

2001 Old Lincoln Highway,
Langhorne, Pa
www.playwickian.com

Playwickian

The Voice of

December 17, 2015

Volume 84
Issue 2
Neshaminy High School

FOOD CULTURE IN AMERICA: PAGE 4

KEYSTONE CONFLICTS: PAGE 6

Climate changes cause uproar in Paris

By Catherine Hilliard
News Editor

World leaders of 150 nations and 40,000 delegates from 195 countries gathered from across the globe to attend the COP21 conference on Monday Nov. 30 in Paris.

The largest conference organized by the French government, COP21 stands for the 21st session of the Conference of Parties.

Planning to discuss the current impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, leaders are also discussing ways to cut these emissions in the future.

The goal of the COP21 is to have participation from all nations to maintain the global warming below two degrees Celsius.

President Xi Jinping of China, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, and Barack Obama, President of the United States, the biggest producers of greenhouse gases, also met to discuss these issues.

President Obama recognized the United States' role in increasing climate change, and his plans to resolving the issue.

"Here in Paris, let's secure an agreement that builds in ambition, where progress paves the way

for regularly updated targets," he said.

"That's what we seek in these next two weeks - not simply an agreement to roll back the pollution we put into the skies, but an agreement that helps us lift people from poverty without condemning the next generation to a planet that is beyond its capacity to repair," Obama added.

Speaking to fellow leaders, the president also stated that the agreement should be flexible and assertive, and developed countries should be willing to assist smaller islands and undeveloped countries who have not made a big impact on climate change, but feel the effects first.

"A political moment like this

may not come again," U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated. "We have never faced such a test. But neither have we encountered such great opportunity."

An increase in climate change can cause more flash floods, droughts, and extreme heat waves, as well as changes in food supply and the melting of glaciers and the rising of sea level.

"I hope that these leaders can come together and put differences aside to fix this serious and growing problem. If we continue to ignore global warming, the effects could seriously hurt our planet and everyone who lives in it." Sophomore Madeline Blaney said.

Intense security surrounds the premise of the conference do to anti-

global warming demonstrations and the terror attacks killing 140 civilians that occurred earlier last month.

Peaceful protesters gathered at the conference on Nov. 29 where demonstrators had placed rows of empty shoes and name tags to represent the crowds that were restricted from attending.

More than 200 people were arrested after confrontations between officers and protesters erupted at the Place de la Republique.

Law enforcement, pelted with shoes and bottles, also said that they were hit with candles, taken from the memorials of those who were killed in the previous terror attacks.

Police Chief Michel Cadot said in response to protesters taking candles from the memorials "an extreme lack of respect to those events." Police responded to the rowdy crowds with tear gas.

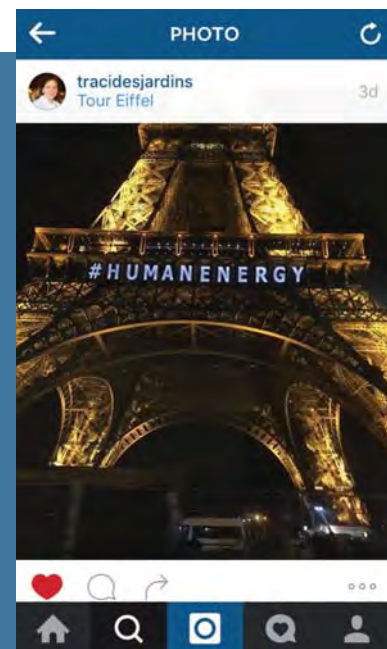
French President François Hollande called the disputes "scandalous" and that authorities predicted events like this would happen for the Paris conference and that is why "these sorts of assemblies were banned and some were ordered to stay home."



Precision Kuts Hair Salon
535 Andrews Rd Unit D
Feasterville, PA
215-322-5810

Marlaena Potts
Hairstylist

267-679-3425 cell
laena@prekuts7.mygbiz.com



Closure talks set in motion

By Madison Pickul
Staff Writer

Oliver Heckman Elementary School, home of the Mighty Mustangs, is set to close at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Heckman was founded in 1967 and named after its superintendent. After 48 years in the Langhorne Borough community, it will be an empty building.

There are currently 402 students enrolled at Heckman and it hasn't yet been decided where they will attend school next year. Two elementary schools are set to close Lower Southampton, in addition to Heckman, not including Samuel Everitt, which closed at the end of last school year.

Lower Southampton is the only school to send all of their students to the new elementary school, which is currently being built where Tawanka use to be, and has yet to be named.

Heckman students are currently being redistricted while

others will go to the new school in the district.

"My daughter asks me, where am I going next year?" Lora, Vice President of the PTO and mother of a Heckman student, stated.

Kathy Buczek, Heckman's Parent Teacher Organization Treasure, sat down for an interview and gave her opinion on the matter. She has been a part of the Heckman family for 12 years.

"Heckman is a hometown community school with a safe environment," Buczek stated.

Chief of Police Officer Steven Mawhinney of Langhorne Borough, directs the traffic in the school parking lot. He is often seen interacting with the kids greeting them by name, high fiving them, and talking to them, thus creating a friendly and safe environment for the children.

When asked how the community would benefit from keeping Heckman open, one of the answers was local businesses.

The distance from Heckman to the center of Langhorne's small businesses is safe enough for the students to walk there. Students of Heckman are known for visiting the local fire station.

Buczek stated, "Kids get a hometown sense at Heckman. They won't be just a number like they will at the new school." The new elementary school will hold around 700 kindergarten through fourth grade students.

As of right now, the fourth grade classes are around 29 students and they cap out around 34. Most parents feel the decision to close Heckman and create a bigger elementary school was not thought through properly.

Buczek thinks the past school board could have done a better job and hopes the upcoming school board will reevaluate everything to do with Heckman closing. Some people actually bought their homes with the intent that their child would attend Heckman, only

to find out their child has to go somewhere else.

Buczek questions the location of the school and why Heckman students are being forced to go there. "With the school located 2 miles from Ferderbar, why wouldn't they just close Ferderbar because it is nearly on top of the new school?"

"The Lower South community was clearly all for the new school being built based on the recent school board election results.

All of the students from that area should be going to the new school, which would provide the student count needed by the new school's required enrollment.

This would benefit the Lower Southampton residents and allow the Langhorne community to keep our beloved school open."

Jan. 6, 2016 is a school board meeting at Maple Point Middle School at 7 P.M. to further discuss these matters.



Heckman Classroom 1967



1967 Heckman logo



Heckman Elementary in 1967

The Playwickian
2001 Old Lincoln Highway
Langhorne, PA 19047
www.playwickian.com

Adviser
Tara Huber

Editor in Chief
Timothy Cho

Managing Editors
Eishna Ranganathan and Jessica McClelland

Business Editor
Makenzie Mason

Multimedia Editors
Grace Marion and Zoey Joyce

News Editors
Eishna Ranganathan and Catherine Hilliard

Op-Ed Editors
Brianna Rayner, Brynn MacDougall, and
Spencer David Potts

Student Life Editors
Ashley Reiss and Jessica McClelland

Features Editors
Zoey Joyce, Gauri Mangala and Namish Siddiqui

Entertainment Editors
Grace Marion, Brendan McGoldrick
and Leanne Khov

Sports Editor
Natalie Pietrowski

Literary Editor
Juliet Okwara

Copy-Editors
Liam Krimmel, Daniel Cho and
Shawna Bratton

Web Editors
Timothy Cho and Daniel Cho

Photo Editor
Ryan Miller

Circulation Editor
Makenzie Mason

Archivists
Sloane Horton and Natalie Pietrowski

Staff Writers
Margaret Aldrich, Cristiana Amaro,
Vann J. Amati, Abena Ampofo, Thomas Banks,
Sophie Burkel, Sarah Caccese, Corrine Calderbank,
Alexa Carman, Erin Carragher, Liz Daniel, Ericka
Elvira-Lagunes, Amare Gray, Lea Hartley, Brianna
Herder, Xavier Jallah, Jenna Kaufman,
Breanna Kemp, Andrew Klepinger, Kirsten Magas,
Sean McGoldrick, Connor Menzel, Ryan Miller,
Danny Mullane, Shannon O'Grady,
Madison Pickul, Arden Rhodeside, Matthew Soska,
Nina Taranenko, Regina Thomas, Nazai Troutman,
Cristina Viruet, Kristen Wright, Sara Xibos

Look at it Our Way: Graduation Requirements Inhibit Creativity

Neshaminy High School's current graduation requirement is for seniors to create a PowerPoint presentation and present it to the Guidance Department. After this year's seniors graduate, the current graduation project will be replaced with achieving a score of Proficient on the Keystone. However, in either scenario, seniors are forced to meet a standardized level of expectation.

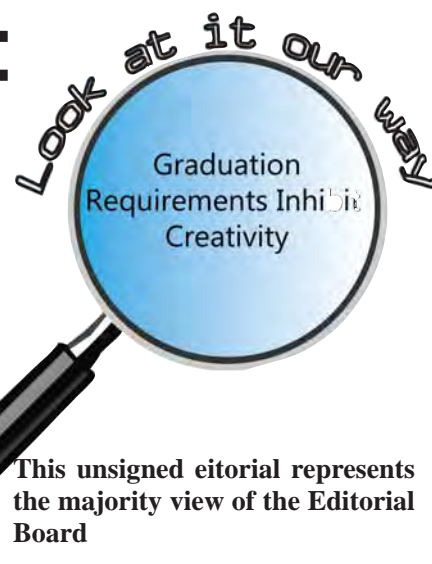
In the case of the PowerPoint presentation, seniors are required to have a title slide, four to eight slides explaining what seniors will do while in college, post-secondary training or the workforce. One to three slides must cover seniors' plans for their future, and one slide must be a conclusion.

For the Keystone exams, current underclassmen must score at least a Proficient, and if they fall under that standard, must take remediation courses to assist them, and ultimately retake the Keystone exams at a later date.

Keystone exams' purpose is not to prepare students for college, but rather, meet a state requirement of students taking a state-wide standardized test; the results then determine the amount of federal funding schools receive. With this as a graduation requirement, Neshaminy High School is essentially requiring all students to assist their high school receive more funding.

The current graduation project does, indeed, allow some degree of creativity and self-expression, and in a way that makes evaluating seniors' futures easy and comparable. However, the graduation project's purpose should not be to grade seniors' plans, as they are likely to change over the next few years, but it should prepare seniors for whatever plan they do decide to pursue in a way that motivates them.

The same graduation project applies to students pursuing music, theatre, art, education, athletics, armed forces and the workforce after they graduate. This standardized project is not efficient, nor does it allow students to express their interests, passions and plans to the full extent



Instead, if seniors were allowed to pursue an independent project, one where they create their own guidelines and requirements, and then complete it, seniors would not only be planning for their future, but it would be in a way that interests and motivates each student, instead of requiring every student to follow the same format, use the same guidelines and be judged with the same rubric, despite the diversity among students' interests and future plans.

This way, the purpose of the graduation project would not be to evaluate students' abilities to present a PowerPoint, but to allow them to utilize their individual interests, passions and ambitions to shape their own graduation project. Instead of completing the graduation project for the sake of graduating, seniors, while still obligated to complete some kind of graduation project, would instead be allowed to utilize their creativity in however they want.

While we understand the need to evaluate students' plans for their futures in a reasonable and efficient manner, to make it a graduation requirement limits the possibilities for students to show their true potential. Rather than enforce a requirement that prioritizes meeting expectations, an individual project, shaped by the students themselves, will indeed be more difficult to evaluate, but will encourage students to show what their passions and interests are, while pushing them to think about their future beyond high school.

The Following is an excerpt from Policy 600 which the Playwickian staff must follow. The excerpt is not representative of Policy 600 in its entirety. The Playwickian has been directed to publish this excerpt of the Policy in its masthead. The staff feels this section of the policy is also important to be featured in the masthead: "It is the intent of the Board of School Directors of the School District that School District publications be considered government speech for purposes of the First Amendment and to the extent permitted by the First Amendment."

Playwickian Policy: The policy of the Playwickian which shall be published as part of the masthead of the newspaper shall be as follows:

"Policy. Subject to applicable law and the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in Policy 600 of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District and this policy statement, it is the policy of School District that student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of the Playwickian. Except for advertisements, all content shall be prepared by students, subject to editing by others.

Students: (a) strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness; (b) review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation; (c) check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations; and (d) in the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space therefore if appropriate. As examples, and not limitations on the proper authority of school officials, the following types of expression will not be approved for publication: (a) material that is obscene; (b) the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value; (c) indecent or vulgar language is not obscene; (d) material that violates the legal or constitutional rights of others; (e) material that will cause a material and substantial disruption of school activities; and (f) any other material that the school authorities reasonably believe should be prohibited.

Within the terms, conditions and limitations of Policy 600 and this policy statement, students are free to express opinions. Specifically, a student may criticize school policy or the performance of teachers, administrators, school officials and other school employees.

The viewpoints expressed by anyone in this paper shall not be deemed to be the viewpoints of the School District, any official or employee of the School District, or any student other than the student or students who expressed the viewpoint.

Dissent: keystones killing unnecessary work

In recent years Neshaminy High School has begun to make the move from requiring a graduation project in addition to regular classes to receive a high school diploma, to requiring passing grades on the Pennsylvania Keystone test in addition to regular classes to receive a high school diploma. In light of this many students and staff alike have aired their grievances with the expansion of standardized testing into even this sector of the school system.

Although it has been shown that the extreme increase in time spent taking standardized tests, at all educational levels, can result in increased stress and other issues within the school system, that is not to say that a standardized test, such as the Keystone, would not be more appropriate in this context than an independent project might be.

The graduation project, which takes extended amounts of time out of the daily schedules of Neshaminy seniors each year, in reality shows no basic knowledge, skill, or employability to prospective colleges and employers, as there is no real way for these institutions to value such a venture.

On the other hand, Keystone testing establishes a basic base of knowledge accessible and known by

everyone who has passed them, and shows colleges and businesses what they can expect from graduates. No independent, unstandardized project would provide that advantage to graduates.

In addition to this Keystone testing establishes instructional framework from which teachers may build their curriculum statewide, holds teachers and schools accountable for maintaining their curricula, and sets a barrier of objectivity between student knowledge and grading bias.

With landmarks such as the keystones set at the same markers in a child's development in each school in a state, teachers will, of course, plan to teach the curriculum of the tests to students prior to the time they will be taking the test. This will allow easy transfer between schools without confusion between varied curriculum and work loads.

As scores for standardized tests are publicized, schools and teachers become accountable for the curriculum being taught within their classrooms, rather than face scrutiny. Such scrutiny has often become detrimental to the work loads of students, but with limited testing, such as our current schedule of keystones without the additional standardized tests

Neshaminy students are so often subjected to, this could be avoided.

Keystones, like many other standardized tests, are graded objectively- a computer, or stranger to the test taker, grades all components of the test, therefore eliminating any bias a teacher may have for or against the test takers.

Although standardized testing may be going too far in the American educational system, budging into things that may need not be graded in such a manner, graduation requirements are one sector of schooling in which it is heavily appropriate to use such trails. Through eliminating unnecessary extraneous projects and testing throughout a student's journey through the system of public education, and replacing said things with a regulated, evenly spaced measurement such as the keystones, excessive work and stress on both students and teachers would surely be eliminated. Similar strategies have seen success in educationally dominant countries such as Finland, which ranked number six internationally in education, and Singapore, which is ranked number one internationally, where minimally mandatory testing has been implemented.

This unsigned editorial represents the dissenting view of the Editorial Board



Uptown Hall

Banquets/Parties * New Management * Affordable Rates

*The Uptown Hall is newly renovated and accomodates 200 people.
It's available seven days a week and can be used for any type of event.*

<i>Graduation Parties</i>	<i>Birthday Parties</i>
<i>Sweet Sixteen Parties</i>	<i>Team Parties</i>
<i>Bar & Bat Mitzvahs</i>	<i>Holiday Parties</i>
<i>Reunions</i>	<i>Social Events</i>
<i>Church Events</i>	<i>Rehearsals</i>

Please contact us for further information or to schedule a tour of the facility prior to booking your date.

*Please contact John Carroll at phone: 215-752-3479 or email:
email@uptownstringband.com*

Uptown Hall, 831 Avenue D, Parkland, PA. 19047

Website: www.uptownhall.com

Mealtime in America: reconsideration needed

By Eishna Ranganathan
Managing Editor and News Editor

Engraved in time are rules: an apple a day keeps the doctor away, breakfast is the most important meal of the day, green is good. But, as the digital era sets in, mealtime becomes increasingly more on-the-go and people often sideline food, and its status as a priority begins to diminish in the face of iPhones, working pressures and constant productivity.

Several students at Neshaminy don't take a lunch, rather an extra elective, and have no time in their day to pause and regather; many faculty members often times also work through their break in order to grade papers or to attend meetings. Within the district, and throughout the United States, the value of food - of gathering together momentarily with good people to eat together - should be at the center of attention as part of the American education and workplace. Schools should require each student, each staff person to take a lunch.

"The Europeans have it right; a large part of their culture is balance. I believe food is medicine. A school for difficult children changed its whole eating program and it resulted in lesser class disruptions. Troubled kids had the ability to concentrate better... food is medicine. Food heals," head of the World Language Dept., Cara Delorenzo, said.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, in a 2012 report, found that kids who eat at least five meals/week with their families share higher quality, more active relationships with their parents, significantly less prone to substance abuse and decreased stress levels - exactly the effect doing important things with important people should produce.

From a psychological standpoint, whether with friends or family, sharing lunchtime with others offsets a sense of togetherness, rhythm, regularity and order. Frequent mealtimes with others leads to amplified happiness

and less susceptibility to eating disorders, depression and anxiety.

"There was a family I always visited and I remember the father telling me they are proud of their meals. Food is their sense of pride. They took the time to cook but did not always buy the best clothes. They never skim on quality of food," Delorenzo continued.

Often times people eat meals individually - wrapped, packaged or frozen. A 2014 Stanford University Study, entitled "What's for Dinner?" found that 20 percent of American meals are consumed in the car and that "if it's bad for us, it's probably not food." After researchers found such results the dining staff immediately implemented policies to "retain the culture of food." Other schools should mimic its footsteps to further their learning environments.

"One of the big things is that when we don't have the time to take to feed ourselves, from a nutrition of view, we over eat later. When you grab something on-the-go you are eating empty calories," phlebotomist at St. Mary Medical Center, Pear McCall said. Such a phenomenon can also be observed when watching TV or being on a cell phone while eating, extremely similar to being in class and eating. The aftereffects are prominent. They are tremendously undisregardable.

Food, such an entity, affects *everything*, each aspect of life: mood, mental health, effectiveness and efficiently; thus Neshaminy, the nation as a whole, should centralize its focus on asking its students, its parents, its workers, its CEOs, to regularize the filter on food, not just through Instagram. Doing so, not in spite of, but because, it takes time out of the day to refuel, will result in a greater output overall. Eating should have no relation to the pure process of putting a certain thing in the body, but rather being present in eating the food, rather than always multitasking in a perpetual state of making sure there is time to do X, Y and Z.

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Japan

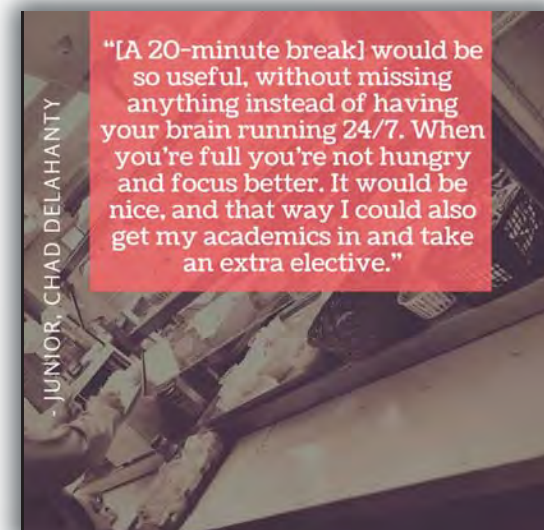
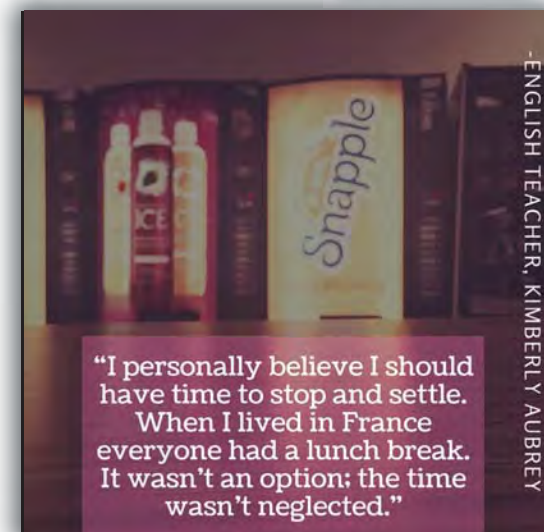
The Japanese have a tea ceremony, Chado, which brings a sense of intellectual and physical enjoyment & peace of mind to the guests.

India

People tend to share dishes with coworker rather than eating from their own plates. Doing so makes lunch, "Bhojan," a more social experience

France

The French associate food with pleasure as opposed to health. Dining is done at leisure and lunch lasts 2 hours.



FDA approves something fishy

Genetically-Modified salmon raises questions over future of food industry

By Spencer Potts
Op-Ed Editor

The United States Food and Drug Administration, also known as the FDA, has approved the selling of some fishy products, namely AquaBounty's genetically-modified salmon. There are many concerns about what this means for future FDA approval of genetically-modified organisms, as this is the first case of such.

AquaBounty, the group who has created the salmon in question, is a biotechnology company participating in the development and commercialization of products relating to productivity within the aquatic farming industry. The company engages in research for the industry and has developed hybrid forms of trout, tilapia and salmon. The "AquAdvantage Salmon," is the next step for the company, marking the beginning in production of Genetically-Modified Organisms, known as GMOs, for the company.

GMOs are foods with quite the gamut of controversies and concerns in their surrounding; in the simplest definition GMOs are foods that have had changes imported into their DNA through genetic engineering instead of conventional cross breeding methods. Concerns over government regulation, or lack thereof, in the labeling of said foods; the effects brought onto exposed organisms and environments by said foods; and pesticide

resistance of said food, along with its impact on farmers, with related issues have brought this approval to the point of controversy. Unlike many issues, such as climate change, there is no unanimous scientific consensus- each and every organism is approached individually.

The FDA's decision approved the consumption of the genetically-modified salmon in the states, but not the production. A different agency, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, known as FWS, has not approved the production, leaving the company to continue production of said product in Panama.

"The proposal [to approve the AquaBounty salmon] also presents a situation where FDA, whose jurisdiction is not focused on natural resources, is entrusted with the authority to approve an application which poses such a threat to the country's natural resources," Jeff Adams, Branch Chief of the FWS, said.

The FDA is a federal agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, a United States federal executive department. Responsible for regulation and supervision of food safety, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, cosmetics, and the animal industry, the agency appears to have quite the handful of work. The agency is cluttered, and the biotechnology regulations have been glued together with flimsy bills since the 1980s, the structure

itself is flawed and building upon that structure dooms its inevitable collapse to be even fiercer.

Gene escape offers another form of collapse for aquatic ecosystems; the breakout of the fish proves to be a serious concern. Escape has happened before, in 2008 an "unusually severe storm" damaged the water inlet system, allowing all of the fish to swim out. After data proved that there wasn't any irregular storming at the time, a spokesman for the company, Susan Turner, revealed that the damage was actually caused by a fallen tree and that the memo was mistaken. The genetically-modified salmon grow at a rate 11 times faster than that of wild-type salmon and go through the process of smoltification faster than that of wild-type salmon. The genetically-modified salmon can easily adapt to new environments outside the hatchery and despite claims of successful sterilization, the process is not 100 percent, fertile females can reproduce.

"Maybe they [the FDA] should watch Jurassic Park," wrote Denise Hawkins, an FWS Regional Geneticist in jest, referring to the concerns and their thematic relation to the movie series documenting a fictional world involving genetically modified organisms creating havoc after serious considerations are ignored. It appears these issues are always ignored when big money and government get involved.

The United States House of Representatives approved a bill this past

summer known as H.R. 1599, a bill banning the labeling of genetically-modified foods. The House ironically labeled it the "Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act." The bill will be considered by the Senate/

It appears that a government receiving over 750,000 dollars from the agriculture biotechnology corporation Monsanto would have only the needs of GMO producers in their minds. The officials that Americans -or at least the 42 percent of Americans that actually voted in the 2014 Congressional Elections- voted for. The power appears out of reach for many with an apathetic populace and corrupt voting system, but action can still be taken on an individual level through various forms of activism.

"I believe that GMOs have great potential, including both good and bad potential. In the right hands, it could be great; in the wrong hands, it could be catastrophic. I don't think humanity is ready. I don't think we should play God with the animals and plants of this planet quite just yet." Cole Tiemann said, Neshaminy Senior, Nature Club Vice-President, and Senior Member of the Envirothon Team.

The FDA has made another mistake, baited by the allure of GMOs and the industry's money. A can of worms has been opened and the mass indifference about the well-being of the planet continues.



GENETICS - Genetically-modified organisms approved by the White House raises concerns about the food industry, economic relations and environment.

Graphics/Keke Crescenzo

Physics disproves Turkey, Russia

By Timothy Cho
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Turkish jets shot down a Russian Su-24 military jet near the Turkey-Syria border, and both governments have disputed the specific details of what exactly occurred. Both presidents have issued statements of the matter, defending their actions while accusing the other of hostile behavior.

Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed the jet was on its way to attack the Islamic State in Syria (ISIS) and publicly accused Turkey of shooting down the jet to protect secret oil trade with ISIS. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan publicly stated that the Russian jet violated Turkish airspace, entering Turkish territory without authorization; he further stated that he will resign from his position if Russia can prove its claim.

Amidst the politics, two Belgian physicists published an online article on the blog "Ku Leuven," disproving both Turkey and Russia's statements with their mathematical calculations. According to the co-authors, Tom Van Doorselaere and Giovanni Lapenta, the evidence Turkey and Russia provided are scientifically false.

Here's where physics enters the scene. Based on video footage of the jet plummeting towards the ground after impact with a Turkish missile, its estimated descent took approximately 30 seconds. Calculating the height immediately after explosion incorporates the time

the jet took to descend, the gravitational constant and assuming the jet had no vertical motion, its gravitational force balancing with its lift.

According to Newtonian physics, the equation $y = v_0 t - \frac{1}{2} g t^2$, when applied here with substitution of the initial vertical velocity, zero, the amount of time the jet took to descend, 30 seconds and gravitational constant, 9.81 meters per second squared, will yield the height of the jet immediately after the missile collided with it.

Using the previous equation, the height immediately after explosion is 4,410 meters (14,469 feet). Doorselaere and Lapenta, according to their published article, calculated a height of 4,500 meters (14,764 feet) while the Turkish government stated the jet was at a height of 5,800 meters (19,029 feet).

Turkey has also claimed that the jet traveled eight kilometers (26,247 feet) after it was hit by their missile, of which two kilometers (6,562 feet) occurred over Turkish air over the course of 17 seconds. However, physics proves otherwise.

The jet's initial velocity was composed purely by the velocity in the horizontal direction and, given the total horizontal distance, the jet's initial velocity can be calculated and used to prove whether or not the jet truly took 17 seconds to travel 2 kilometers (6,562 feet).

Newtonian physics state that horizontal velocity can be found with $V_x = X/t$, with "X" equal to the distance and "t" equal to how long the jet took to travel that distance. Substituting 8,000 meters (26,247 feet) and 30 seconds, V_x equals 266.67 meters per second (597 miles per hour).

The equation $V_x = X/t$ results in a time value of 7.5 seconds; with X as 2,000 meters (6,562 feet) and V_x as 266.67 meters per second (597 miles per hour), time is calculated to be 7.5 seconds, compared to Doorselaere and Lapenta's calculated 7.5 seconds.

Comparing the calculated 7.5 seconds to Turkey's claimed 17 seconds, the physics disproves the politics.

However, Russia has its own problems with the evidence it provided; Russia distributed maps of the jet's hypothesized route, but there lies a problem—approximately four miles east of Turkey's south-western border with Syria, the Russian jet took a sharp near-90 degrees turn to swerve clear of the border. The problem arises when considering that for the Russian jet, a Su-24, weighing at a maximum 43,755 kilograms (96,463 pounds), moving at its speed requires a massive external force to turn at such an angle.

A moving object requires an external force to change direction and in the case of a jet, the pilot may change the jet's direction. However, the pilot reportedly ejected out of the plane prior to the jet-missile collision, which leaves only an external force to change direction. The impulse, instantaneous change in momentum, required to change the direction of a Su-24 jet moving at such a high velocity would be extremely high. For a missile and its explosion to change the jet's direction in such a drastic way is improbable.

Therefore, while the discourse between Russia and Turkey continues, one thing is certain: According to physics, both are already wrong.

Eureka.

Police brutality a persistant problem

By Juliet Okwara
Literary Editor

It took 13 months for the Chicago Police Department to release the video of the shooting of Laquan McDonald, a 17 year old black teen shot 16 times over the course of 14 seconds, 13 of which he spent lying on the street. His shooter, Officer Jason Van Dyke has since been charged with first-degree murder, and his actions have fueled protests throughout Chicago.

The confrontation between McDonald and Van Dyke began after 9p.m. on Oct. 20, 2014 when McDonald was stopped by the police after report of someone breaking into vehicles on the Southwest Side.

But the reports of the officers present are at odds with the dashboard video. According to reports, Van Dyke told investigators that McDonald was "swinging the knife in an aggressive, exaggerated manner," and raised the weapon above his shoulder from about 10 to 15 feet away. In the dashcam video, McDonald is clearly shown to be fleeing the scene, first running, then slowing to a slight jog and then walking before he was shot by

Van Dyke. Was McDonald holding a knife: yes. Was he waving about in an "aggressive" manner that posed a threat to police officers present: no. And all five videos released show that there were at least eight police cars on the scene, a force that should have been sufficient enough to provide for the safety of the police officers and to detain McDonald without killing him. But it was not.

The problem in the shooting of McDonald is that it is merely a repeat of the deaths of Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and others who have suffered at the hands of police brutality. Black Americans do not have a problem with police officers doing their jobs. Each one of these individuals were in the wrong in one way or another and could have simply been restrained, but instead, an officer believed it was his right to take the life of another over a crime that has no reason to result in death.

When McDonald was shot, he was running away from the police officers, Rice was a 12 year old boy with a toy gun, Brown committed petty theft, and Garner was an unarmed black man selling loose cigarettes.

All of these individuals committed minor crimes that could have easily been accounted for. Police officers are supposed to be executors of justice, not death.

To call these victims "thugs" simply dehumanizes them without paying attention to the real problem at hand. The question is not whether justice should be delivered; it's whether justice must be delivered with a bullet for Black Americans.

This is not a new problem; Black Americans are not now suddenly getting mad, nor is this a problem caused by "race baiting politicians." People are protesting McDonald's death because police brutality drags Black Americans back to the Civil Rights Movement.

These protests are not to "end police," they are to end the mass criminalization of black people and other minorities. The protesters out in Chicago are not thugs or hooligans, they are parents who do not want to live to see their children buried, black teens who have to think about what color hoodie they must buy so that they do not attract attention, and Americans who want to live up to the guarantee of equal protection under the law promised by the fourteenth amendment.

Teacher of the Issue: Denise Kirk

By Sloane Horton
Archivist

There are many teachers here at Neshaminy High School that have impacted the lives of dedicated students tremendously. Numerous students have been granted the privilege of learning from Mathematics teacher Denise Kirk.

Kirk attended West Chester University for undergraduate school to study mathematics. Then, she attended Rutgers University for graduate school to study administration.

She has been teaching for 23 years and is currently teaching courses in Pre-Calculus, Java and AP Java. Seniors are Kirk's favorite grade to teach because it is

exciting to be a part of students last year in high school and she enjoys hearing their exciting future plans.

Kirk is married to a husband that is an avid fisherman. She also has a daughter Lizzy who is involved with soccer and track and a son Patrick that plays football, wrestles and plays lacrosse. Kirk is a full time teacher here at Neshaminy High School, yet she rarely misses one of her children's sporting events. "I enjoy being a sports mom the most" She said.

"I really enjoy having her as a teacher for my senior year" Said senior Miranda Foster. Teaching was most definitely Kirk's first choice for her career path. When she was younger she would even line up her stuffed animals and teach

them from a chalk board. Kirk graduated from Neshaminy High School and is proud to still be a part of the district. "She makes class fun and is always willing to help whoever has questions" Said Foster.

"I think Neshaminy students are the best around! Have pride in your school and community, work hard and never give up on your dreams!" Kirk said being the positive and outgoing person and teacher that she is.



Photo/ Sloane Horton

Service Learning participates in Aid for Friends

By Ashley Reiss
Student Life Editor

Aid for friends helps local Philadelphians who can't leave their homes in obtaining meals and adding a little much needed comfort and friendship to recipients.

The organization prepares more than **15 million meals**; assisting with this massive undertaking the organization includes **16,000 volunteers** and gains 14,000 client friends later.

Service learning club has took on the responsibility to help out with this local organization by making meals to then send out to needing recipients especially in lieu of the holiday season.

The passion for helping others started from Rita Ungaro-Schiavone, founder,

her realization occurred when the need for aiding others with food and helping to subside loneliness was much greater than her own ability to conquer. She enlisted the help from her church members and friends, then it continually grew to serve the now thousands of Philadelphians, becoming a successful and critical part of the community of Philadelphia.

Aid for Friends number one need is **financial support** to aid and feed more and more seniors and other recipients—being that Philadelphia seniors' poverty rate is almost double that of Pennsylvania. Just as important is the **need for volunteers** to help cook meals, visit homebound clients, and organize group cooking events.

Online, willing volunteers, can learn more about the cause if they visit **aidforfriends.org**.



"I like helping others especially when it comes to cooking, today were making spaghetti and meatballs for those who are immobile," Athena Vafiadis and Liz Herbst said.



"Were making this food for the people who need it, they get 7 meals a week for free. Its crazy how it grew from someones home kitchen to this huge organization," Mrs. Macauley said.



"We have been provided food from the organization Aid for Friends. It includes 12 pounds of spaghetti as well as green beans and fruit cups to give to those who are in need," Mrs. Macauley said.



"Friends are the main reason I joined and I love the club, we cook, help the community and have a good time," Dominika Burkiewicz said.

Photos/ Ashley Reiss

Limits to minors' rights

By **Kirsten Magas**
Staff Writer

Minors' right to making decisions regarding their health care varies from state to state. According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, the law generally requires minors to have parental consent before receiving treatment unless they have been married, been emancipated (made legally free), or graduated high school. There are certain rights kids have that they are simply unaware of.

In Pennsylvania, the law does not require doctors to receive parental consent before treating minors at a gynecology office. In fact, "Planned Parenthood," a government organization, offers all forms of contraceptives and services, such as testing for STIs or pregnancy, for free to minors.

Unfortunately, a minor cannot have an abortion without

her parents being notified unless she was emancipated. If the parent or legal guardian will not consent, she can take the issue to court to get an abortion. Either way, it's ultimately still her decision.

Too many kids avoid treatment in fear that their information will not remain confidential due to their age. Only 45 percent of kids said they would seek care for depression if their parents would be notified. However, the ACLUPA states, "Minors ages 14 and older may consent to outpatient mental health examination and treatment without parental consent or notice;" the other 55 percent of kids are in luck.

The reason why minors are not permitted to make their own decisions regarding their health is that most don't have the intelligence to make the right decision for themselves.

However, by age 14, most are in high school and have more knowledge. Although minors can consent to outpatient mental health treatment without parental notice, inpatient care requires parental notice.

The real issue is not that minors have no say on decisions regarding their medical treatment, it is that parents with children that need this type of medical care, choose not to treat their children.

Unfortunately, for these kids, their rights are being violated and they are victims of medical neglect. Parents can't be blamed in all situations, though; at times, kids leave their parents in the dark regarding what's happening in their lives.

Minors may not have too much power in this society, but it's important to recognize the rights that they still have.

Hello I Am

An Adult

Graphic/Zoey Joyce

Not a drop: America's restrictions on blood donation

By **Lea Hartley and Danny Mullane**
Staff Writers

Neshaminy's National Honor Society has been having their annual blood drive for years, and now it is time once again to continue its charitable tradition. It will be taking place on Dec 18.

Blood donation is fairly important in the medical world, according to the American Red Cross. 41,000 blood donations are needed every day and there are 30 million blood transfusions each year in America alone. One in three American need a blood transfusion of some sort in their lives.

Blood donation not only brings benefits to the patient in need, but to the donor as well. All those involved in the donation drive enjoy a free health physical that checks for pulse, blood pressure, and hemoglobin levels. The blood is also pre-screened for 13 different infectious diseases, including West Nile Virus and HIV. Blood donors, according to the American Journal of Epidemiology, also have an 88% decreased chance of suffering a heart attack.

But with all the benefits that come to the patient and donor, why may those under the age of 16 not donate blood, as eager as they may be, to aid those in need? A report by "The Journal of American Medical Association" has found that despite the age group of 16 – 19 years supplying 15% of the total blood donations a year there are increasing health risks, the younger the donor is, the more fainting and bruising occurs. The risks are greater for the 16 – 17 age groups also, which is three times more likely to suffer such complications as older teens, and 14 times more likely than those over the age of 20.

Lifetime Divorce with Parents Guaranteed

By **Nina Tarenenko**
Staff Writer

Emancipation is the legal act of "divorcing" one's parents. Most teens would jump at the idea to be free from their parents and because they won't be able to be "controlled" anymore, but if one was to look closer, they would find that.

In Pennsylvania the legal age of emancipation is 16. However, one can be emancipated in other ways, like being a married minor, or the parents have abandoned the child. Though the chances of being married at 16 are very slim.

To be emancipated by court order, the minor has to meet certain circumstances. The minor

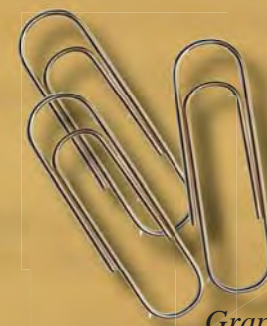
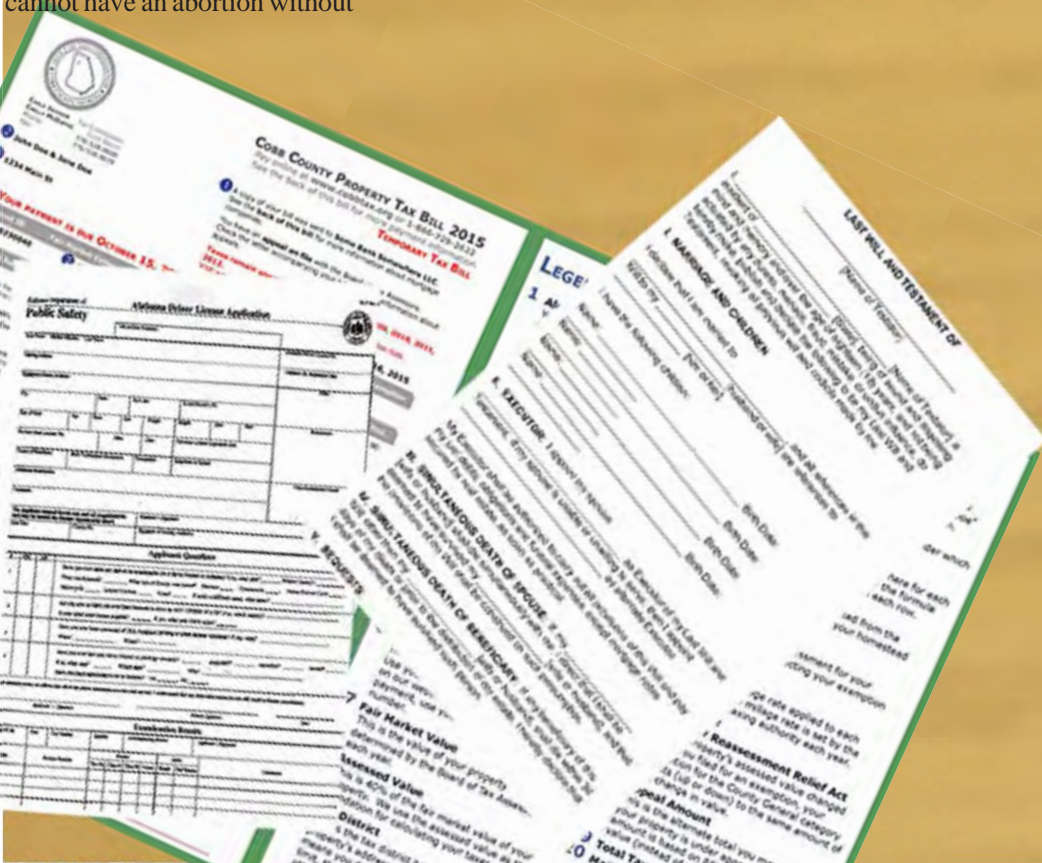
has to be financially stable and living on their own already. This isn't something that happens overnight; those currently looking to be emancipated have been working to meet these circumstances for some time.

There are many pros and cons of emancipation, making the decision difficult. The positives obviously being that the minor doesn't have to follow their parent's rules. That's just the beginning though.

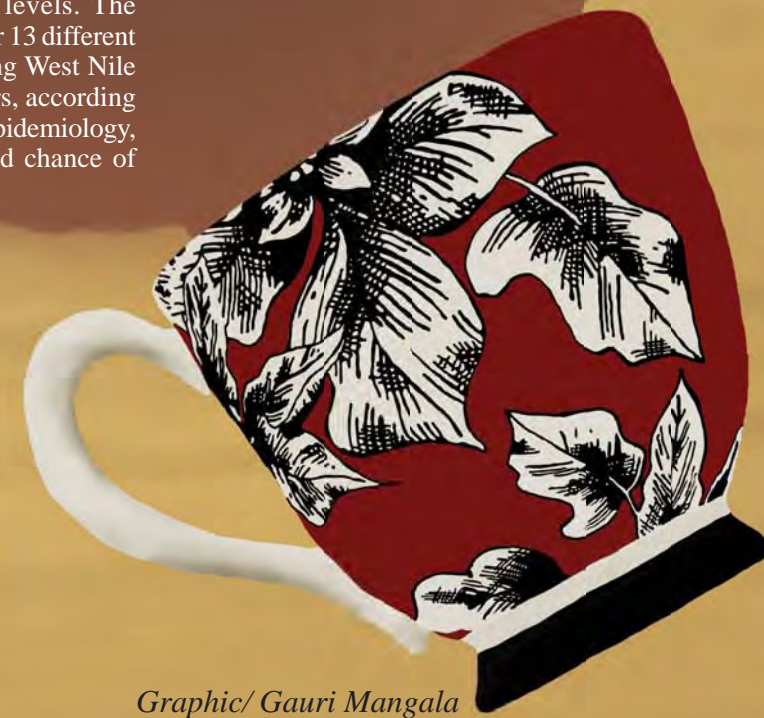
The negatives of emancipation outweigh the positives. Having to maintain a job, school, and pay the bills all come with emancipation. Though once they are independent they can legally drop out of school.

Another big factor is emotions. Some parents would be offended that their child wouldn't want to be under their care anymore. Also dealing with the stress of all the responsibilities you would have.

Emancipation is a complicated act that only a smart, strong child could handle. Emancipation is not as easy as people make it out to be.



Graphic/Zoey Joyce



Graphic/ Gauri Mangala

Home

Notifications

Messages

Features

N

TWEETS

FOLLOWING

FOLLOWERS

FAVORITES

LISTS

Follow

34.7K

685

2540

247

2

Neshaminy Lifehacks

@NeshLifeHack

FOLLOWS YOU

Amazing lifehacks to get you through your time in Neshaminy High School. From students, for students.

Langhorne, PA

neshaminy.k12.pa.us

Joined December 17, 2015

20 Followers you know

522 Photos and videos

Neshaminy High School Trends · Change

#IneedaGymNightPartner

Promoted by Doc

#WinterBreakNOW

#WhensTheNextDayOff

#InSchoolConcert?

#MarchingBandEnded

#Pay4myYearbookPls

#cryingovercollege

#homeaccess

#PromDate?

#DramaShowWaiting4Death

#IneedaPass

This is not a real twitter page. Photo credits to Playwickian Staff. Graphics by Zoey Joyce.

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Photos & videos

Pinned Tweet

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

As the New Year rolls around it's time to reevaluate our life choices and make some change for the good. We are here to help. #lifehacks #neshaminy #NewYear

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

"If you need to refill your water bottle in school use the water fountain by guidance." - Ashley Reiss

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

"After writing an essay, copy and paste it into Google Translate and listen to it to check for any errors." - Catherine Hilliard

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

"Use scholar.google.com to find information for school essays." - Namish Siddiqui

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

"When presenting a project, have a friend ask a question you already know the answer to." - Tim Cho

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

"If you drink water after waking up you'll feel more awake during the day." - Zoey Joyce

Neshaminy Life Hacks @NeshLifeHack · 2h

"Listening to classical music when studying helps improve your memory on the topic you're studying." - Leanne Khov

Roadies bring life with “Waiting for Death”



Roadies' 'Waiting for Death' receive Superior at Penn. State Thespian Conference; seniors Rebecca Allen, Cora Burns and Forrest Filiano invited to perform at International Thespian Festival 2016

By Timothy Cho
Editor in Chief

On Nov. 2, the Roadies presented, “Waiting for Death,” a one-act show, in the Black Box Theatre. Originally written by Michael Maiello, “Waiting for Death” revolved around what began as a party and ended with death. “Waiting for Death” was also presented on Friday, Nov. 4, at the Pennsylvania State Thespian Festival, in which Neshaminy participated for their first time, and received a superior score.

The show began with Donovan and Ella, played by junior Chad Wiatrowski and senior Hannah Lieb, respectively, preparing their home for a party with friends. However, their shallowness was all too clear: High class members of society preparing only a single bowl of potato chips, fake flowers as the only decoration and an open window with a full view of the sometimes-naked “Mrs. Fulsom,” contradicted the life they enjoy.

Donovan and Ella contrasted each other's roles, highlighting the flaws of the other while revealing their broken marriage; Donovan, a passionate but regretful man who gave up on his early dreams, never failed to stress Ella, a dramatic and hostile woman and Valium addict.

As they bicker, they open the door, only to find a strange man, dressed casually, with a scythe and a hat, who welcomes himself into the home. Death

has arrived.

Played by senior Forrest Filiano, Death stated what his purpose was: Someone was to die, but he would not reveal who. Donovan and Ella. The next two guests then enter: Eddie, played by senior Sean Conway, and Bonnie, played by junior Emma Saloky.

Immediately, Eddie reveals himself to be a self-proclaimed television maestro evidently interested only in profit, while Bonnie reveals herself to be a woman of physical vanity, dressed to show her body off. The final two guests eventually arrive: Rebecca, played by senior Cora Burns, and Malcolm, played by junior Bryant Zagarodny. Rebecca, a woman of high fashion with shallow interests, contrasts Malcolm, the friendly and properly-dressed cosmetic surgeon.

Rebecca and Malcolm leave the party, while Eddie intoxicates himself with alcohol. In his drunken state, he reveals his love for Ella, while his lover, Bonnie, was never a serious consideration of his love.

With a complicated love story now unfolding, Ella declares her love for Eddie, leaving Donovan in dismay. Bonnie, too, leaves, and now only Donovan, Ella, Death and Eddie remain. As Ella and Eddie continue in their declarations of love toward one another, Donovan leaves to his room and returns with a gun, threatening to do Death's job for him. Ella attempts to pull the gun away, and as the two struggle for control, the gun points towards the open window,

and the gun is shot.

As they stand in silence, Death walks to the window, and confirms that his job has been completed: Mrs. Fulsom has been killed.

“Waiting for Death” incorporated an immense amount of action in the short period the actors had, but the action unfolded naturally and smoothly, so much to the point where the actors seemed to be real embodiments of their personas, not just acting on a stage, but truly performing an act for the world.

This cohesiveness between the actors, the natural reliance and trust upon one another, is what director Gina Chiolan called the Roadies', “ability to act as an ensemble,” and feel at ease on stage.

Wiatrowski attributes their success with the, “amount of time we spent together,” the amount of work they do

together. Lieb saw their success as a result of, “the fact that the cast is so close,” while Filiano believed it was, “the diversity in the group.”

While “Waiting for Death” was

performed well, it was not easy. As a one act show, having to present an introduction, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution within a short period of time was strenuous, but, “being forced

to spend so much time together really made us closer,” Burns said.

With the members of “Waiting for Death” composed of four seniors and three juniors, they, too, realize that not much time remains with one another, and that what time they do have is precious—all the more reason to enjoy it with a passionate heart.

For Lieb, the stage is where she can, “escape my life and enter another,” creating reality out of fiction, alongside other actors who share her same passion, while, for Burns, the stage is where she can make, “people feel emotions and take them away from their problems, even if it is just for a little while.”

They also looked in retrospect on their previous years and shared their hopes for the underclassmen. Burns shared what she would say to her freshman self, while reminding underclassmen, “To be more

confident and take more chances when it comes to theatre, because even if it doesn't work out it is always a great learning experience.”

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players; they have their exits and their entrances, and one player in their time plays many parts. And so these players, do.

“always remember [that] theatre is a gift, an opportunity to take people away from their lives and to make people feel something else, something special,” Conway said.

Photo / Zoey Joyce

Kylie's chair has rolled too far

By Brianna Herder
Staff Writer

image and creative expression, including the set with the wheelchair. But our intention was certainly not to offend anyone."

Many took to twitter in frustration over how people in actual wheelchairs are ignored and overlooked, but Kylie is considered "beautiful" or "glamorous" in hers. Many celebrities are subject to backlash for pictures they post. Lady Gaga performed in a wheelchair while dressed as a mermaid, Ellie Goulding was accused of being insensitive for wearing a Native American headdress, and Perrie Edwards posed with a bindi with her ex fiancée Zayn Malik's Pakistani family and the list goes on.

Although Kylie has been in the news for bad reasons, she's also been in the news for her lip kit she recently released. The kit quickly sold out, but Jenner stated that it wasn't an exclusive thing and more would be on the way. Jenner obviously put a lot of work into the kit, and is ecstatic that the kit did well, and shoppers can expect to see more from Kylie in the cosmetology world.

Kylie Jenner, who is usually a trending topic, has made headlines yet again. In the past, Kylie has been bashed for gifting her best friend, Jordyn Woods, a cake that had a racial slur written on it, her on and off again relationship with rapper, Tyga, her ever famous lips which Kylie admitted to having done after accusations came her way, her unforgettable magazine shoot where she sported much darker skin and was accused of being racist after sharing a sneak peek, to being accused of glamorizing African-American culture when she took to Instagram and shared with her millions of followers a cornrow hairstyle. As the public can see, Kylie Jenner absolutely does get around, which is why it's not surprising she's making headlines again, this time for posing in a wheelchair.

Kylie's most recent magazine shoot was for *Interview* magazine where the photos, in a word, are risqué. But one picture in particular caught the internet's attention when Kylie was photographed posing in a golden wheelchair. Many were quick to accuse Kylie and *Interview* of "ableism", which is when people discriminate against people who are disabled.

However, *Interview* said that their intention was not to offend anyone, but to pay tribute to British artist Allen Jones, who was known for his questionable sculptures of women.

Interview told PEOPLE magazine, "Our intention was to create a powerful set of pictures that get people thinking about



Graphics/ Grace Marion

Expressionism

By Kenzi Crescenzo
Staff Writer

Expressionism is defined as an art movement that touches upon forms of modern art that distort reality to evoke emotion from its viewer or audience. By distorting reality, the artist can force the audience to disregard physical tangibility, therefore leading the viewer to focus primarily on feeling.

Expressionism originates from Germany, and was a response to the French Impressionism ("a style of painting that...attempts to capture the feeling of a scene rather than specific details"), and academic art. German artists felt as though humanity had lost a connection with emotion and spirituality when it came to artwork, so in response, they began to depict intense emotion within their artwork and writing. Most expressionist art was found within the 20th century, until expressionism was revived in the 1970s and 80s through Neo-Expressionism.

As expected, due to their close origins, expressionism has been greatly influenced by Post-Impressionism, as well as Symbolist art. Symbolist artist Gustav Klimt (whose most famous painting is "The Kiss") directly influenced expressionist artist Egon Schiele. However, unlike post-impressionist artwork that focuses almost solely on manipulating visual reality, expressionism seamlessly involves psychology in the way no other art movement does.

Expressionism and Abstract expressionism has not only attracted fans, but critics as well. Some may find the nonrepresentational nature of expressionism to be frustrating due to the lack of coherency. Abstract expressionists such as Mark Rothko or Hans Hofmann may receive criticism based upon the physical appearance of the painting rather than the emotion and thought the artwork evokes.

Some of the most well known expressionist artists include Wassily Kandinsky, Ernest Ludwig Kirchner, Franz Marc, and Emil Nolde.



New demigod born: Saint West

By **Tom D. Banks**
Staff Writer

On Saturday, December 5th Kim Kardashian gave birth to Kanye West's second child, and their first son, an angel, a true Saint. Little is known about the child, who was brought into the world at a night maternity suite at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, at this time. Given the appearance of his parents, beauty is almost guaranteed.

"Kim Kardashian West and her husband, Kanye West, welcomed the arrival of their son this morning. Mother and son are doing well," a representative of the Kardashians wrote. After days of anticipation and speculation, the child's name was revealed to be Saint West.

"She [Kim] gave birth naturally, her preferred way, and she must be a pro because this time around Kim felt it was a lot easier giving birth," an unnamed source told Hollywood life. Kim underwent a procedure to have the child turned to a head-down position in order to preform a natural birth, as she feared that a C-section would be needed.

The only person reported to be present at the birth was Kanye, who undoubtedly lent his emotional support as his wife birthed their child. Kanye's status is unknown at this time; it remains a question as to when Kanye's seventh studio album, "SWISH", will be released as he aids his wife in her recovery.

It's such a beautiful movie

By **Grace E. Marion**
Entertainment Editor

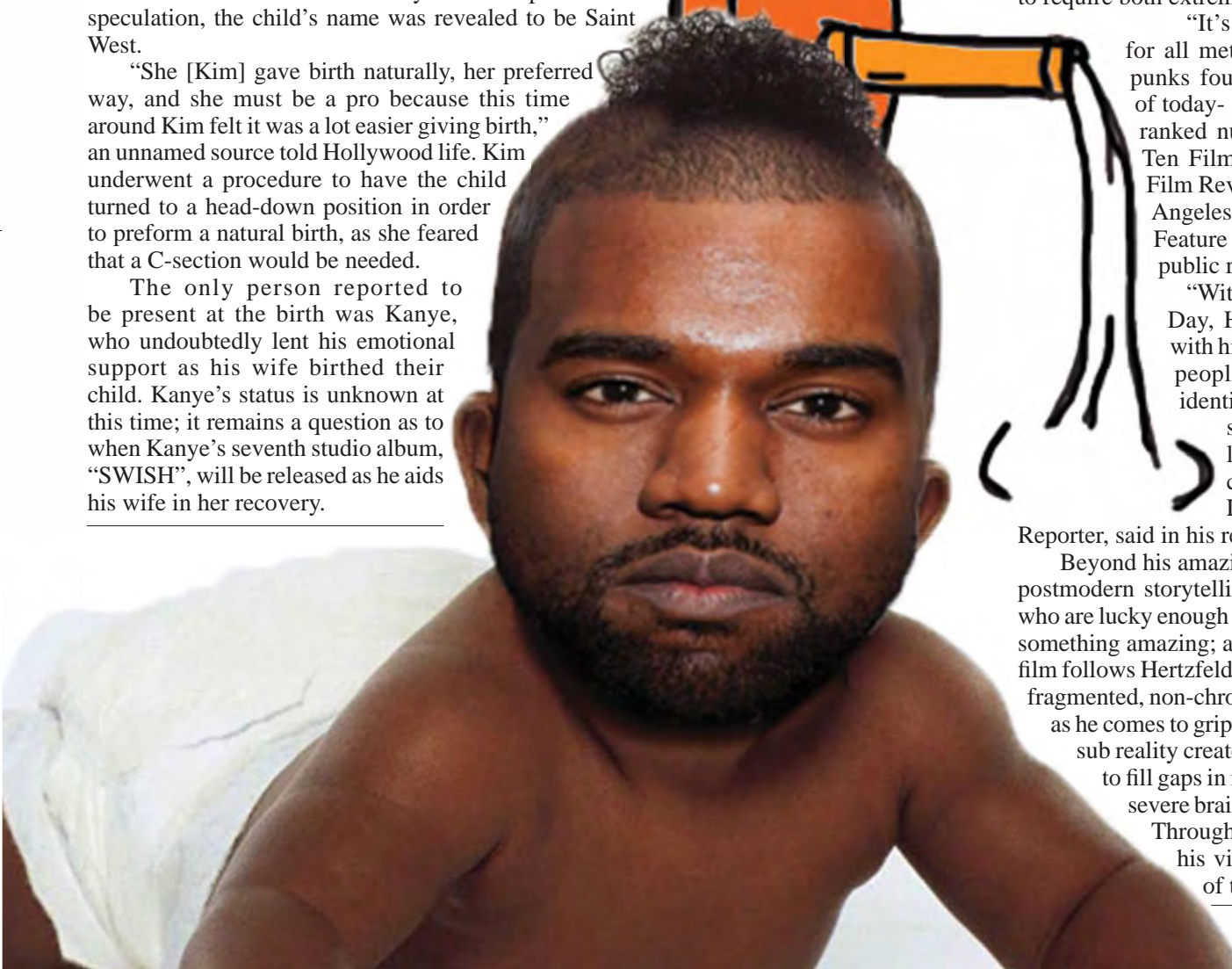
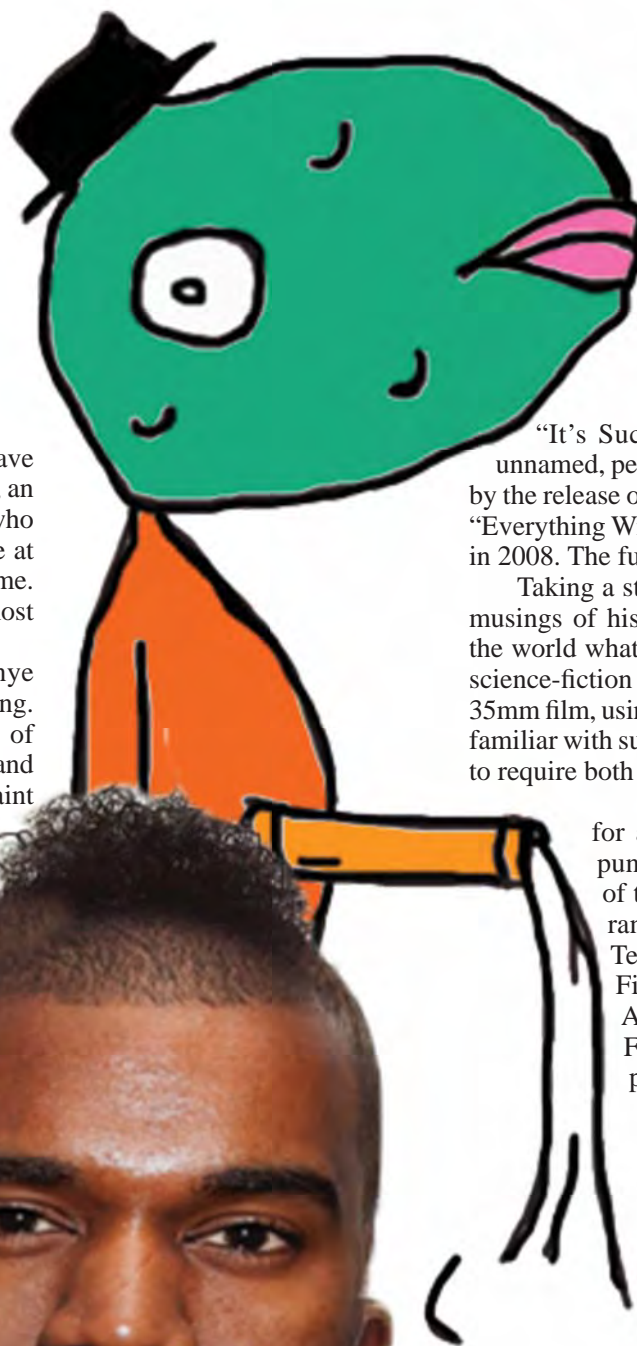
Award-winning filmmaker Don Hertzfeldt's, "It's Such a Beautiful Day," is the final piece of his unnamed, perception-shattering trilogy, which was completed by the release of this short film in Aug. of 2012, and preceded by "Everything Will Be Okay," in 2006 and "I'm So Proud of You," in 2008. The full length film was released in 2011.

Taking a step back from the droll humor and philosophical musings of his usual popular releases, Hertzfeldt birthed into the world what can only be described as a fragmental realistic-science-fiction short film. The trilogy was produced entirely on 35mm film, using only in-camera special effects, which to anyone familiar with such techniques in modern times can be considered to require both extreme skill and momentous pretension.

"It's Such a Beautiful Day," is a daydream for all metacognition mooncalves and postmodern punks found within the film-fanatic demographic of today- and the world agrees. This collection was ranked number-three on Time Out London's Top Ten Films of 2013 list; number-four on London Film Review's same list; and runner-up for the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Best Animated Feature Film of the Year award among many other public recognitions.

"With his debut feature It's Such a Beautiful Day, Hertzfeldt proves he can do much more with his little hand-drawn stick figures than make people laugh. A truly moving meditation on identity, family and (as the title of his previous short immodestly put it) the meaning of life, Hertzfeldt's magnum opus is more cosmically satisfying than The Tree of Life..." John DeFore, writer for Hollywood Reporter, said in his review of the film.

Beyond his amazing display of skill in film, animation, and postmodern storytelling, Hertzfeldt manages to grant viewers who are lucky enough to stumble across his short, 62-minute-film something amazing; a new appreciation for life. The plot of this film follows Hertzfeldt's protagonist, Bill, through life by way of fragmented, non-chronological memories, and absurdist dreams as he comes to grips with the reality of his life, declining into a sub reality created by his subconscious as it futile attempts to fill gaps in memory and an understanding created by a severe brain tumor, to which Bill has become a victim. Through this journey, Hertzfeldt pushed hope onto his viewer- hope, desperation, and a new view of the universe.



Neshaminy senior baffles art crowd

By Gauri Mangala
Features Editor

Meet Betsy Tigreros. A senior, the 18 year old has already established herself as one of the top artistic talents at Neshaminy High School. Her paintings have been recognized throughout the school for years.

Other than art, Tigreros works with special needs kids and volunteers at the activities at school held for them. She also is a part of yoga club, interact club, and string orchestra, as a viola player, as well as a accomplished mixed martial artist.

Tigreros is involved in the art club at Neshaminy and has begun selling her personal works, along with her sister in a business that the two have created. Called "JBcuriousmax," the pair have slowly begun opening up the business, occasionally taking orders for Christmas and birthday presents.

Tigreros, a hopeful nursing major, hopes to minor in art, as well as continue to sell her personal works.

Painting/Betsy Tigreros

Q: So how did you get into art?

A: I got into art because of my parents. My mom used to work making pop out artwork and my dad made sculptures and I was just always interested in it, I've been drawing ever since I was little I loved it.

Q: What is your favorite type of art to create?

A: My favorite type of art would be painting and watercolor, I completely lose myself in what I am doing and relax and blast music and don't think about anything else and you get to express who you are in the canvas like it doesn't have to look exactly like the picture and I love the challenge.

Q: How do you know when a piece is finished?

A: When I feel like I'm happy with the piece.

Q: What inspires you for your artwork?

A: Colors, my life, other art works, people and animals.

Q: What does art mean to you?

A: It's everything, it's a way of expressing yourself, it allows me to be patient and not so stressed with my life.

Q: Do you want to continue with art in college and for a career?

A: Well I already have been selling my art, last year I was nominated for student of the month or week or something because of it so I definitely went to continue doing something with art. I want my major to be nursing and have my minor as art.

Q: Tell me more about selling your art if you could.

A: My sister and I started it last year because everyone wanted a painting so the company kind of just happened out of nowhere. We called it "JBcuriousmax" J for my sister's name and B for mine. Curious because Curiosity is what lead us to try and sell our art and see how it would go. Max because my dog was always up in our business when we painted. For a while we've been holding out putting the business out like we've made an Instagram account but because we're so busy with work and school we're not able to do too much but one in a while we'll take a request, actually recently I got a request to do a portrait for a Xmas present.

Q: Which artists do you look up to?

A: I look up to Van Gogh and Leonid Afremov. Omg their work is amazing. Van Gogh's art work is different, the way he does he's style and technique of doing art is interesting and Leonid Afremov's art work is very colorful and not a lot of detail but enough to still able to see what the picture is and it's just beautiful.



Charlie Brown turns 50, breaks re- cord as oldest second grader

By Corrine Calderbank
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again, everyone gathering around the T.V., getting ready to watch their favorite holiday specials. This year one of the most famous holiday program is celebrating 50 years.

On Nov. 30, 2015 ABC aired a special celebrating the 50th anniversary of A Charlie Brown Christmas, called *It's Your 50th Christmas, Charlie Brown. A Charlie Brown Christmas* is a classic Christmas special that has been around for over half a century, premiering on Dec. 9, 1965.

Kristen Bell hosted the special along with special musical performances from Kristin Chenoweth, Matthew Morrison, Sarah McLachlan featuring the All-American Boys Choir, Boyz II Men, Pentatonix, and David Benoit. The musical performances emphasize the musical impact Charlie Brown has left on us.

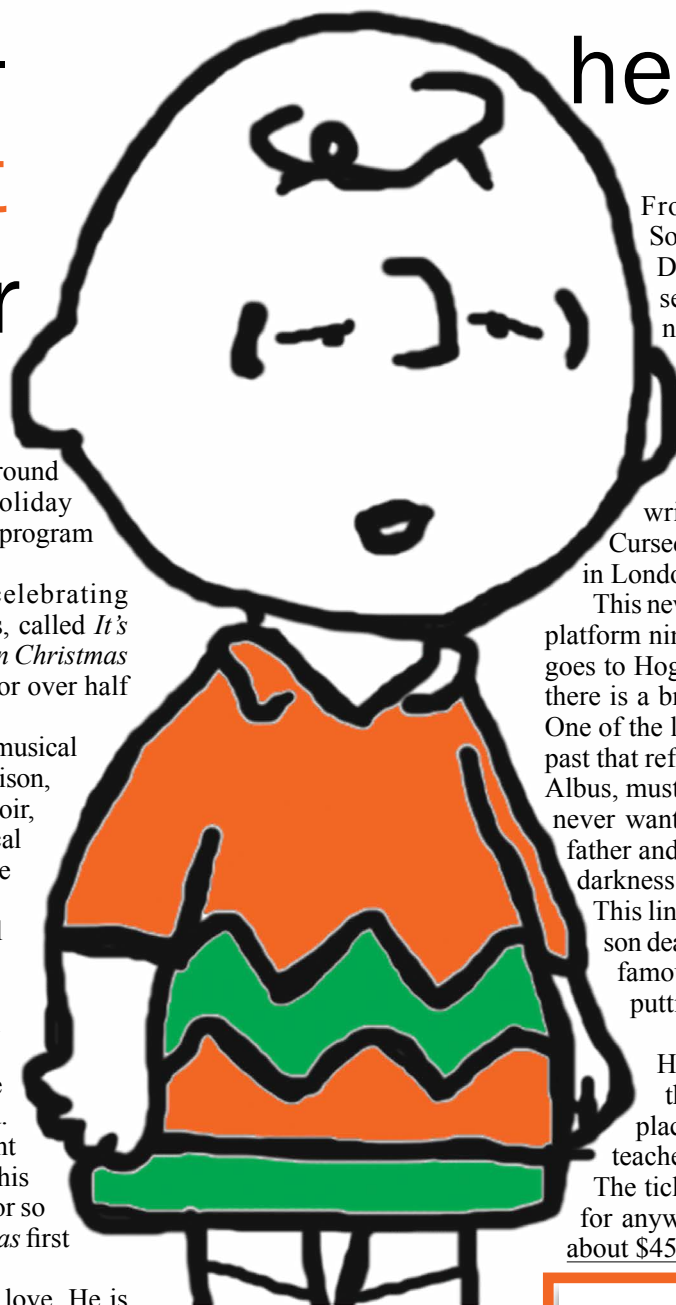
Through the course of the program Kristen Bell explained the process of how the peanuts came to be. The legendary Charlie Brown is based off the real life Charles Schulz, when he was created in 1963. When the production never went through in 1963, two years later Time magazine wanted to do a feature on Charlie Brown in April 1965, and the playwright was then sold.

The voices of the peanuts were voiced by different child actors rather than adults. This was very odd for this time period, making the program "unconventional", or so the network thought. When *A Charlie Brown Christmas* first aired 45 percent of people watching T.V. tuned in.

Charlie Brown is a character that everyone can love. He is sweet and loves everyone.

"He's the kinda kid you would want as a next door neighbor," Charles Schulz said.

A Charlie Brown Christmas shows us the real meaning of Christmas. To celebrate good will toward all and to love each other. We learned from Linus that even tiny trees just need a little love, while we learned from Charlie Brown said it only matters who is around the tree and not what's under it.



Graphics/ Grace Marion

Harry Potter: he's a keeper

By Connor Menzel
Staff Writer

From the first movie, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," in 2001 to "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2," in 2011 the Harry Potter series has been filled with magic and wonder that no other movies could give us. The last book in the famous Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2," wrapped up the series.

J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter series, has just announced that she has written a screenplay titled "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," that will premiere in the Palace Theater in London in late June 2016.

This new play takes place just after the final moments on platform nine-and-three quarters when Harry's middle son goes to Hogwarts for the first time. On the play's website, there is a brief look at what's to come in two paragraphs. One of the lines says, "While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son, Albus, must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places."

This line portrays that the storyline will involve Harry's son dealing with many kids at school who recognize the famous Potter name, and Harry himself has trouble putting his past behind him.

"It sounds very good. I'm a huge fan of Harry Potter. I think it will also be interesting to see the theme of darkness coming from unexpected places be developed," Kristen McCreary, English teacher, said.

The tickets are currently on sale on the play's website for anywhere from £30 to £130 a ticket, which equals about \$45 to \$195.



Fresh PA Trees

A & S Fencing
1276 E Old Lincoln Hwy,
Langhorne, PA 19047

Winter Sports Season Previews

BOYS' WINTER TRACK-- Key Athletes include Sean Conway and Rusty Kujdych, who both have a strong chance of qualifying for the state meet in early March.

WRESTLING--Key seniors include Bruce Graeber, Aspah Alexander, Noah Kisselback and Ben Stern. Sophomore Mike Meghan and juniors Matt Jacoby, Vincent Stablito and Kyle Osterhoudt are other key athletes this season.

BOYS' BASKETBALL-- Key athletes include Anthony Papeo, Shammond Thomas, Eric Rotteveel and Zach Tredway. The team is motivated to accomplish great things this season, and improve on their previous 2-12 record.

BOYS' BOWLING-- After winning the state championships last year, Neshaminy Boy's Bowling is ready for another successful season. Key bowlers include Blaze Binkowski, Vincent DiDonato and David Emsley.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL-- Last season the team finished with a 14-8 record. Key athletes include Morgan Goldenbaum, Thyra Tuttle and Tiara Poterfield.

GIRLS' BOWLING--Last season the girls' bowling team secured a win at the Snowroller Championship, and are ready for another successful season. Key bowlers include Brooke Edelman, Gabby Hampton, Diana Majors, Sophie Weber and captain Breanna Morris.

GIRLS' WINTER TRACK-- Returning athletes include Junior Saloni Hebron and Senior Alex Jackson. Key distance runners this season include Sophomore Becca Lehman, senior Natalia Bastida and junior Lexi Flemming.

SWIMMING - - Key swimmers include David Kneiss, Josh Hartley, Mike Kalika and diver Kristin Link. Last season Link placed 5th in the SOL Diving Competition and Kneiss won the 100 yard freestyle at the SOL conference championships.

SPORTORIAL

Female Athletes Undervalued

By **Natalie Pietrowski**
Sports Editor

It's a common observation—sports culture is dominated by men. While the number of females in the sports industry seems to be growing, it is clear that females in the industry are not getting the respect they deserve.

Perhaps the most glaring incident is the controversy in the 2015 the FIFA Women's World Cup regarding artificial turf. This past summer, the women's world cup was held in Canada for the first time in FIFA history. With the new location, came a new playing surface.

The tournament was held on artificial turf fields, a surface that is commonly referred to by many athletes as "a surface widely recognized as inferior in international soccer." According to Fox Sports, the Women's National team sent a letter with this wording to the International Football Association, threatening a gender discrimination lawsuit.

Even after legal actions were taken, the female teams were still required to play on these artificial fields. While it must be taken into consideration that grass in Canada often times does not

recover from the harsh winters until July or August, this is still a prominent issue.

"The game plays differently on artificial surface, not only because of fear of injury but because it's a different surface." Abby Wambach said in an interview with Sports Illustrated in April. Wambach is a star forward for the US Women's National team. "You can also talk about it being a gender discrimination issue. Would they ever let the men's World Cup be played on an artificial surface?"

In light of this controversy, there is still one lingering question. Why was playing on turf fields ever a proposed idea, if turf is commonly referred to as "a surface that is widely regarded as inferior in international soccer?"

Wambach wasn't the only player who felt that this was gender discrimination. Sydney Leroux, another star forward for the United States Women's National team, also voiced her opinion. "I really feel it is an equality issue. Do you think the men in Brazil this summer would have said yes, we are fine playing on turf?" Leroux said, in an interview with ESPNW. "No way in hell that would happen with men. It's really sad women have to be guinea pigs for this."

The controversy between

FIFA and players in the 2015 Women's World Cup, is just one example of gender inequality. Another obvious issue, is the way women in the sports industry are portrayed.

When a reader visits Sports Illustrated's website, there are headlines leading readers to articles about female models posing in swimsuits. In fact, there is an entire section entitled "Swim Daily" where these photos are posted daily.

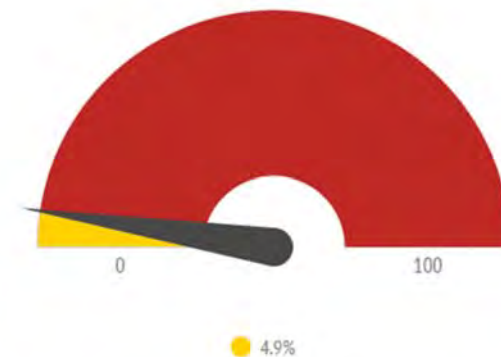
There were only two current articles involving female not in swimsuits, posted on the Sports Illustrated website on Dec. 6 2015.

Only one article regarding female athletes was posted when so many female athletes have done incredible things recently— including the Penn State Women's soccer team securing their first ever national victory in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships, which occurred on Dec. 6 2015 as well.

Many female athletes are doing incredible things that a majority of society will never hear about them, because the world of sports is highly dominated by men, and women in bikinis.

Females in the sports industry are strong and deserve to be treated equally.

Sports Illustrated covers featuring female athletes



4.9% of Sports Illustrated covers from 2000-2011 included female athletes. This is excluding the annual swimsuit issue.

Source: Pacific Standard Magazine

Graphics/ Natalie Pietrowski

"You can also talk about it being a gender discrimination issue. Would they ever let the men's World Cup be played on an artificial surface?"



96.4% of media coverage of sports was dedicated to men, leaving females only 3.6% of air time.

Source: womenssportfoundation.org

League of Their Own

Neshaminy High School December Athletes of the Issue

By Liam Krimmel and Natalie Pietrowski
Copy Editor and Sports Editor



Award Winner--

Senior Hunter Kelly was selected as a recipient of the 2015 Mini Max High School award.

Photo/neshaminyfootball.com

Hunter Kelly

15 years spent playing football

12 Kelly's grade

78 Kelly's number

2015 Mini Max Award Winner

Hunter Kelly has become one of Neshaminy's most successful athletes this year. Spending his senior year as a captain of the varsity team, Kelly led Neshaminy to District One playoffs this year. Kelly was also selected to receive an award this past month. Maxwell Football Club President, Ron Jaworski, announced the 2015 Mini Max High School award winners for the state of Pennsylvania. The 61 players selected are from schools located in Districts One, Three, Eleven and Twelve in the eastern half of the state.

Players were nominated by their coaches throughout the 2015 season and were evaluated based on a criteria that includes football performance, academics and community service. Kelly is a four year varsity athlete and maintains a 4.03 GPA.

"It means a lot to me, it's a very prestigious award and to be a recipient and be able to bring some extra pride to Neshaminy is a big deal for me," Kelly said.

Kelly, being an active member of his community and high school, has been working hard throughout his entire career of high school. Football has been a part of his entire life, especially being a four year varsity Offensive and Defensive lineman. "I've been playing football ever since I could walk. I started playing Varsity as a freshman," Kelly said.

His greatest accomplishment would be winning the District One Title at a starting tackle position during his sophomore year. He went up against veteran football players as a young varsity athlete and helped secure the title in what was an intense game.

Kelly is planning to continue his football career at the collegiate level after graduation. "I plan on playing college football, either for Division 2 or Division 1," Kelly said, "I'm being recruited by Youngstown state, Penn State, Delaware, and some other D2 Schools."

Sophomore pitcher Sarah Dowalo, has proven herself to be an essential member of the Neshaminy softball team, while still finding time to compete on her travel team outside of school, Nightmare U-18 Gold. Already, Dowalo has made a verbal commitment to Villanova University, and hopes to continue her excellence in her high school career.

Starting young has proven to be beneficial for Dowalo. Even though she is still an underclassmen, Dowalo was the No. 2 pitcher on the team last year. "I started playing softball when I was 8 years old," she said. "My Dad kept encouraging me to play on a team."

"I accepted to Villanova after I toured the campus and met with the coaches and players," Dowalo explained. "The whole atmosphere had a welcoming feeling and they had my intended major of genetics."

When it comes to academics, Dowalo shines in more than just softball. She maintains high grades and is in the top 10 percent of her class. "Most of my time consists of either practicing or doing homework, so I don't usually have a lot of free time," Dowalo said.

Like many other athletes, Dowalo takes the time to prepare herself for big games. "Before a game I usually like to relax with my team mates to prepare myself mentally," she explained. "I make sure that if I'm pitching, that all my pitches are working. I just keep throwing."

"When I'm pitching against another team I have to think that I will not let the batter get the best of me," Dowalo said. "I block out all other distractions."

The left-handed pitcher is aiming for a successful season this spring. "My goals for this spring season are to win SOL's, go to states, and just have a great season with the team."



Young talent--

Sarah Dowalo, only a sophomore, has already given a verbal commitment to Villanova University.

Photo/Daniel Monaco

Sarah Dowalo

8 years spent playing softball

10 Dowalo's grade

24 Dowalo's number

Villanova University