips, who sang "When I Was Your Man," by Bruno Mars. The sixth grader won over the crowd by throwing rose petals across the stage and showing extreme personality throughout his performance. Two acts tied as winners for the district's high schools. Sari Pelletier, who sang "Hallelujah," by Jeff Buckley, and Hannah Ritter, who sang "River," by Joni Mitchell, both gave outstanding performances that showcased their powerful voices. Overall, all acts exhibited great preparation and talent. Congratulations to all of the participants! We hope to see you at next year's event!



Hills Idol contestants gather onstage to find out the talented winners



Hills Idol performance stage

LOOKING AT POLITICS IN THE PAST AND PRESENT

The Ten Dollar Founding Father Without a Father

Lauren Peller

Editor-In-Chief

Envision a musical production about a polarizing American Founding Father. Most people would become immediately disinterested because American History is considered particularly boring, and we have studied our country's history since elementary school. It seems implausible

to imagine that a musical based on the life of Alexander Hamilton would appeal to a wide audience base. The Broadway show Hamilton is quite the opposite of what one would expect in a factually based performance. It transcends a biographical history with its unique approach and excites the audience with captivating dancing, singing, and rapping. The fast paced narrative intertwines a love story with political agendas to create a colorful spectacle encompassing tragedy, scandal, and conspiracy. Given the record advanced ticket sales and the difficulty in purchasing a ticket, Hamilton has generated a noteworthy buzz. Its trend setting production has received widespread acclaim, even at the White House. If you can unearth a ticket, I would recommend seeing Hamilton first hand at the Roger Williams Theater in NYC to appreciate this remarkable interpretation of Alexander Hamilton's life story.

Previously known for his music, lyrics, and acting in the Tony Award winning In the Heights from 2008, Lin-Manuel Miranda has reemerged in Hamilton, and he delivers once again with an ingenious production. It is an unconventional musical with a multicultural and multiracial cast, which includes Mr. Miranda in the leading role of Alexander Hamilton. The characters do not sound or look like America's Founding Fathers. In an interview with CBS News, Lin-Manuel Miranda explained, "We take it as a given that hip hop music is the music of the revolution." In this particular case, Miranda has adapted the hip hop music to tell the story of the American Revolution. Creating songs with a distinct hip hop flavor, Miranda aligns the supporting cast to energetically rap about the precarious circumstances during Revolutionary times through which the characters are trying to navigate. It is fascinating to see the comparisons that can be drawn between the struggles that people experience today and the struggles of those who lived during Revolutionary times.

Most people know Hamilton as merely the face on the ten dollar bill. However, he was an integral part of the American Revolution and George Washington's right hand man. As an immigrant who was born in the Bahamas, he propelled

himself from being orphaned and poverty-stricken to becoming the youngest Founding Father of America. Hamilton was a powerful leader and visionary who helped direct a young America. His insecurity about his immigrant background provided the impetus and energy for his vigorous work ethic and ambition. He was just thirty-four when he became the first Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton lived his life with great passion and determination, and he encountered many conflicts and incited enemies as a result. Ultimately, Hamilton was killed when he was shot as a result of the infamous duel with Aaron Burr.

Ron Chernow's 700 page Hamilton biography was Miranda's inspiration to write this play after he read it on vacation a number of years ago. Miranda said, "By the end of the second chapter, I was on google saying that someone had already made this into a musical. How could anyone have not made this into a musical?"

He imagined the perfect marriage of an urban sound and the controversial life story of Alexander Hamilton. When Miranda proposed his idea of a hip hop inspired musical to Ron Chernow, they agreed that it was an undeniable match. Chernow said, "The story of Alexander Hamilton lends itself to hip-hop treatment. Hamilton's personality is driven and unrelenting, and the music has that same quality. The music and the man mirror each other." Additionally, Miranda felt personally connected to the immigrant story of Hamilton as he grew up in a household hearing about his father's experience as a Puerto Rican immigrant coming to the United States.

Although there are no heavy hitting stars in the cast, the individual singing and acting performances are so spectacular that they seem to jump off of the stage. Aside from Miranda's singular performance as Hamilton, many of the other characters perform double duty and create two distinct characterizations. I found the larger than life performance of Marquis de Lafayette/ Thomas Jefferson to be particularly compelling and etched in my memory. The closing song with its haunting melody, "Who lives, who dies, who tells your story," epitomizes Hamilton's life in retrospect and his legacy that has remained. From history buffs to Broadway veterans, the audience, including myself, erupted in a standing ovation. Miranda's Hamilton is not only a culturally impactful masterpiece, but a representation of how much, yet how little things have changed in 300 years.



Don't Count Bernie Out #FeelTheBern

Lauren Peller

Editor-In-Chief

How is it that we have another presidential candidate who is known for his hair? In this case, hair that is often disheveled, like a grandpa who has just awoken from his afternoon nap. Although he would be the oldest person to hold the presidential office, at 74 years old, Bernie Sanders is heading for the democratic primary. Whether he is called crotchety or cranky, Sanders presents himself as someone who only wants to talk about the issues. Talk is an understatement. He is known for his long and passionate speeches, filled with facts and figures. He is not terribly comfortable talking about himself or his colorful past. Some have considered his dry sense of humor to be obscure, yet everyone agrees that he is relatively authentic. Ironically, this is the opposite problem of his main rival, Hillary Clinton, who is trying to convince voters of her sincerity.

Sanders has a varied background, but his most recent past involves politics. Currently, a Senator from Vermont, a position he's held since 2006, he gained experience in the House of Representatives. He considers himself a democratic socialist and wants to ensure that every person has access to food, shelter, healthcare, and a well-paying job. Furthermore, he supports gender equality and a fair share of taxes to be paid by the wealthiest people and large corporations. He is repeatedly heard saying, "I need to fight for working families all over the country." As the son of immigrants who settled in Brooklyn, Sanders did not grow up wealthy. His family struggled to make ends meet, and this experience had a lifelong impression on him. Working his way through the University of Chicago, he majored in political science and became an activist.

He became very involved in the civil rights movement and even participated in the March on Washington. Eventually, he landed in Burlington, Vermont and started climbing the political ladder. Larry David has perfected his parody of Sanders, down to the heavily accented voice and pattern of speech on Saturday Night Live. He even spews numbers as Sanders does. It does not matter the topic, Bernie Sanders has statistics to justify his positions. As a way to uncover five things that are not well known about Sanders, let's consider Bernie by the numbers:

1986 - The year Allen Ginsberg wrote a satire based on Bernie Sanders called "Burlington Snow." Sanders is a champion for some of the more liberal artists in the United States, and Ginsberg had visited him in Vermont to discuss his socialist politics.

1987 - The year Sanders collaborated on a Folk music album. While mayor of Burlington, Vermont, he joined with local musicians to create the album "We Shall Overcome." It was dedicated to the struggle for peace and injustice around the world.

1992 - The year Bernie Sanders became so outraged that he spoke out of turn on the floor of the House of Representatives and still considers it his biggest regret. ABC News quoted him saying that the "White House was a mental hospital where people are completely divorced from reality."

2006 - The year Sanders created a video game as he was working on his senatorial election campaign. It was animated and called "Bernie Arcade." His cartoon character piloted a vintage plane, and the goal was to navigate around the

floating and dangerous obstacles, including the "enemy" special interest groups and big money supporters. He wanted to reiterate that he was never going to be beholden to others and their money as part of his campaign.

2010 - The year Bernie spoke on the Senate floor for eight and a half hours. It is one of the longest speeches ever given. In his speech, he opposed tax cuts that would benefit only the wealthiest individuals.

Looking at these unique facets of Bernie's life, it will be intriguing to see how the public responds to his persona. I wonder what percentage of Bernie Sanders' supporters would love to indulge in a Ben and Jerry's ice cream made in his home state of Vermont.

In a recent interview with Ben Cohen (co-founder of Ben and Jerry's), he described a new flavor that he would like to create called "Bernie's Yearning." He envisioned a disc of chocolate on the top layer with mint ice cream below. The disc represents the 90% of the wealth that has gone into the pockets of the wealthiest individuals who are only 10% of the total population. Ben Cohen described how to eat it by saying, "You take your spoon and you whack that big chocolate disc into little pieces and mix it around," indicating the spreading of the wealth, and "There you have it, Bernie's Yearning."



Source: businessinsider.com



Source: odysseyonline.com

LEGACY OF TITLE IX

Can You Legislate A “Safe Campus”?

Gibran C. Boyce

Op/Ed Editor

The issue of sexual assault on campus is anything but new. The problem has continued to persist for decades and only recently have colleges and political leaders begun to take action in the form of what is commonly referred to as the “Safe Campus Act” or the “Clery Act”. However, many voices on campuses across the country now criticize those actions and question if it is the appropriate answer to the problem facing our nation’s campuses. The bill was introduced to the House of Representatives by Republican Representatives Matt Salmon, Pete Sessions, and Kay Granger on July 29, 2015. The bill aims to prevent colleges from pursuing internal investigations in cases of campus sexual assaults. This restriction would legally require survivors of sexual assault to report the crime to the police in order to see justice done and would remove any discretion campuses previously had to make judgment calls on whether the charges had merit and what the appropriate punishment should be for the accused if it did.

College punishment for inappropriate behavior has ranged from minor suspensions to expulsion, but was long harshly criticized because there were charges that many times, despite tremendous evidence to the contrary, colleges dismissed and allowed accusers to cope with harassment from the accused, making the learning environment unbearable and making many victims shy away from pursuing complaints. The new legislation is intended to treat all complaints as fully criminal accusations. However, according to Elura Nanos from the Huffington Post, “this legislation would actually prohibit colleges and universities from investigating sexual assault cases or punishing sexual predators until the victim reports the crime to police. It makes no requirement that any other crime is reported to police. Schools can still investigate and discipline drug dealers, robbers, thieves, and harassers. The only criminals who will be shielded are sexual offenders.” If true, this may cause the accuser to be exposed to the accused for an even longer period of time.

The Safe Campus Act is not new, but came out of much earlier legislative actions that sought to protect the

educational, physical, and athletic experiences of women on campus over 40 years ago. On June 23, 1972, the 92nd United States Congress enacted Title IX (Nine) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a law that amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 and a number of other Education Acts of earlier years. Today, most students associate the law – which was crafted by Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana to address bias against females – with granting female athletes equal treatment on college campuses as their male counterparts. Commonly referred to as Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Title IX is approaching its 44th anniversary this year.

The law was born out of a time when male athletes habitually received college scholarships and other preferential treatment, while female athletes were given no such equal privilege or financial benefit for their contributions to athletics on campuses. Title IX sought to grant male and female athletes equivalent treatment, benefits, and opportunities, in addition to considerations and accommodations. However, Title IX soon became far greater than athletics, as its granting of equal rights to men and women in every aspect of education and federal funding resulted in its use to fight for a wide range of issues on campuses.

Not everyone is fond of Title IX. Critics believe that granting equality to girls has come at the expense of male athletes. The pressure has come from the need to have equal representation of girls and boys in athletics, and some believe that if there are less female athletes interested in playing, then it may force the decision to have less male athletes play to maintain the kind of equality of which Title IX speaks. However, never at its inception would Senator Bayh - or any other architect of the amendment - have imagined that Title IX would have become a critical litmus test in determining another kind of inequality on campus – one that comes with sexual assault and harassment of women. However, according to a 2011 opinion by the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, “The Sexual harassment of students ... interferes with students’ right to receive an education free from discrimination and ... is a crime.” Title IX applies to all programs that are located at educational institutions, and sexual assault or harassment are considered a main hindrance to equal access to edu-

educational rights.

Welcome to the *Clery Act* or *Safe Campus Act* in 2016. This more intense accounting for criminal behavior on campus originated with a perception that certain sexual and other violent crimes were occurring on campuses and were either being under-reported by female students that were afraid and embarrassed, or when they were reported, they were being handled by universities that were ill-prepared to manage such violent crimes through normal university channels. For example, there were reported instances of male students not even being suspended following such reports and female students dropping out of colleges when the embarrassment that comes with running into their harasser or the fear of being further harassed became too much.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) have become more strict in how they enforce Title IX violations, particularly as it relates to gender-equity and sexual harassment or violence. The magazine focused on the results of 46 cases that were elevated to the most serious complaint level by OCR of what allegedly occurred to female students on campus. However, no matter what you think on this issue, it always begs the question: Should a university be in the business of investigating sexual harassment, or is that a matter strictly for the public court system? OCR has also been far more public in their findings against several colleges and universities where several incidents are still under investigation.

In 2015, a highly lauded documentary-film on sexual abuse on college campuses was released, as the college culture of drinking, unfortunate assault, investigations, and remorse were examined – profiling a number of students whose lives were forever changed by these alleged assaults. It is a film that each student, independent of gender, should see before going to college. Knowledge is understanding that female students in their freshman year of college are at greatest risk for assault during the so-called “Red Zone” period – the first six weeks of college where a female student is at greatest risk of being raped or dealing with unwanted sexual harassment. Unfortunately, the corresponding period is also the one that male students

are at greatest risk of having their lives destroyed should they participate in or be charged with an assault. It is time for high school students to gain this information before heading to college in the hope that a few lives might avoid being negatively altered due to lack of knowledge. As universities seek to stay within the fine lines of Title IX rules and regulations and not run afoul of OCR, colleges and universities are far more careful (read rigid) in how they deal with such complaints of harassment and will ultimately become far more ready to punish those caught harassing others out of fear that their reputation become harmed by victims readily going public or by OCR harshly judging them and demanding even more rigid policies and procedures of them when it is felt that they are incapable of managing these events on their campuses.

The question that remains is can one ever really legislate a “Safe Campus”? *The Clery Act* is seeking to do so, and at a minimum, its more rigid reporting rules will make universities more careful with managing such unacceptable behavior and empower students and parents to take that data into consideration when choosing a college. Campuses are subject to the same composition of people as the general



population, which means as well that it is subject to the same range of criminal behavior as we see in the general population. However, we have long gone off to college expecting “perfect” lives for four years, and every effort has to be made to protect the very young and, at times, very naïve students on campus. *The Safe Campus Act* has become a very powerful enhancement to earlier acts. Not only does it have the potential to protect many students from unfair treatment on campuses, but it also has the power to destroy the lives of many students that end up being unfairly charged. Understanding its role in our lives as we move from high school to college is very important. There is no time more important to do so than before high school graduation.

Security Officer Throws High School Girl Out of her Seat

Aditi Patil

Staff Writer

In mid-October of 2015, a shocking video was released online of a security officer at Spring Valley High School in South Carolina throwing a girl out of her seat and to the ground as the rest of her class watched and recorded the horrific events. Due to the video’s shocking and violent nature, it went viral all over social media. The officer, Ben Fields, was called into the classroom when a girl was misbehaving. When he arrived, he ordered

her to get out of her seat. When the teen refused, he stated “Either you’re coming with me or I’ll make you.”

Ben Fields has a reputation for violence against African Americans. He once tackled and beat an African American veteran in Penn Station. The army veteran, Curtis Wilson, spoke out against this horrific injustice by stating: “The video is going to be helpful because it shows us what happened.” Ben Fields has consistently acted with aggression toward the stu-

dents in Spring Valley High School, and this video provides necessary evidence to finally discipline him for multiple incidences of wrongdoing.

The school district took the proper steps to remove Fields from his job. He was removed from duty and kept under administrative watch. The school’s superintendent also noted how disturbing the video was and that the officer had no reason to use force in order to address the situation in the classroom. This

video continues to draw attention to the impact social media has had on incidents between white police officers and African Americans.

Girls in STEM When You Criticize Them, They Do Not Cry!

Gibran C. Boyce

Op/Ed Editor

Did you know that 66% of fourth grade girls say that they like science and math, but only 18% of all college engineering majors are female? We live in a society where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers remain male-dominated because the silencing of females is perpetuated. Oftentimes it is because notions as old as time, such as females not belonging in a laboratory, persist today. The trends and statistics say it all; by middle school, girls are choosing to move away from STEM fields because they feel as though it is a world reserved only for their male cohort. As girls, we will often be encouraged to dumb-ourselves-down or to select an “easier” career path - one that will not intimidate others or one that will allow us to have more time to spend with our family one day. As Lily Myers puts it in her spoken-word poem “Shrinking Women”: *“I wonder if my lineage is one of women shrinking. I have been taught accommodation. My brother never thinks before he speaks. I have been taught to filter. [He has] been taught to grow out; I have been taught to grow in.”*

For centuries, women have continued to “grow in” with only a handful of women finding the courage to “grow out.” However, when women do grow outward in their interests and pursue STEM careers, it often comes at a price with little peer respect and tremendous self-sacrifice. Women in science have long complained about the field’s negative work environments that discourage them and discredit their work. The deep biases in the field were seen last year when Tim Hunt – the 2001 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine winner – said of female scientists: “Let me tell you about my trouble with girls ... three things happen when they are in the lab ... You fall in love with them, they fall in love with you, and when you criticize them, they cry.” His huge idea? Single sex labs. The royal Society in England, where Dr. Hunt is a fellow, came out with its own public response,

saying that “... in order to achieve everything that it can, science needs to make the best use of the research capabilities of the entire population ... Too many talented individuals do not fulfill their scientific potential because of issues such as gender and the Society is committed to helping to put this right.” The scientific community is fraught with examples of insensitive male bias, and women in STEM are greatly outnumbered.

According to The Guardian newspaper of England, only 13% of professionals working in STEM in the U.K. are women, and 84% of full-time professors in academia working in STEM are men. How can women succeed in STEM, or even feel comfortable enough to stay in STEM, when mentorship at the highest level of the field is so limited? Women in Research, a U.S. based group that tracks the progress of women in the scientific community, states that one fourth of STEM jobs are held by women. Further, at a time when women are going to college in greater numbers than men, when women hold 60% of bachelor’s degrees, women still hold less than 20% of degrees in computer science.

Over the centuries, as men spent their lives finding the beauty in theorems and mathematical equations, our society taught girls how to find beauty in makeup and mirrors. Girls have traded in their calculators for lipstick tubes and their science fair projects for “YouTube Beauty Guru” tips. Why is it that we allow our 13-year old girls to spend more time perfecting their winged eyeliner than perfecting their theories on how to find a cure for cancer? Maybe if we started letting our girls see the beauty in both themselves and equations, their ability to change the world might be incredible. Despite setbacks, women continue to press ahead to make amaz-

ing strides in every sector and field, at the front-end of law, diplomacy, and even medicine. However, it still takes effort, particularly in the sciences, for this to be accomplished. NASA’s announcement a few weeks ago that, for the first time in their history, half of the newest astronaut class is female was a spectacular one. Four women were selected along with four men to join the newest pool of NASA astronaut



training, chosen from a pool of over 6,000 applicants. The women will join an elite group of only 58 females to have ever traveled beyond the Earth’s atmosphere. Yes

spa ce, like laboratories, has historically been a male-dominated career; it is why Sally Ride, our first American woman in Space, still warms our heart.

To bring about change, we would need to encourage young girls to maintain their interest in the field at a time when the voices of many teenage girls are being silenced in classrooms – particularly in science ones. One just has to look at AP participation rates of girls versus boys in the sciences to see the problem at its root. For the Class of 2013, the percentages of female students taking STEM-related AP courses were as follows: 59% Biology, 47% in Chemistry, 23% in Physics C, 41% in Calculus BC, and a shocking 19% in Computer Science A. So it is little surprise that the numbers of women in STEM get smaller and smaller into the STEM careers.

From the things we watch to the interactions and experiences we have, we are all influenced by society in some way. Whether it’s the silencing of females in classrooms or the conditioning of young girls to believe the fallacy of Disney princesses whose priorities were to look beautiful and be saved by a handsome prince through marriage. It serves as a constant reminder that these

are the gender roles they are expected to fulfill – girls as beautiful, faithful maidens rather than girls as leaders, executives, and scientists (of course, all of the above can also coexist). It was only recently that Disney started changing the role models they set for girls – one example being the movie “Brave”, in which Princess Merida chooses to find strength in herself before she finds strength in a man.

Linda B. Buck, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine, said once that, “As a woman in science, I sincerely hope that my receiving a Nobel Prize will send a message to young women everywhere that the doors are open to them and that they should follow their dreams.” Maybe some day, but women in science still have a long way to go to find equity, and it starts with the encouragement of girls in the lower grades to explore science with the confidence that they do belong there if they choose to be and that they do have the aptitude to excel in it and make a difference. Too often, we give up on, or are discouraged from pursuing, science before we even learn of its true potential and our scientific aptitude.

Former Texas Governor, Ann Richards, once said, “Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels.” The same is true of women in science. There is absolutely no basis to believe that female scientists are not capable of making as much of a difference to their field as their male colleagues, in fact, bringing new perspectives and a different set of lens to age-old scientific problems. There is little doubt that women will continue to accomplish amazing things, in the world of science and beyond. As actress Amy Poehler said recently, “It takes years as a woman to unlearn what you have been taught to be sorry for. It takes years to find your voice and seize your real estate.” As young women, we each need to find our voice to truly realize our potential, no matter which career we choose to pursue. For women pursuing careers in science, that voice must never waiver.

Should Schools Have a “Two-Hour Delay” Everyday? Early School Start Times are Unhealthy for Students

Dylan Irwin

Staff Writer

In America, most public schools start at ridiculously early times in the morning. Early school start times have been proven by doctors and other health professionals to be highly unhealthy for teens. As stated by Anne Wheaton, a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) epidemiologist, “Adolescents who do not get enough sleep are more likely to be overweight; not engage in daily physical activity; suffer from depressive symptoms; engage in unhealthy risk behaviors such as drinking, smoking tobacco, and using illicit drugs; and perform poorly in school.” Many people think the resolution to this problem is for teens to just get to bed earlier. However, that is much more easily said than done, and the solution is much more complex.

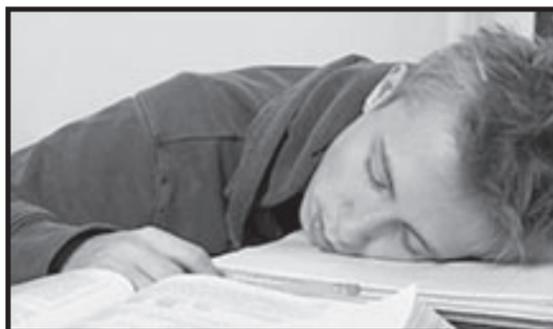
During adolescence, the human body’s sleeping pattern naturally shifts, and it is more difficult for teenagers to fall asleep earlier than 11 p.m. As Wheaton’s team describes it: “In puberty, biological rhythms commonly shift so that adolescents become sleepy later at night and need to sleep later in the morning.” This

is due to teenagers releasing melatonin, a hormone in the brain that induces drowsiness, later than adults. A teenager should be getting approximately 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep each night. Most teens wake up between 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. for school, which means they would have to go to sleep by about 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The naturally later release of melatonin in teens makes an earlier bedtime much more difficult.

According to Tania Kohut, when a teen’s alarm goes off at 7:00 a.m., it is the same result of a 4:30 a.m. alarm for a person in their fifties. Teenagers cannot just simply fall asleep whenever their parents tell them to or at times they would wish. In addition to this, the somatic changes and development teens undergo throughout adolescence are exceedingly imperative,

and during sleep, important body functions and brain activity occur. Insufficient amounts of sleep fosters a greater risk of individuals developing depression.

As previously indicated, most students do not necessarily want to stay up later.



Source: educationnews.org

Typically, they have to stay up to get their work done on top of packed d a y t i m e s c h e d u l e s . This often results in 28% of students falling asleep during the first class of the day according to

a National Sleep Foundation poll. Still, 42.5% of the United States’ public high schools start classes before 8 a.m. according to the Wall Street Journal. That is just the first bell, not including the commute which can take over 30 minutes for some students depending on the distance of their home from the school they attend. In a recent study of eight high schools in the

United States that pushed back their start times, researchers saw clear improvement in students’ grades and attendance, and a decrease in teen car accidents. According to LiveScience.com, “Drivers ages 17 to 24 who reported sleeping six or fewer hours per night were about 20% more likely to be involved in a car crash over a two-year period, compared with those who slept more than six hours a night.” The first bell should really ring at 8:30 a.m. or later, for most students to be in their best condition during school, which the Wall Street Journal also noted is the case at only 15% of U.S. high schools right now.

Sleeping is very vital in a teenager’s life. Middle and high schools that start later in the day tend to have less exhausted students, less tardiness, more kids paying attention, and better academic performance than schools that start earlier in the morning. Although there are many reasons behind why many schools in America do start at early times, it would be better for the students’ health and performance if school started at a more reasonable time.

COVER TO COVER: 2016 AP ART HISTORY INSTALLATION

Lauren Peller

Editor-In-Chief

Each year, the AP Art History classes create an annual art installation that stems from an artist who has been particularly inspiring. With this year being the 10th anniversary year of the HSE art installation, the AP Art History Class chose Xu Bing's *Book from the Sky* as the impetus to examine written word art. This work is considered a turning point in contemporary Chinese art because he excelled in the art form of calligraphy and was trained to utilize that skill for propaganda purposes during the cultural revolution in China. *Book from the Sky* reveals the use of calligraphy texts to create an abstract landscape including the land, sea, and sky. Curiously, the calligraphic words that Bing chose to draw in his installation do not actually mean anything. The landscape is comprised by the billowing sky represented by hanging sheets of hand scrolls on the ceiling, the sea of waves represented by open books on the floor, and the land represented by the walls filled with vertical panels of written sheets.

The AP Art History Class designed their interpretation of written word art into an art installation with three students representing each of the previous nine years of installations. Words, designs, paintings, photographs, and different materials were used to represent each year's installation. Additionally, the purpose of this installation was to highlight the impact the previous installations have made on our school. To make this experience even more meaningful, many Art History students of the past years returned to HSE to participate. These former students acted as mentors and provided a depth of insight into the inspiration behind their year's installation.

Since "Cover to Cover" is connected to books and the written language, it can be found outside of the school's library so everyone at HSE can walk past and appreciate the installation. On January 8, 2016, the AP Art History students, including myself, spent the entire school day setting up this installation. Everyone gained satisfaction in being part of something so visually impactful. A current AP Art History student, Matthew Gillman, said, "the installation impacted me because it made me feel like a bigger part of the High School East community and like I had made some kind of permanent impact on the school. My favorite part of the installation

was the time we spent working on it the day we actually installed it. I loved getting to work together with everyone in the art history class and getting help from other art students who had off periods."

With a tribute to the past AP Art History students and their installations, this installation has held a special meaning for everyone involved. The pieces to this installation will be stored in a 'time capsule' for the 20th year anniversary.

AP Art History teacher, Mrs. Uttendorfer, was so excited with the way the installation was realized. Mrs. Uttendorfer said, "I am proud to have introduced so many students over the past 10 years to installation art and to see how each was reinterpreted by a new group of art history students was like taking a trip into the past. I think this installation was my favorite to date because I felt a sense of accomplishment reflecting on my instruction and time at HSE." She is proud of the AP Art History class for working so diligently and being devoted to such a creative and provoking installation. Without the help of Mrs. Uttendorfer and her amazing guidance, organization, creativity, and support, the installation would not have been as successful.



Art History Student excited about the Installation.



Lindsay Korman said, "My favorite part of the installation was studying and learning about the past installations that I was never able to see before. This was my favorite part because it showed the progress of how the installations have evolved over the years."

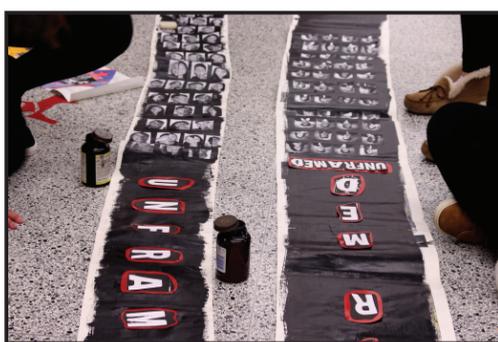


Rachael Newman said, "What I loved about the installation is that it brought our class closer together. We worked as a team to create our installation and we pulled it off. It was a great feeling of accomplishment and pride. It definitely unified us as a class and inspired us to show our creativity."



Luke Siegel said, "The installation will always be something I remember from high school. I got to work closely with my classmates and previous Art History students. I loved how each year was so distinct from the others. It is very appealing to the eye, and I hope the student body appreciates all the hard work my class and teacher put into this installation. Art History is such an amazing class, and I hope people decide to take it because the class has inspired me to love art even more than I already do."

Maryanne Mahoney said, "The installation allowed me to feel part of something bigger than myself, and being able to directly contribute with my peers to create something that our whole school will see was really exciting. My favorite part of the installation was the fact that it encompassed the previous nine years of installations at our school, and I got to be part of that experience!"



Showcasing Thunderbird Talent: Art Day 2016

Lauren Peller

Editor-In-Chief

Hills East's Annual *Art Day* was once again a great success! In addition to students and staff from High School East in attendance, many



Ceramic students working on a pottery wheel

eighth-graders from West Hollow Middle School came to view the various art displays showcasing the various art courses available at High School East. Upperclassmen currently enrolled in the art classes demonstrated a sampling of their projects. The intention was to provide inspiration to budding artists and to give them a taste of classes that would further develop their skills. One of the highlights was the annual art installation organized by AP Art History students called "Cover to Cover." Since it was the 10th year celebration of these art installations, the displays showed how the installations progressed over the past ten years at HSE. The architecture students provided models of their projects so the students could visualize a concrete sample of their work. Photography students posted their prints on a bulletin board, and students who are interested in photography could explore the dark room. The students who take ceramics were tediously working on the pottery wheel so everyone could see them transforming the clay first hand. Drawing and



Rachel Rosenstein creatively working on her photo project.

Painting students demonstrated their talent and passion as they worked on their canvases. Many current art students were on hand to display their interest and excitement so that more students will catch the fever and want to enroll in art classes.

I had the opportunity to speak with

a passionate Photo III student, Rachel Rosenstein.

Thunderbird: What was your role in *Art Day*?

Rachel: My role was to represent the photography program.

TB: What project were you working on during *Art Day*?

Rachel: I was working on an elongation collage that involved cutting my photograph into strips and gluing it back together in an interesting way.

TB: Why do you feel it is so important to have the annual *Art Day* at HSE?

Rachel: *Art Day* is important because it is a way for HSE students to be exposed to the various types of arts our school has to offer and also to see the talent of our art students.

TB: Do you believe *Art Day* encourages the eighth graders to take art classes at HSE?

Rachel: Yes, I strongly believe *Art Day* encourages the middle school students to become interested in the many art classes offered at HSE. *Art Day* allows the upcoming freshman who are in the studio in art program at West Hollow to see our vast art programs and hopefully find an interest in one of them for next year. It gives them a vision of what the art classes entail.

TB: Has a specific teacher impacted your art career at HSE?

Rachel: Mrs. Uttendorfer in particular has had an enormous impact on my art career at High School East. She has taught me from the basics how to work a film, as well as digital camera, and everything I need to know to take a well composed photograph. I have had her for all three of my years at HSE, and she has truly inspired my love for photography. Her passion has made me even more passionate, and the amount that I have learned from her in three years is tremendous.

TB: What was your favorite and most memorable part of *Art Day*?

Rachel: My favorite part of *Art Day* was when the middle school students came to the high school because my sister was one of them. I had the ability to show her all of the artwork that the drawing and painting students, the architecture students, the fashion students, the media arts students, and the photography students have done thus far this year. She was amazed by the talent and skill of the HSE students. She got to look at my photography artwork as well and like myself, she too has a strong passion for photography. Being able to look at the photography students' projects has made her decision definite that she will be starting the photo sequence next year.

I also had the opportunity to speak with Rachael Newman, an amazing

Photo III student and Public Relations Manager of National Art Honor Society (NAHS).

Thunderbird: How has *Art Day* impacted you? Can you describe what your role in *Art Day* was?

Rachael: During *Art Day*, I was in charge of the photography tours. I worked with Gabby Spiegel, who is currently in AP photo. We showed the 8th graders our previous finished work and an overview of the classroom. Our main focus was showing them our dark room. We did a demonstration with them and showed them the process of developing a print. They were beyond excited and so interested in joining the class next year! It was so enlightening to think I was once in their shoes. Thinking back to *Art Day* in eighth grade, I remember the upperclassmen who inspired me pursue a high school art career encompassing three sequences of Photography and hopefully AP Photography as a senior. It felt amazing to share my love for art and photography with eighth graders, just like the upperclassmen did when I came for *Art Day* many years ago.

Photography has always been a passion of mine, and I was so excited to share my love for art with them and hopefully inspire them.

TB: What was your favorite and most memorable part of *Art Day*?

Rachael: My favorite part of *Art Day* was after all the tours were finished and the middle schoolers gathered to check out all of our work in progress. Selected art students spend the day working and creating new pieces. Together, we all help each other and have fun. It is so amazing seeing the 8th graders' interest and explaining to them our amazing art program. It is always exciting to see them getting so involved and ready for their high school art experiences.

TB: What role does NAHS play in *Art Day*?

Rachael: NAHS works hard at making sure the 8th graders see all of their opportunities for the upcoming year. It is our job to promote the art program and make sure these young and talented artists choose to continue through the many sequences. The NAHS board has gone to the middle school and worked with the Studio in Art students. About a month ago,

before the AP Art History class installed "Cover to Cover," we went to the middle school to create a book that was actually presented in the installation. There, we introduced ourselves so they learned a few familiar faces and could ask any questions they may have. When they came to *Art Day*, the NAHS board met up with them again and spoke more in depth about the art classes. We got to specifically talk about what sequences and classes they may want



Art teachers pose for a picture in the photo booth.

to take. They all seem to be ready to start their new art journey with HSE!

HSE has always been known as a place where the arts are not only enjoyed, but embraced. Over the years, the talented students of HSE have explored vast avenues of artistic expression. In an effort to further



A display of students' work

showcase and promote the talent, HSE began *Art Day* and the *AP Art Installation* a decade ago. In a time where the ability to express oneself artistically is so important, we are lucky to be someplace every day where our love for art is fostered and given the opportunity to grow. East has had tremendous success over the past ten years with its annual *Art Day*, and I can't wait to see what year eleven brings!



Z100 Jingle Ball Takes Madison Square Garden

Emily Disman

Entertainment Editor

This past December, people all over the country experienced the concert of the year! Jingle Ball, hosted by New York's own Z100, is an amazing concert that occurs annually and is always filled with some of the most popular singers of the year. On December 11, 2015, Madison Square Garden in New York City was filled with anxious fans waiting to experience the concert of a lifetime.

Australian superstars *5 Seconds of Summer* started the show with a bang! Performing their hit singles "She's Kinda Hot," "What I Like About You," and "Don't Stop,"

the band did a great job kicking off the show with energy and excitement. Next up was the singer of Billboard's Hot 100 top single, "See You Again," Charlie Puth, who also put on a great performance at the concert. After performing his new singles, "Marvin Gaye" and "One Call Away," Puth sang the holiday classic, "I'll Be Home For Christmas." *DNCE* got everyone in the holiday spirit when they brought out a bunch of men wearing Santa Claus outfits during their performance of "Cake By the Ocean." Joe Jonas, lead singer of the group, ended his performance by crowd surfing through the audience!

Both Tove Lo and Hailee Steinfeld also offered the crowd noteworthy performances. Hot songs "Talking Body" and "Love Myself" had the whole crowd excited and dancing.

Shawn Mendes put on an amazing performance, singing his hit songs "Something Big," "Stitches," and "Life of the Party." After wowing the crowd with his set, Shawn invited Camila Cabello, member of Fifth Harmony and his alleged girlfriend, on stage to sing their single, "I Know What You Did Last Summer." The crowd went crazy when the duo began to sing.

Rap star, Fetty Wap, made it rain after his performance of "Trap Queen." Fetty got the whole crowd singing and dancing as he went on to perform his other big hit "679." R City and Conrad

Review: Adele 25

Nicoletta Gasparis

Staff Writer

After a few years of a musical disappearance, Adele had a recent revival with her new hit-album, *25*, this past November. After deciding to taking a hiatus and almost quitting the music industry altogether, Adele made an astonishing reappearance. Adele has made millions off of her new album, and her songs remain at the top of the charts, even today.

After the release of Adele's album, *21*, in 2011, she considered stopping her music career. However, after some reconsideration, she simply decided just to take a break in order to take care of herself and her son. After her break, she returned to the studio in 2013 to write some more songs and record her new



Z-100's Lineup for the Jingle Ball

Sewell, although having shorter sets than other artists, still put on a show with interactive and fun performances.

Singing songs such as "Jealous," "Chains," and "Levels," Nick Jonas got the crowd pumped for the rest of the show. Every person sitting in the audience sang along to Nick's hit songs.

Fifth Harmony started their set with a slow Christmas song and then broke out into their upbeat hits that everyone adores. The whole crowd sang along to their number one singles, including "Worth It," "Bo\$\$," and "Sledgehammer."

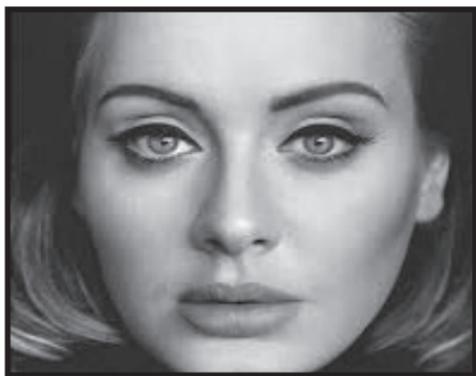
Zedd and Calvin Harris both got the crowd going with their amazing DJ skills. Calvin played some of his amazing songs including "How Deep is Your Love," "Blame," "Summer," and "I Need Your Love." Overall, he put on an awesome set. On the other hand, Zedd played songs such as "Clarity" and "Beautiful Now." He brought Selena Gomez on stage with him to sing their hit song "I Want You To Know."

Speaking of Selena Gomez, she also put on a show while performing songs from her new album *Revival*. The whole audience was dancing along with her to "Same Old Love," "Good For You," and "Hands to Myself." Selena then surprised the crowd by singing one of her oldest, yet one of her most popular, songs, "Love You Like a Love Song." Demi Lovato presented the crowd with some of her new songs including "Cool For the Summer" and "Confident." She did an outstanding job during her performance.

Finally, The Weeknd ended the show perfectly with his astonishing set including, "In The Night," "Earned It," "Love Me Harder," and everyone's favorite, "Can't Feel My Face." Once again, Z100's Jingle Ball was an absolute hit, and it couldn't have gone any better! Fans are already anticipating what will be in store for this year's concert, scheduled for December 2016.

album. However while working on some new songs, Adele encountered a "writer's block," something she unfortunately feared she could never recover from. Finally, Adele had a breakthrough. After this long, strenuous journey, she reached her destination. Her album debuted number one in more than 25 markets, broke first-week sales record in multiple countries, and over 15 million copies have been sold worldwide.

Featuring songs like "Hello," "When We Were Young," and "Million Years Ago" as well as many others, Adele's new album is a sensational hit that has topped the charts and has rejuvenated Adele's singing career.



New Artist Spotlight: Rachel Platten

Wildfire EP Review

Austin Krach

Staff Writer

At this time last year, Rachel Platten was getting ready to perform at a house show for 20-30 people. Now, her songs are being played regularly in households and on televisions and radios throughout the United States. If you listened to the radio this past summer, chances are that you've heard Rachel Platten's hit single "Fight Song". This song reached a peak of #6 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and topped the charts in the U.K. Currently, "Fight Song" is certified triple platinum by the RIAA, and it even claimed the #1 spot on iTunes. While it may seem that Rachel is an overnight success, she has spent over a decade trying to find her place in music.

Rachel never got the break she needed to become a powerhouse in the music industry until recently. Rachel released two albums titled *Trust In Me* in 2003 and *Be Here* in 2011; however, these albums were not commercial successes. Even after these albums, Rachel was still hungry to become a household name. After years of hard work, she was signed to Columbia Records in early 2015. Everything was a whirlwind from there for Rachel. She started off by going on tour with Andy Grammer and Alex & Sierra; it was at one of these shows when I saw her live and first heard of Rachel. I was instantly hooked! She continued her successful streak, and that summer, she went on tour with Christina Perri and Colbie Caillat.

One of Rachel's biggest fans is none other than international superstar, Taylor Swift. Taylor loves Rachel's "Fight Song" so much that she invited her to perform it with her in front of 50,000

Justin Bieber's New Album Gives Him Purpose

Lexie Reiffman, Emily Metaxas, Lyndsey Delouya

Staff Writers

Justin Bieber's come back is in full force as he released his first new album since 2012. As you all may know, due to much buzz on social media and in the news, the album is called *Purpose* and came out on November 13, 2015. The album transformed the singer's reputation as a tabloid joke to a serious artist and has brought him much success. Not only did *Purpose* beat *One Direction's* competing album on the Billboard charts, but it also managed to contain the most songs in the Hot 100 in one week. In addition, *Purpose* reached number one on Billboard's Hot 200 and also had three songs in the Hot 100 top five. Some of the most popular songs on this album are "Love Yourself," "Sorry," and "What Do You Mean." They remained in the top ten on the charts for weeks. Bieber collaborated with some of the hottest artists for a few other songs on this album, including Big Sean in "No Pressure," Travis Scott in "No Sense," Halsey in "The Feeling," Skrillex and Diplo in "Where Are U Now," and Nas in "We Are."

With a new album out, Bieber has re-

cently gained a lot of positive attention from the press that he hasn't received in years. His *Purpose* Tour is expected to begin on March 9, 2016, and if you haven't purchased tickets yet, you are out of luck, because rumor has it that they are already

people in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Swift's *1989 World Tour*. While it might've seemed like it was too late for a 34 year old aspiring superstar to achieve global fame, Rachel Platten is finally accomplishing her dreams. Ironically, Platten's current success and happiness came from a place of despair and frustration. After Rachel's first two albums did not give her the big break she thought they would, she began to question if the music industry was for her. Ultimately, Rachel decided to keep on fighting for her music to be heard. She didn't care about how many people heard her sing; she wanted her music to touch people. This internal tug-of-war about whether or not to believe in herself bred her hit "Fight Song." While "Fight Song" is about Rachel's struggle with her music career, the song also was given a new life by people suffering from illnesses. The anthemic song about not giving up and believing in yourself has inspired so many different people to tell their own life stories.

Rachel Platten started 2016 by releasing her third album and debut record label album *Wildfire* on January 1. The album title came about due to Rachel's manager telling her not to try to warm up to other people's fire; Rachel has to make her own fire, and people will go to it. Once "Fight Song" was created, Rachel knew that she had a fire. Thus, her album was appropriately named *Wildfire*. *Wildfire* debuted at #5 on the Billboard 200 and peaked at #2 on iTunes. Rachel is embarking on her first headlining tour, *The Wildfire Tour*, this spring. Rachel Platten is living proof that you can achieve anything if you believe in yourself.

Not only will Bieber be performing in the United States, but also in Canada and Europe. After almost a year's worth of concerts, the tour will end on November 29, 2016 in London, England. Although it will be tiring, Bieber must be excited to go on tour as he hasn't been since 2013 with his *Believe* Tour.

With the release of a killer album, Justin is back on track and better than ever. *Purpose* has helped him reveal to the world that he is only human, and he is more than the mistakes that he has made in life. While being a celebrity can come with fancy parties and luxurious items, it also entails having your whole life being documented by the paparazzi, including all of the ups and downs. Bieber is definitely one to know that this type of pressure can be hard, but he puts his past aside with this new album. He truly has found his own purpose in life by writing this album and has graciously accepted the overwhelming support of his fans.



Fan Favorites at the PCAs

Emily Disman

Entertainment Editor

The 2016 People's Choice Awards were a huge success! Hosted by Jane Lynch, the show was fun and entertaining for all who watched and encompassed everyone's three favorite types of entertainment: TV, Movies, and Music. This award show is typically more enjoyable for viewers because the fans get to vote for the winners. Jane Lynch opened the show with a very entertaining performance of "Shut Up and Dance," where she left the audience in hysterics with her singing and dancing. This was just the beginning of keeping the whole audience entertained as she continued to make jokes for the duration of the show.

The first award presented was for Favorite Comedic Actress. This award went to Melissa McCarthy for the second year in a row. However, McCarthy was not the only one who won an award for a second time. *Grey's Anatomy* won the award for Favorite Network TV Drama, *Pretty Little Liars* won Favorite Cable TV Drama, Jimmy Fallon won Favorite Late Night Talk Show Host, *The Simpsons* won Favorite Animated TV Show, and Carrie Underwood won Favorite Female Country Artist- all for the second time in a row! It only got better as *The Voice* won the award for Favorite Competition Show, and Ellen DeGeneres won the PCA for Favorite Daytime TV Host, both for the third year in a row!

The award for Favorite TV Show was one of the biggest awards of the night. With a multitude of genres and actors, this award was one of the most difficult to win. *The Big Bang Theory* ended up taking home the award for the second year in a row. This show also won the award for Favorite Network TV Comedy for the fourth year in a row.

Kevin Hart won the award for Favorite Cable TV Actor, as well as the award for Favorite Comedic Movie Actor. The PCA for Favorite Cable Sci-Fi/ Fantasy TV Show went to *Outlander*. *American Horror Story*, *Game of Thrones*, *Teen Wolf*, and *The Walking Dead* were also nominated for this award. Last year, *Orange is the New Black* won the PCA for Favorite Dramey, but this year, it won the award for Favorite Streaming Series. Then, *Full House* actor, John Stamos, won the award

for Favorite Actor in a New TV Series. Actors such as Chace Crawford, Josh Peck, Rob Lowe, and Zachary Levi were also nominated for this award. *Scream Queens* won the PCA for Favorite New TV Comedy, while *Supergirl* won Favorite New TV Drama.

The awards continued as musicians began to be honored. Singer of "Stitches" and "Something Big," Shawn Mendes won the PCA for Favorite Breakout Artist against Fetty Wap, The Weekend, Halsey,



People's Choice winners: Chris Hemsworth, Ellen DeGeneres, and Priyanka Chopra

and Tori Kelly. Later in the show, Shawn performed a medley of all of his hit songs. In a surprise to fans, he had Camila Cabello come sing "I Know What You Did Last Summer" with him. Other performers included Jason Derulo and winner of season 9 of *The Voice*, Jordan Smith with David Foster.

Later, Meghan Trainor beat tons of amazing artists and ultimately won the award for Favorite Album for her album "Title." Ed Sheeran won Favorite Male Artist, and Taylor Swift won Favorite Female Artist, both for the second year in a row. Both of these artists beat amazing singers such as Justin Bieber, The Weekend, Demi Lovato, and Madonna. Taylor Swift also won the PCA for Favorite Pop Artist, also for the second year in a row. "Super Bass" and "Anaconda" singer, Nicki Minaj, won the award for Favorite Hip-Hop Artist, The Weekend won Favorite R&B Artist, and Fifth Harmony accepted the PCA for Favorite Group. Next, world-famous Madonna won the award for Favorite Music Icon. Finally, Justin Bieber's "Where Are You Now?" won the PCA for Favorite Song.

The show finally moved on to the category of movies. Beating out amazing films such as *Pitch Perfect 2* and *Jurassic World*, *Furious 7* took the win for both Favorite Movie and Favorite Action Movie. After accepting the first award, Vin Diesel talked about his experiences with Paul Walker on set. He then ended his sentimental speech by singing "See You Again," by Wiz Khalifa, as an homage to his best friend.

Favorite Movie Actor was one of the toughest categories of the night. With nominees including Will Smith, Robert Downey, Jr., Johnny Depp, and Chris Pratt, *Magic Mike* star Channing Tatum took the win. Sandra Bullock then gladly accepted the award for Favorite Movie Actress. She had tough competition considering the other nominees, Anne Hathaway, Scarlett Johansson, Meryl Streep, and Melissa McCarthy, are also amazing actresses.

For her role of Mavis in the sequel of *Hotel Transylvania*, Selena Gomez won the award for Favorite Animated Movie Voice. For this award, she was up against her co-star, Adam Sandler. *Pitch Perfect 2* beat out some amazing movies such as *Ted 2*, *Trainwreck*, *Spy*, and *The Duff* for Favorite Comedic Movie.

The awards then moved on to different categories that do not necessarily pertain directly to TV, movies, or music. Britney Spears won the PCA for Favorite Social Media Celebrity. *Candy Crush Saga* then won the award for Favorite Mobile Game. *Dance Moms* star, Maddie Ziegler, won the PCA for the DailyMail.com Seriously Popular Award. Connor Franta won the award for Favorite YouTube Star.

Perhaps the biggest honor of the show was sponsored by Walgreens as they helped to present the award for Favorite Humanitarian. This award went to a woman who dedicates her life to helping people. Melissa McCarthy had the honor of presenting this award to the one and only Ellen DeGeneres. Ellen gladly accepted the award and expressed how important it is to her to give back to people who need it.

This year's People's Choice Awards definitely honored the most deserving celebrities with awards and provided fans with a recap of the year's most beloved TV shows, movies, and music.

Run to Roast; It's A Rare Find



Rachel Rosenstein

School News Editor

You have probably passed *Roast Sandwich Shop* a hundred times while driving on Route 110 and may have never even noticed it. This might help; it is a small store diagonally across the street from *Dick's Sporting Goods*. It's easy to miss, but now that you know where it is, go find it! It is one killer sandwich shop! Believe me, no lunchbox was ever filled with a better sandwich.

What makes *Roast* so unique is that they serve all-natural, whole roasted meats, fresh produce, and homemade breads. You will never find any cold cuts or processed deli meats there because they offer many different selections from those of the usual sandwich shop. They take your everyday sandwich and convert it into something bigger and better with a touch of gourmet love.

Roast offers a really nice variety of specialty sandwiches, wraps, paninis, soups, and salads to choose from. One of the house favorites is the braised brisket grilled cheese on a thick cut sourdough bread packed with three different cheeses. It's insanely delicious! I highly recommend the Sandwich House Meatball which is tossed with oven dried tomatoes, caramelized onions, and mozzarella cheese; if that wasn't enough, they pour a parmesan cream sauce over it. The flavors are intense, but delectable. This one was a winner! Another great option is the BBQ Roast Pork. It consists of barbecue basted roasted pork with grilled pineapple, charred red onions, cheddar, and roasted poblano aioli on a soft ciabatta roll. This sandwich tastes like Hawaii. If meat is not your thing, or you are looking for a healthier option, they have an amazing grilled vegetable panini. This mouth watering panini is filled with fresh mozzarella, zucchini, roasted peppers, eggplant, red onion, and a basil mayo on multigrain bread. You will never miss the meat! There is a nice selection of salads as well. I recommend the Roast Turkey Cobb salad. The balsamic vinaigrette is so delicious, you might want to drink it with a straw! No matter what you order, you must get the sweet potato tater tots. If you don't like sweet potatoes, you will now. One thing to note is that the dining room is tiny. Getting a table is not always easy. For this reason, I suggest taking out from Roast unless you don't mind eating standing up!

Roast is arguably the best sandwich shop on Long Island. People travel from all over the island to try their food, so we are fortunate that it is so local. The food is on point, made quickly by a friendly staff, and the serving sizes are very generous. This is no *Subway*! It's a perfect food whether you're watching a basketball game or the Bachelor on your couch at home. Order a few different sandwiches, slice them up, and share them with your family or friends. Head over immediately and check out the extensive variety of sandwiches Roast has to offer. Roast is open Monday through Saturday 10:30-8:00pm. I promise you will not be disappointed!

The Force Awakens to a New Generation of Fans

Gabi Gonzalez & Sami Moody

Staff Writers

"*The Force Awakens* strikes all the right chords, emotional and narrative, to feel both familiar and exhilaratingly new," is what the *Washington Post* is saying about the latest episode in the epic Star Wars series. On December 18, both old and new fans of the series flocked to theaters to catch the first glimpse of one of 2015's most anticipated movies.

Episode 7 takes place thirty years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire. The movie focuses on an defector, named Finn, who crashes onto a desert planet after escaping the realm of *The First Order*, in an attempt to alert the *Resistance* to the whereabouts of Luke Skywalker, who has been in hiding after suffering a monumental loss. After crashing his ship, Finn meets a young girl named Rey, and together, they unite with Han Solo to accomplish their mission. In addition, their

mission is further supported by BB-8, a newly introduced droid. This droid contained information on the location of Luke Skywalker, and *The First Or-*



der was after it. Together, Rey, Finn, Han Solo, and of course Chewbacca, go on an incredible journey in hopes to get the droid to the Resistance, led by Luke's sister, Leia, where the information it carries will be safe. They encounter many evil forces that eventually lead to them to discover the truth about their mission and the truth about

Luke's disappearance.

Many *Star Wars* fans will be relieved to know that the most beloved actors and actresses have come back for round seven of the franchise to continue their legacy. Harrison Ford returns as Han Solo, a smuggler who stays alongside his sidekick Chewbacca, played by Peter Mayhew. Carrie Fisher also makes an appearance again as Princess Leia, now the Resistance general leading the search for her brother, Luke. Together, these classic characters join with those newly introduced to carry out a daring mission in hopes of saving their galaxy. Last, but certainly not least, Mark Hamill returns as the iconic Jedi, Luke Skywalker, in an epic scene. Will the droid make it to the Resistance? Will Han Solo, Rey, and Finn overcome the forces of Evil? Looks like you will have to see this amazing movie to find out!

Movie: The Hunger Games Overview

Michael Valdes

Staff Writer

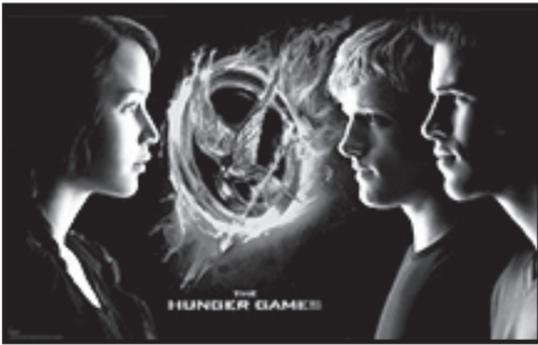
Since its inception, *The Hunger Games* series has been an international sensation that captured the hearts of millions of people with its three fabulously written books and four beautifully directed and acted films. The novels, written by Suzanne Collins, follow the journey of Katniss Everdeen, a District 12 citizen who volunteers for her sister, Primrose, in the 74th annual Hunger Games, a yearly event in the dystopian country of Panem where two teenagers, one boy and one girl, are picked from each of the 12 Districts to fight to the death in an arena where only one will remain to be claimed victor. After they win, they live in the lap of luxury for the rest of their lives. Katniss, skilled in archery and survival, volunteers for her younger sister in an act of love to protect her from being killed in the Games.

Her counterpart from District 12 is quickly chosen; he is Peeta Mellark, a baker's son. He has an undying, secretive love for Katniss throughout the entire trilogy even though she initially finds it difficult to accept and reciprocate his affections. She eventually realizes that she does truly love him and can't live without him, resulting in somewhat of a love triangle for our protagonist. As she realizes her affections for Peeta, she cannot help but think of Gale, her best friend and confidante from District 12. After the death of Katniss' father, Gale was right by her side to help her support and provide for her family. This connection with Gale was unlike any other, thus making her newly discovered romantic feelings for Peeta that much more difficult to accept.

As the story progresses, readers learn each district of Panem is known for a different trait. For example, District 12 is the coal mining district, District 7 is the lumber district, and District 4 is the fishing district. Other than the yearly Hunger Games, the districts have very little interaction with one another, and each assumes that the others are treated better by the diabolical, unrealistic Capitol and the evil President Snow. As a young girl from District 12, the least lucrative of the districts, Katniss enters the games even though she knows that she will most likely not return home. Nonetheless, she promises herself that she would try her best to win for Prim. Each District is assigned a mentor for their competitors; typically the mentors are chosen from a pool of prior victors from the district. District 12 has not been very fortunate in this area, resulting in one mentor for both Katniss and Peeta, the drunk and lonesome Haymitch. He is very argumentative and quarrelsome. Katniss also meets Cinna, her stylist. Cinna is not your typical Capitol citizen, however. He dismisses the Games as nothing

more than a ploy to entertain the rich and oblivious citizens of the Capitol. Cinna appreciates Katniss and admires her bravery and honesty. He seems to get her like no one else does and takes this opportunity to make her great in the eyes of all spectators.

Katniss quickly realizes that the only way to survive the Games is to make alliances. Her first alliance was Rue, a fragile District 11 tribute who has a skill for climbing trees and hiding. She and Katniss form a strong bond and work together right up until Rue meets her demise at the hands of Marvel, another tribute. Katniss gives Rue an honorable burial and is instantly respected by districts all across Panem. Not surprisingly, President Snow isn't too happy about this; he is beginning to realize that Katniss will not go down without a fight. His concerns regarding the unintentional prowess



of Katniss lead to a change in the Games; this is something that had never been done before. He shocks the country when he

declares that two tributes from the same district can share the title of victor. This prompts Katniss to find Peeta and nurse him back to health. Readers are left with Katniss and Peeta as the only two left, when the head Gamemaker changes the rules again: only one person can win. In an act of defiance, Katniss takes out poisonous Nightlock berries and tells the world that if she and Peeta both can't win, then they won't have a victor. Ultimately, they are both crowned victors.

In *Catching Fire*, the second book in the series, Katniss and Peeta have found their relationship outside of the arena very awkward and are just acting for the cameras. This year's Hunger Games is the Quarter Quell, the 75th anniversary, so there will be some surprises in store. In an attempt to rid Panem of the defiant Katniss Everdeen, President Snow decides that this year's competitors will be chosen from a pool of all of the past victors. Katniss and Peeta find themselves back in the arena and forced to make new alliances, which, unbeknownst to Katniss, were pre-arranged in an attempt to overthrow the Capitol once and for all. Katniss later learns that the plan was a secret to get her to the formerly mythical District 13 to become the leader of the Rebellion, referred to as the Mockingjay.

In *Mockingjay*, the final book of the series, Katniss is brought into the long forgotten District 13, formerly responsible for the production of weapons and military forces for Panem. District 13 was one of the districts of Panem that could not be contained and had to be "eliminated" by the Capitol. What the Capitol didn't know was that people survived the deadly bombings in 13, and rebuilt their society underground. Alma Coin is the president of District 13. She doesn't

Movie Reviews: Daddy's Home

Rachel Schier & Lauren Hochheiser

Staff Writers

Are you looking for a hilarious, yet heart-warming film to watch with your family? If you are, then *Daddy's Home* is the movie that you should see! With a talented cast, including Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, and Linda Cardellini, this



movie will be sure to make you both laugh and cry. *Daddy's Home* begins with the main character, Brad Taggart (Will Ferrell), as he continues to try to get his stepkids to like him.

Once Brad's plans finally begin to work, his stepchildren's biological father, Dusty (Mark Wahlberg), shows up at his house. With a motorcycle, a bunch of cool stories to tell, and his bad-boy attitude, the kids are immediately attracted to Dusty over Brad. The movie consists of a constant competition between Brad and Dusty to see who the better "dad" really is, when finally, in the end, the two come together to help defend their son.

From motorcycle accidents to skateboarding stunts to half court shots, it is guaranteed that your whole family is sure to be laughing out loud. *Daddy's Home* is a heart-warming, relatable film that all families will surely enjoy. This movie is definitely a must-see, and we recommend it to everyone.

take a liking to Katniss at first, but begins to see her transform into the Mockingjay and become the most powerful weapon in the rebellion. Katniss goes through many emotional ups and downs in this final novel and yearns for Peeta's safety (he was captured and subsequently brainwashed by the Capitol). He is rescued, but he is not the same; he has been trained to view Katniss as an enemy. He attempts to kill her; this is about midway through the last book and the culminating scene of the third film.

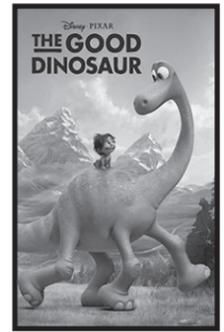
In the second half of *Mockingjay*, Katniss learns what happened to Peeta in the Capitol. In addition, District 13 is planning to invade the Capitol to capture President Snow and end his reign once and for all. The Capitol is riddled with hidden "pods" (deadly obstacles) all throughout the city to try to eliminate Squad 451, Katniss and her counterparts from District 13. As her world is falling apart, Katniss must stay strong to remain the face of the rebellion; her sister's death is the final straw. As a nurse, Prim was sent to aid wounded soldiers in the battlefield. In this moment, Katniss realizes that the problems in Panem stretch far wider than those created by President Snow. If there is going to be change, it must be done from the ground up and on an even larger scale. In realizing that Coin and Snow are truly one in the same, she chooses to assassinate Coin instead of Snow, who is already not well and has plenty of other enemies who can attack in his weak-

The Good Dinosaur

Alyssa Schmidt & Morgan Fishbein

Staff Writers

On November 25, 2015, the creators of *Finding Nemo* and *Inside Out* released a heart-warming movie entitled *The Good Dinosaur*. The production staff at Pixar wanted to come up with a new and original idea yet to be seen by



young viewers. The idea, a story of a mouse added in-hitting the as-

result- the survival of the dinosaur species, and dinosaurs and humans roaming the planet together. The movie takes you on an unimaginable journey as the main character, Arlo, searches for his family from whom he was separated during a big storm. During his adventure, Arlo meets Spot, an energetic, bold, and fearless caveman with whom he quickly forms a friendship. Throughout the movie, the audience feels as though they are running through the mountains and plains with Spot and Arlo while experiencing all of the laughter and fear right alongside their cartoon counterparts. While this movie looks as if it should be for the younger generation, we would recommend it to anyone who is caring, sympathetic, and needs a getaway from being older. This movie is adorable and deserves only the best reviews. If you haven't yet, go see *The Good Dinosaur*!

est moment. After a long period of depression and suffering, Katniss is able to come out on the other side stronger than before. She and Peeta have found their way back to each other and will now find a way back home to live in peace. The epilogue takes place fifteen years later where Katniss and Peeta are relaxing back home in the former District 12 enjoying their life together and their two kids. The series ends with Katniss saying that when she thinks back on her past and feels upset, she reminds herself of every good thing that she has ever seen someone do. She acknowledges that this routine is a bit of a repetitive game for her, but that "there are much worse Games to play."

As Hollywood often does, they chose to strike while the iron was hot and create a film franchise based on this beloved book series. Everything that they chose to do was done right as all four of the films were wildly popular, breaking records all over the world. While the incredibly enviable box office numbers may be telling to some, they do not truly do justice to what has become a modern classic that skillfully entertains with a gut-wrenching love story, while providing a very telling commentary on the state of society. Jennifer Lawrence's portrayal of Katniss Everdeen sparked her career as one of the most well-known and talented actresses in Hollywood today. *The Hunger Games* will stand as one of the most successful book series and movie franchises of all time.

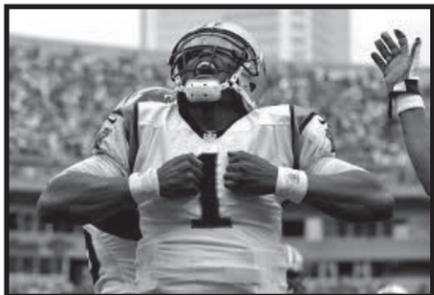
NFL Awards Predictions

Zachary Leff

Professional Sports Editor

This year has been an exciting year in the NFL. From the many spectacular plays and moments to the emergence of new stars and old ones that continue their success, this season is definitely one to be remembered. NFL awards are big honors and accomplishments in a player's life that could potentially change a player's whole career. Here are my predictions for some of the 2015-2016 NFL Awards:

MVP and Offensive Player of the Year: Cam Newton, Quarterback of the Carolina Panthers



Cam Newton of the Carolina Panthers

Cam Newton had a breakout season this year and put himself in an elite class of quarterbacks. He had 35 passing tds and 10 rushing tds. Those numbers have never been achieved before. He also led his team to 15-1 record and the number one seed in the playoffs without their top target Kelvin Benjamin all season.

Defensive Player of the Year: JJ Watt, Defensive End of the Houston Texans

JJ Watt did it again. He had another fantastic season with 17.5 sacks and 3 forced fumbles. He was the most dominating force on defensive and led his team to a playoff berth. He got so much attention that it allowed his other teammates to have a great season. JJ Watt continues to dominate and is arguably the best player in the league.

Offensive Rookie of the Year: Todd Gurley, Running Back of the St. Louis Rams

After tearing his ACL in college, everyone thought that he would never be able to be a great player. Despite this,

the Rams drafted him in the first round and boy are they happy they did! After missing the first three games, he exploded onto the scene and had four straight games with 125 yards or more. He ended the season with over 1000 rushing yards and 10 tds. He is a promising young player and will be exciting to watch for a long time.

Defensive Rookie of the Year: Marcus Peters, Cornerback of the Kansas City Chiefs

After off the field problems, Peters slipped down to the late first round. This put a

chip on his shoulder to prove the NFL scouts wrong. Peters had a fantastic year with 8 ints, a tie for most in the league. He made many fantastic plays and helped a Chiefs team make the playoffs and go on an 11 game winning streak. Peters might not have those interception numbers in the future if they stop throwing the ball to his side, so hopefully, for his sake, this doesn't change.

Coach of the Year: Ron Rivera, Carolina Panthers

After an under .500 season last year, it looked like the Panthers might go a different way with their coach. Also with Kelvin Benjamin getting injured, it looked like a lost season for Carolina. Well, Rivera and his team had other plans. They won 14 straight games and finished the year with the best record in the NFL at 15-1. He inspired this players and let them relax. His hard work has helped them go deep into the players and become serious contenders for the Super Bowl. He is also now one of the most respected coaches in the NFL.

Tom Coughlin Steps Down

David Bieber

Staff Writer

On January 4, 2016, New York Giants head coach Tom Coughlin announced that he will resign from the team after a 12-year tenure. Coughlin wrote in a statement released to the public: "I met with John Mara and Steve Tisch this afternoon, and I informed them that it is in the best interest of the organization that I step down as head coach. I strongly believe the time is right for me and my family, and as I said, the Giants organization." Many players, fans, and industry professionals appreciate the contributions that Coughlin has made to the team.



The combination of team success and contract length were reasons why Coughlin decided to leave the organization. The Giants just finished this past season at 6-10 (.375%), with many injuries, questionable penalties, and inconsistency. Coughlin didn't do his best job either and struggled with certain play calling, especially at the beginning of the season with running down the clock. In the 2011 season, Coughlin led the Giants to a victory

in Super Bowl XLVI (2012); however, since then, the team has only finished 28-36 (.438%) over the last four seasons.

Coughlin finishes his tenure with the Giants with a 102-90 overall record (.531%) and a playoff record of 8-3 (.727%). He also finished with two Super Bowl trophies as a head coach and one as an assistant coach from 1991. Even though he is gone from the Giants, Coughlin still wants to continue coaching in the NFL, and at the time of this article, he is in the process of being interviewed by other teams for head coaching positions.



Even though the Giants have a huge hole to fill at head coach, this is a good thing for the franchise. The Giants have plenty of young talent, and it is honestly time for the team to go into a different direction. Tom Coughlin is one of the most loved and well respected coaches in NFL history, and he will be truly missed by the fans of the New York Giants.

What Are the Mets and Yankees Doing During the Off Season

Jacob Broxmeyer

Professional Sports Editor

The 2015 MLB season ended with a bang as the Kansas City Royals beat the New York Mets in six games in the World Series. This excitement has carried over from the World Series to the 2015 off-season.

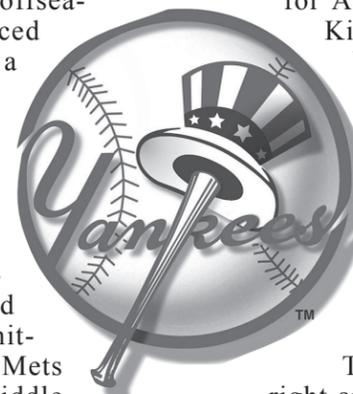
Both New York teams have made great improvements to build on the success they had last season. The New York Yankees acquired reliever Aroldis Chapman. Chapman is known for his 100 plus mile per hour fastball. In acquiring Chapman, the Yankees now have the top three relief pitchers in terms of strikeouts in Chapman, Andrew Miller, and Dellin Betances. Although Chapman is a great player, he has a domestic violence charge looming that could lead to



a lengthy suspension. This was a very risky deal for the Yankees, but they didn't give up any major prospects, and it was too good of a deal for the Yankees to pass up. The Yankees also traded for middle infielder Starlin Castro. Castro struggled last season while at shortstop; however, a second half change to second base proved vital for Castro as he hit over .450 in the month of September. Castro brings both an offensive and defensive improvement over former Yankees second baseman Stephen Drew, as well as further supplementing the Yankees goal to get younger.

The Mets are coming fresh off of their first World Series appearance in fifteen seasons. So far in the offseason the Mets have not made any alluring moves, but they have gotten more consistent and more fundamentally sound at a few positions. Although Daniel Murphy was a bonafide superhero for the city of New York during the

Mets postseason run, he did start to cool down in the World Series and made a few costly bone-head plays. Any die hard Mets fan will tell you this is the same old story with Murphy. During his tenure with the Mets, he has been known for his inconsistent play and low IQ of the game. This offseason, the Mets replaced Murphy, who signed a three year deal with the Nationals in December, with former Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman Neil Walker. Walker brings better defense to the table and is a more consistent hitter than Murphy. The Mets also added veteran middle infielder Asdrubal Cabrera. Cabrera also brings a great glove and has a little pop on his bat. On top of those free agents, the Mets were able to resign Yoenis Cespedes, an outfielder who gave the mets a spark last year on their way



to the World Series. He also gives them a lot more batting power for their lineup.

Other notable transactions that have happened this offseason include former Toronto Blue Jay David Price signing with the Boston Red Sox; the Red Sox trading for All-Star reliever Craig Kimbrel; the Chicago White Sox signing former St. Louis Cardinal outfielder Jason Heyward; and the Arizona Diamondbacks signing former Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Zack Greinke.

The 2016 season is right around the corner, and from the look of these offseason moves, it sure will be an exciting one!

March Madness Preview

Teams That Are Likely to Make Deep Runs this March

Bradley Shanker & James Rouse

Staff Writers

As March Madness slowly nears, we decided to give our opinions on teams that we believe could make deep runs in this year's tournament. Sadly, due to space and page constraints we were not able to include all of our sleeper teams.

The University of Texas Longhorns- This year, the Longhorns are looking to make some noise in the tournament after being eliminated early by the Butler Bulldogs last year. First year head coach Shaka Smart came from VCU where he gained national attention for his trademark style of defense

known as havoc. Havoc is a pressure defense that leads to transition points on offense. Even though the Longhorns lost their two best players from last season in Myles Turner and Jonathan Holmes, they returned everyone else from their rotation and added three quality freshmen. A foot injury has sidelined starting big-man Cameron Ridley indefinitely, but coach Smart says he hopes to have Ridley back towards the end of the regular season. Prince Ibeh and Connor Lammert have provided stability in the frontcourt during Ridley's absence. Guards Kendal Yancy and Javan Felix are providing most of the offense from the backcourt. Demarcus Holland is one of the best

defensive players in college hoops, and he continues to shut down the opposition's best players. So far, Texas has a 10-6 record and is currently in 5th place in the BIG 12 Conference. Texas has big wins over then #3 ranked UNC and #17 ranked Iowa State. The schedule doesn't get any easier for the Longhorns as 9 of their last 15 games are played against ranked opponents, including #1 Kansas, #2 Oklahoma, #11 West Virginia, #17 Iowa State, and #22 Baylor. The Longhorns must find a way to keep winning if they want to make a statement and wreak havoc in this year's tournament come March.

The University of Maryland Terrapins- The Terps are looking to bounce back after getting knocked out in the second round of the tournament last year. They have been solid this year with a 15-2 record and their only losses coming from UNC and Michigan. They have a very solid team under Mark Turgeon and a lot of depth on their roster. They rely on guys like Melo Trimble, Jake Layman, Diamond Stone, and Robert Carter to get the job done. With Trimble and Layman starting the game to produce points in bulk and a solid 6th man in Diamond Stone coming of the bench, the Terps definitely have the skill to make a deep run. With the coaching of Mark Turgeon, the depth

of the team, and the introduction of Rasheed Sulaimon to the team from Duke this season, the Terps will easily be able to make a deep run in this year's tournament.



The University of North Carolina Tar Heels- The Tar Heels are predicted to make a deep run in this year's tournament for many reasons.

The first being that they want to redeem themselves after not even participating in last year's tournament. They have shown signs of great improvement, going 15-2 so far this season. They also

have a very deep roster with six players averaging 10 or more points per game. The Tar Heels have relied a lot on their two star seniors: Brice Johnson and Marcus Paige. Brice Johnson is a very tall and strong forward who not only averages around seventeen points per game, but he also gets over 10 rebounds per game. On the other hand, Paige is a very diverse guard who can give you points, rebounds, and assists. They have also relied on underclassmen, such as Justin Jackson. Jackson is a sophomore; he is a decent

scorer and plays a very similar game to Marcus Paige. With the great experience of Roy Williams, three solid starters, and a very deep bench, UNC will also make a deep run in this year's

tournament.

THIS YEAR'S MARCH MADNESS CHAMPION WILL BE...

The University of Kentucky Wildcats- The Wildcats are looking for redemption after losing to Wisconsin last year in the playoffs. Although they have lost guys like Devin Booker, Karl-Anthony Towns, and Willie Cauley-Stein, they have played very good basketball, which has resulted in a 13-3 record. They have shown that they are the best team in college basketball in victories over Duke and Louisville. Many Kentucky players have stepped up to replace the grads, such as Jamal Murray. Jamal Murray has been a very big surprise this season because he is a freshman; he leads the team in points and has been a key to their success this season. Uli, a sophomore, has also stepped up his game. He leads the team in minutes and assists. Seniors, such as Alex Poythress, have really helped the team out as well. Poythress is leading the team in rebounds and is a key source of points. Although they have lost many of their stars to the NBA, John Calipari has done a great job of getting his young guys involved. For these reasons, we are confident that Kentucky will reach their ninth national championship.



NBA Rookie of the Year Candidates

Bennett Reiss

Staff Writer

As we approach the midway of the 2015-2016 NBA Season, it's officially time to begin to consider potential **Rookie of the Year** candidates. This year's draft has experienced an incredible class of raw potential across the board, with many rookies making profound impacts on their teams already. Although many rookies are looking solid this year, only one gets awarded the "Rookie of the Year." My top three Rookie of the Year candidates include: Kristaps Porzingis, Karl Anthony-Towns, and D'Angelo Russell.

Kristaps Porzingis, drafted fourth overall by the New York Knicks from Latvia, was an extremely raw prospect and potentially a huge gamble. Prior to being drafted, Porzingis flashed major skill in the EuroLeague



before declaring himself for the draft. After being booed on draft night, this "gamble" has paid off for the Knicks. Averaging 13.6 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 1.1 apg, and 2.0 bpg, Porzingis is helping to push the Knicks into playoff contention after an abominable 2014-2015 season. Porzingis plays great defense and often gets the crowd into a frenzy with his three pointers and putback dunks. Porzingis has proven, up to this point, why he should be awarded the Rookie of the Year.

D'Angelo Russell, drafted second overall by the Los Angeles Lakers from Ohio State, was a huge playmaker all year long for the Ohio State Buckeyes and drew at-

tention to himself due to his ability to score and spread the floor. The rookie PG got off to a slower start than expected, but recently has dominated, putting up career highs in every category and helping the



Lakers win some games. So far, Russell is averaging 11.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg, and 3.4 apg. While these numbers may not seem monumental for a ROY candidate, Russell's knack for making big time plays puts the rookie PG in the conversation.

Last, but certainly not least, is Karl Anthony-Towns. Towns, drafted first overall by the Minnesota Timberwolves from Kentucky, is the front-runner to win this award. Towns has dominated all year long, no matter who is guarding him.



Said to have been one dimensional before the draft, Towns worked all summer long and has developed a killer jumpshot, adding to his already gargantuan arsenal of ways to score. Towns can score from anywhere on the court. Whether it's a jumpshot, a layup, a dunk, or in the post, the guy can flat out score. Towns is a menace on the defense as well, as he often blocks anyone who drives into the paint. Averaging 15.9 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 1.85 bpg, and 1.2 apg, Karl Anthony-Towns is a force to be reckoned with, and due to his crazy stats, he is, in my opinion, the **NBA Rookie of the Year**.

Photos: Getty Images

NBA MVP Prediction

Jeremy Schier & Kevin Rouse

Staff Writers

Who will win the NBA MVP award? That's a tough one to call just yet. With a lot of talent and an increased work ethic throughout the NBA, there are several potential contenders at this point in the season.

Ever since the absence of Kevin Durant, dating back to last year, Russell Westbrook has stepped up tremendously. Although All-Star Kevin Durant is



back on the court, Westbrook's great play has continued into this season. He has been playing extremely well on both the offensive and defensive end, almost averaging a triple-double. A big part of his newfound success is his work ethic. Although they just missed out on making the playoffs last year, Russell Westbrook is on the rise as one of the league's elite players.

LeBron James has also been playing well this year. Although LeBron has a very good team surrounding him, with Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love, he has proven to people that he alone can carry a team far into the playoffs and bring success to their season. Last year, with the absences of Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love, LeBron managed to bring his team to the NBA finals. The Cavs struggled before LeBron came to Cleveland, and he has brought them recent success which proves why he is a contender for the MVP award.

Stephen Curry is probably the most likely person to win the MVP award. As if winning the Warriors a championship last year wasn't enough, he has led his team to a tremendous start, winning their first 24 games of the season, and is being

referred to as one of the best in NBA history. As it stands, if Steph Curry continues to get in the amount of three point shots he is currently making, he is on pace to make the most threes ever in a single season in NBA history. Steph Curry has not only been playing tremendously this past few games, but he has been playing great throughout the whole year and is making his play more and more consistent, which is another contributing factor towards what is making him a candidate for MVP.

James Harden, another very strong player on both ends of the court, is also being considered a candidate for the MVP award. Although the Rockets haven't been playing well, Harden has been great. He was in the talk for MVP last year, and he's only been better this year. Harden has worked tremendously to improve his long range shot. Although the Rockets haven't won as many games as they have in previous seasons, Harden is a big reason as to why they are winning their games now. It is very safe to say that Harden's name will come to the table in MVP talks again this year.

HILLS EAST WINTER SPORTS RECAP

2015-2016 Fencing Season Recap

Alex Luongo

Contributor

Fencing is unconventional by nature - stabbing your opponent with a sword is not exactly the most common pastime. However, for the athletes on the Hills combined East and West fencing team, there's nothing they enjoy more than stepping up on the metal strip and wielding their weapons. In the short nine years since their conception, both the boys' and girls' fencing teams have grown tremendously. The Hills girls recently earned the title of league champions, an unprecedented feat that ended Ward Melville's streak of 14 consecutive titles.

With one last match of the season against Commack, the girls have an undefeated record of 15-0. On December 14, the girls beat Ward Melville, a team that won 205 of their previous 207 matches. This was only Ward Melville's second loss since the 2000-2001 season. The Hills girls managed to beat Ward Melville the second time around, solidifying their title as league champions. The girls' individual records during the season include: Crystal



HHH Fencing Team

Chen (40-1), Alex Luongo (32-8), Tiffany Kim (31-8), Grace Park (24-7), and Connie He (27-9).

The boys also have an impressive win to loss ratio of 13-2. Although they lost to Ward Melville, they did beat Commack, with the fate of the match decided during the last epee round. Senior Justin Cho was able to secure the win and the meet culminated with a score of 14-13 and a gratifying victory for the Thundercolts. The boys' individual records include: Kenneth Messerole (34-5), Paul Pimentel (41-6), Justin Cho (27-6), Gary Armynt (27-12), and Edward Bae (23-12).

The season is quickly coming to an end as the county championships took place on February 6. The girls' success was driven by their coach, Dennis Daly, who says, "Both teams have seen their ups and downs over the course of the season, but every hour of effort put in not only during after school practice but also during the previous hot summers has allowed excellence to come forth on the strip. I am very proud of all the athletes; they have an amazing focus."

Editor's Note: The Hills Girls Fencing team beat Garden City 14-8 and they are the 2016 Long Island Fencing Champions! HSE fencers Alex Luongo, Nicole Hecker, Sophia Lettieri, Casey Chung, and Sanam Muhayya helped secure the win. Hills Boys fencing team defeated Ward Melville 5-4 in the county tournament and also beat Commack to secure the county championship title. Congratulations to the entire Hills team!

Hills East Boys Basketball Recap

Zachary Leff

Professional Sports Editor

After a heart breaking playoff loss last year to Copiague in the first round, this year's boys' Varsity basketball team was on a mission. The team wanted to make it back to the playoffs and go farther than just the first round, hopefully taking it all the way. The team may have lost a lot of talent with last year's graduating class, but they did bring back some key players from last year's team to lead the T-Birds into the playoffs.



Two main contributors are sophomore guard Savion Lewis and senior forward D'Nathan Knox. These two returning players are this year's captains and are joined by senior guard Matt Smith.

The season started off well with a couple of non league wins against Garden City and Commack. These two key wins gave the team some momentum. When league play started, the competition became a lot more fierce. In Suffolk League

Girls Basketball Recap

Emma Schleimer

Contributor

The Girls Varsity basketball team finished in League II with a solid record clinching them a spot in the playoffs. The team has undergone many changes due to most of the starting line up graduating last year. These changes caused a younger team to develop with three sophomore starters: Jess Womble, Jessie Maurer, and Alexa Wallace. These sophomore worked hard alongside freshman,

II, there are several playoff caliber teams, including Northport, Bay Shore, Central Islip, and Copiague, all of whom moved up into our division this year. Against these talented teams, Hills East only won one game, which was a huge win at Central Islip. Even though it was close, the T-Birds pulled it out, and this win sparked a sense of belief amongst the team members and coaches that they could accomplish their goal and not only make,

but also succeed in the playoffs. The team ended its season with an overall record of 10-8 with a 7-7 record in league play and advanced to the playoffs. All you can say about this basketball team now is "Survive and Advance." The T-Birds worked hard in the playoffs again this year, but were unfortunately eliminated by Brentwood in round two. Despite this elimination, the team put up a good fight throughout the entire season and made HSE proud once again. Congratulations on another great season!

Sophia Tawil and their senior captain Mesha Rivers. The whole team is continuing to improve with the help of great coaching skills and hard work. The team played Riverhead in the first round of the playoffs, which they lost by only two points, making the score 64-62. This loss knocked the Hills East Girls Varsity basketball team out of the playoffs. They look forward to next season and will continue working hard during the off season to make the playoffs once again.

2015-2016 Varsity Wrestling Season Recap

Dylan Kaufman

Staff Writer

HSE Varsity wrestling is having yet another great season. Led by Coaches Davy and Tuorto, the team is doing very well and working toward ending the season on a high note. The first match of the season took place on December 5 against none other than High School West. After nothing but great play, East took the match by a score of 65-16, with four pins coming from Saajid Pinate, Blaise Quinlan, Anthony Diasparra, and Tyler Parkinson. With a great start to their season, the team already seemed hopeful for what was to surely follow. The next match was on December 16 against Newfield. East dominated that match beating Newfield 69-6. Stellar play was seen by the entire team, with pins coming from Jon and Philip Spadafora, Tyler Parkinson, Anthony Diasparra, Tate Kershner, Michael Abidin, and Nyrel Sevilla. Two days after beating Newfield, East went up against Cold Spring Harbor. They easily beat them with a score of 60-15. Another match full of great performances with pins from Tate Kershner, James Spadafora, Griffin Arcuri, and Matthew Touhamy. The next three matches took place on December 19 and 20 during the Deer Park Duals. In the first match, the T-Birds saw their first loss of the season against Lindenhurst with a score of 34-25. In the second match, East came back to beat Walt Whitman with a total score of 44-26. Pins in that tournament came from Dylan Campbell, Griffin Arcuri, Michael Abidin, and



Jacob Kaufman. The last match of those two days turned into a big win for East with a score of 36-24 over Locust Valley. Pins in that final came from Nyrel Sevilla, Tyler Parkinson, and Jon Spadafora. On December 28 and December 29, High School East hosted the Sal DiFazio Holiday Tournament. The team played great, and East came in second place. Freshman Jon Spadafora even won the Champion of Champions award at the tournament.

In the first match of the new year, East beat Copiague with a score of 43-23 with pins from Jon Spadafora, Saajid Pinate, Griffin Arcuri, and Nyrel Sevilla. On January 8, the team went up against Smithtown West, beating them with a score of 46-19 and even more pins from Jon and Philip Spadafora, Griffin Arcuri, and Tyler Parkinson. On January 9, East won the entire Rocky Gilmore Tournament at East Islip with an overall score of 295.5. This tournament saw final appearances from Jon and Philip Spadafora, Tate Kershner, Steve Macchia, Griffin Arcuri, Anthony Diasparra, and Michael Abidin. In their last match of the regular season on January 13, the team took a hard loss, falling 36-33 to North Babylon. With this loss, the team record is now 7-2, not counting tournament wins. Things look hopeful for the entire team as they hope to see some members move up to the county and state championships. Good luck the rest of the season, and go Thunderbirds!

HHH Swim Team Captures Its 10th Consecutive County Title

Lauren Peller

Editor-In-Chief

The Half Hollow Hills Swim team was successful again at the **County Championship Swim/Dive Meet** held over the weekend of February 13. Congratulations to all of the competitors on once again earning multiple accolades! Collectively, the team captured their **10th Consecutive County Title** scoring a meet record of **516** points, which secured a first place win out of 22 teams, and defeating the 2nd place team by over 250 points. Out of 12 events, the HHH team took first place in six of them.

County Champion Individuals:

Alex Park (HSE): 200 Yard Individual Medley

County Champion Relays:

200 Yard Medley Relay - new school record set, breaking the previous record held for nineteen years

1. Dylan Chan (HSW)
2. Alex Park (HSE)
3. Ethan Tack (HSW)
4. Justin Chang (HSW)

Time: 1:36.55 (breaking record of 1:36.89 set in 1997)

200 Yard Freestyle Relay

1. Harrison Tack (HSW)
2. Justin Chang (HSW)
3. Dylan Chan (HSW)
4. Alex Park (HSE)

Time: 1:26.89

400 Yard Freestyle Relay

1. Ethan Tack (HSW)

2. Kabir Randhawa (HSE)
 3. Daniel Lee (HSW)
 4. Tyori Wyche (HSE)
- Time: 3:16.26**

The following swimmers will go on to compete in the New York State Championship Meet in Buffalo on March 4th and 5th. Best of luck to all participants!

1. Alex Park (HSE)
2. Tyori Wyche (HSE)
3. Kabir Randhawa (HSE)

HSE Boys Track Team Competes at County Meet

Justin Tisch

School Sports Editor

After a very exciting and successful winter track season here at HSE, the county track meet took place at Suffolk Community College on January 25, 2016. Twelve HSE athletes competed in this annual event including Reid Barkoff, Blair Braxton, Emmanuel Fuentes, Phil Portalatine, Daniel Siegel, Christian Sam, Matt and Richie Hogan, Seth Garcia, and Chapele Wray to name just a few. As has become the norm for HSE track, many of our athletes were met with success ending the season on a high note. In addition, there was one team member to qualify for states this year: Blair Braxton. Blair came in first place in the 55 meter dash. He beat his previous fastest time of 6.67 seconds with an astonishing 6.60 second finish. Congratulations to the entire team on a great season, and best of luck to Blair Braxton at states!

THUNDERBIRD

HSE Gets Pepped Up For Winter Sports

Alexa Grill

Entertainment Editor

High School East's 2015 Winter Pep Rally certainly did not disappoint. Each grade came with high spirits, and students were ready to watch their classmates perform for the school. Many members of the student body were also recognized for participating in a winter sport. First, the cheerleaders took the floor. Their routine was especially electric because of all the stunts they pulled off, including lifts and multiple flips in the air. Although very different, the kickline and step team both had amazing performances as well. The step team never fails to impress with their routines as they simultaneously step in rhythm. The Dixettes always bring their "A-Game" while dancing and kicking to the latest pop hits. This time, they shared their amazing competition routines with the school.

After these three performances were over and all of the sports teams were called out to take a picture with the school's mascot, the Thunderbird, the most anticipated question of the day was answered... which teacher was going to be pied in the face? Or should I say which teachers would be pied in the face because there was a first and second place "winner"! The second place winner was pied first, and it was Mrs. Horan. Finally, the teacher who won first place was revealed through what appeared to be a never-ending plate of whipped cream to the face. The lucky winner was Mrs. Pinola. Congrats to these two teachers for being pied and for raising the most money for charity. This winter pep rally was a fun way to usher in the winter break. See you in the Spring at the next Pep Rally!



Members of the band play at the pep rally



The Cheerleaders show off their amazing stunts



The Hills East Step team performs at Pep Rally.



Mrs. Horan, HSE's 2nd Place Winner, gets "pied".



Dixettes sparkle and shine at Pep Rally.

HSE Girls Track Has a Record Breaking Season

Samantha Longo

Contributor

Over the course of this winter season, HSE Girls Winter Track has once again proven why they are a force to be reckoned with. From record breaking times to individual and group accomplishments, these girls really know how to put their best foot forward when they step on that track. Mary Chimezie broke the Suffolk County State Qualifying Meet record in the 300. This was not an easy feat, but Mary was able to do it with ease. The 4x2 relay team, comprised of Mary Chimezie,

Sam Longo, Ariana Malik, and Maira Gomis, took 2nd at the State Qualifying Meet. The 4x8 relay team broke the HSE record for time twice over the course of the season. The 4x8 team is made up of Jenna Bottone, Maddie Ciuffetelli, Katrina Barry, and Olivia Tang. Congratulations to the entire team on another fantastic season, and best of luck to Mary Chimezie as she continues on to States.

Summer Fun with REACH CYA



For middle and high school youth from Half Hollow Hills and Commack

FIELD TRIPS INCLUDE:

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- Go Carts
- Ball Games
- NYC Theme Restaurants
- Fishing & much more!

Low-cost Field Trips! Sign up for one or all!



Special Workshops include:

- Drama Clinic &
- Future Leaders Community Service Program



ONLINE REGISTRATION will begin early May 2016 at www.reachcya.org

Visit our website and sign up to receive complete summer trip information!



REACH COMMUNITY and YOUTH AGENCY

Serving youth and families of Commack and Half Hollow Hills since 1972
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