



Playwickian

The Voice of Neshaminy High School

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Variations among
sports, club
finances: 4

Halloween
costume
boundaries: 8

Beach music
exceeds
expectations: 18

Oregon Shooting:

10 injured | 20 wounded
at Umpqua Community College by attending student

By **Catherine Hillard**
News Editor

Chris Harper-Mercer, a student attending Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, was confirmed to be the shooter who left 10 people dead and twenty injured. It was later confirmed that Harper-Mercer, 26, was enrolled in the English class where the shooting occurred by Rita Cavin, interim president of the community college.

The first 911 call on Thursday, Oct. 1 was reported at 10:38 A.M. Eight minutes later, police arrived at Umpqua. After exchanging gunfire with officers for two minutes, Harper-Mercer committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.

The shooting was said to have started in one building, and moved to another. Umpqua student Cassandra Welding said when her class heard the shots, everyone sheltered under desks and behind book bags and chairs. "We locked the doors, turned off the lights, and we were all pretty much in panic mode," she said. "We called 911 and called our parents, our loved ones. ... We didn't know what was going to happen, if those were our last words or not."

Boylan told CNN that when Harper-Mercer arrived in the classroom, he told the professor, "I've been waiting to do this for years," before shooting him at point blank range.

Boylan said the shooter then told everyone to gather in the center of the room and singled out students of the Christian faith saying, "Good, because you're a Christian, you're going to see God in just about one second," before shooting and killing them.

"It is so sad that this kind of thing has become common in our country. My heart goes out to all the victims of the shooting." Sophomore Amber Fuller stated.

Investigators connected 13 firearms to Harper-Mercer; five pistols and one rifle were found on the college campus, along with a flak jacket and rifle with five magazines of ammunition. Two pistols, four rifles, and a shotgun were found by police in his apartment.

Ten people injured in the shooting were transported to Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg, where one died in the hospital emergency room. All injuries were gunshot wounds to the head, abdomen and limbs.

Three of those students were transferred to PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center in Springfield, where two were said to be in serious condition and the

third in critical. All three wounded were women ranging from 18 to 34.

Four others underwent surgery, and two were treated and released in the emergency room. The victims ranged from ages 18 to 67.

Before taking his own life, Harper-Mercer handed a box to a survivor instructing him to give it to law enforcement. Inside, included a multi-page note explaining how depressed and lonely he felt.

Officials are also investigating someone with an email address associated with the shooter, confirming that the emails were feelings of anger about being isolated and incapable of forming relationships.

Harper-Mercer served one month in the army in 2008 in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, never made it out of basic training and was "discharged for failing to meet the minimum administrative standards," the Pentagon said in a news release.

Classes are set to resume on Oct. 12, and counselors will be available to the Umpqua students all week. School board member Vanessa Becker said the goal is to start "working towards developing a sense of normalcy."



POST SHOOTING - Students and the community visit a memorial on the Umpqua Community College campus after a mass shooting on Oct. 1



POLICE ON THE SCENE- Local law enforcement surrounded the Umpqua campus after a student opened fire killing ten and injuring 20



COMMUNITY REUNITES- Local and national church groups hold a memorial for students and faculty killed outside of Synder Hall at the campus

District Happenings

After months of site work and demolition, the steel beams are going up at the new Tawanka Elementary School site in Lower Southampton Township. Demolition on the old building was completed in mid-September, and favorable weather conditions allowed crews to stay on schedule preparing the footers and pouring the foundation in preparation for the beams. In December the School Board will begin consideration of which schools will close and what students will attend Tawanka. Current plans call for students from Lower Southampton Elementary and Heckman Elementary to attend Tawanka beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.



Photo/Neshaminy.org



Photo/Neshaminy.org

The students sold green rubber bracelets as well as raising money for a mini walkathon held Friday October 9 outside the school. By that time, they had already raised over \$1500 for the PANDAS Network, a group that supports families dealing with an autoimmune disease that affects an estimated 1 in 200 children. The fundraiser was initiated by Maple Point science teacher Chuck Lumio, whose son Chase suffered from the disease when he was younger.

The National Honor Society at Neshaminy High School held their third annual College Fair Thursday October 1 in Gym 1 at NHS. Representatives from about 40 colleges from around the region and the country attended, handing out literature, answering questions from students and their parents and sign.



Photo/Neshaminy.org

Neshaminy Co-Curriculars:

varied finances among sports teams, clubs

By Grace Marion

Multimedia and Entertainment Editor

As some organizations within Neshaminy High School, such as the Marching Band and Newspaper, have faced significant budget cuts in the last few years, it has come to question whether such cuts are in proportion to those by which Neshaminy athletic organizations have been affected.

“...if we include our invitational entrance fees and busing, I’m sure about half of our total is used. Honestly, I didn’t know how much [funding] we actually receive because anything I ask for is always taken care of. And I don’t mean that in a snotty way...,” said Neshaminy Girls’ Cross Country Coach, Staci Speece, said in an email-based interview this summer.

Neshaminy’s Varsity Girls’ Cross Country team received \$5,477 in funding for their 2012-2013 season, and \$5,809 for their 2013-2014 season, according to Neshaminy school District records obtained through a Right to Know Request filed in July. Although the request asked for both the funding of sports, and clubs, only that of sports was provided. No explanation was set forth as to why.

The Neshaminy Varsity Football team received a grand total of \$73,244 for their 2012-2013 season. That is \$67,767 more than what Speece’s team received the same year.

With football receiving \$60,262 in 2013-2014, they’re the most highly funded sport in the entire district, with more than half of that

funding going towards coach salaries.

Head Coach, Steve Wilmont, was not present as coach when the 2015-2016 football budget was dictated, as he was promoted after the budget was created.

Varsity Wrestling receives the next highest funding (\$20,269), although it is less than half of what football receives, followed by baseball (\$17,811), girl’s soccer (\$16,961) and boy’s soccer (\$16,109).

Looking at Varsity teams only, the lowest funded sports are Boys’ Tennis (\$5,401), Boys’ Golf (\$5,602), and Boys’ Cross Country (\$5,028). The above numbers are from the 2012-2013 season.

Although it is impossible to find the rates of funding for clubs, seeing as that information was left out of Neshaminy’s response to the aforementioned Right to Know request, some information on the matter can be found through interviewing the advisers of co curriculars.

“Both our curricular and co curricular budgets have been kind of decreasing over the last four or five years, consistently,” said Marching Band Conductor, Michael Lipton, in an interview on Aug. 17.

The Neshaminy Marching Band consists of over 225 members, and receives no funding from admission charged at the Neshaminy football games that they perform at.

Neshaminy’s school newspaper budget has been cut \$2,000 this year from the 2014-2015 budget, and was cut \$1,200 the year before, according to the Courier Times.

The award-winning publication will need to fundraise over \$1200 if they are to print their usual seven issues this school year.

These cuts bring to question how the distribution of funds is dictated within Neshaminy School District.

The funding available to Neshaminy School District had steadily increased since the 2010-2011 school year. There has been a \$38,869,477 fund balance increase from our 2010 budget of \$169,281,116, bringing the 2015-2016 budget to a total of \$208,150,593.

“The board really does not get involved with this kind of matter,” School Board and community member, Mark Shubin, commented.

“Ultimately these decision are made by the Administration, particularly the building Principal and the Athletic Director. I would suggest that you ask them how they make these decisions.”

Principal Robert McGee has refrained from commenting on this matter. It is McGee and Neshaminy’s Athletic Director and Vice Principal, Tom Magdelinskas, that decide the budgets for co curricular activities each year.

“[I am the] Assistant principal and athletic director; it is a dual role... Every district does it a little bit different, some people have an exclusive athletic director, some people have a coach take responsibility for that...” Magdelinskas said.

Confirming that he does, in fact, watch over non-athletic extracurricular activities, he added that he saw no conflict of interests in working with both clubs and sports.

AP Classes: Worth the Stress?

By **Leanne Khov**
Entertainment Editor

Stacked with sports, extracurricular activities, after school jobs, the pressure of a social life and loads of homework, students would be lying if they didn't think high school isn't a pile of stress dumped upon their brain. Of course, Advanced Placement classes aren't any better with adding to this stress.

In this rigorous course, students are expected to be challenged for these college-leveled classes. Students take these classes in order to receive college credit which allows them to save money and time for college.

"AP classes are definitely stressful due to tremendous amount of studying and work. It teaches you time management and you have to study a lot more material and pay attention to small details you

wouldn't normally take a second glance at. It's hard to know what to study and how to prepare yourselves for these tests because you don't exactly know what's going to be on it," sophomore Julianna Mathew stated.

According to College Board, a "moderate" college budget for an in-state public college of the 2013-2014 academic year averaged \$22,826. AP classes could save students between \$44,000 and \$88,000.

Not only that, students has the chance to get a higher GPA that will look good for colleges, so the stress of class rank comes into play as well. The stress of keeping a good grade in these classes cause students to study relentlessly and have sleep deprivation.

"It's a lot to get used to. The teachers of the AP classes are simply there to 'facilitate

your learning.' It's hard to balance the reviewing or studying time with other class, especially, if you have an overly constricted schedule, like yours truly. It's really stressful, especially with marching band, and person/home issues coming into play. So yes. It's extremely stressful," sophomore Jessica Souder stated.

In Neshaminy High School, the option of an AP class is shown to be popular among students. Last year, 18 AP courses were offered with 921 students enrolled. Compared to last year, the amount of choices increased to 20 AP classes with 997 students enrolled this time.

Sure, college credits are amazing and these courses could bring a student's GPA up, however, some people have debated whether taking an AP class is worth the risk of sleep deprivation and stressed.

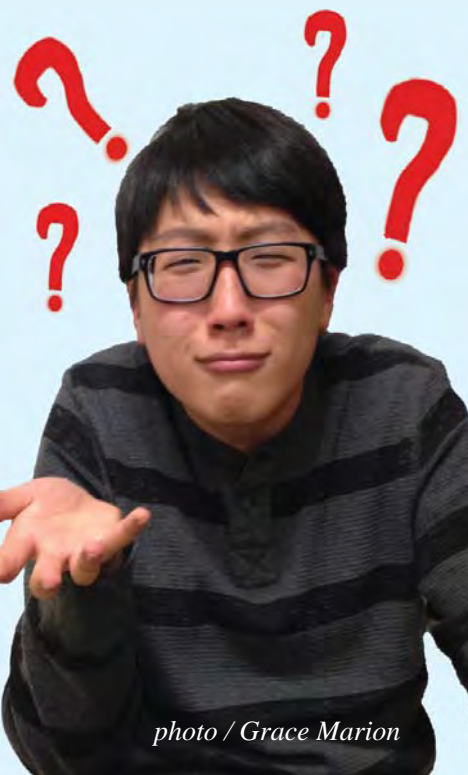


photo / Grace Marion

New Club thrown into Neshaminy Mix

Gauri Mangala
Features Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, Neshaminy's New Petanque Club met for the first time. Led by advisors, Joanne Robb and Gina Abraham, the first meeting allowed interested students the opportunity to try their hand at the French sport. But what is Petanque?

"Only the coolest French sport ever," Robb said. Originating in Provence, France in the beginning of the 20th century, Petanque shares extreme similarities to the Italian sport, Bocce ball. The sport involves taking turns throwing small metal balls near a wooden ball, or cochonnet, the goal of which is to get as close to the wooden ball as possible.

"Petanque is played in the south of France. Usually by the older men. But it's become kind of a cool thing to do. University of Pennsylvania has a pretty big Petanque club." Robb said.

The new club not only gives students a way to play Petanque, but also a way to learn about French culture. Students will be able to experience French food and French music. "It's an interesting way to talk about French culture, a fun way to talk about French culture without having the anxiety of doing French," Abraham said.

However, although the club involves a french sport, the club is not a French club. "Anyone is allowed to join. You don't have to be taking a language, that's not important," Robb said. The farsighted goal of the club is to create Petanque clubs in other high schools in the area, allowing students to compete in Petanque tournaments and competitions, like any other high school sport. The club will be meeting every other Wednesday for convience.

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Look at it our way: Gender Inequality at Neshaminy



With ever-increasing awareness of differing beliefs on self-identified gender, the self-appointed understanding of an individual's gender rather than the biological sex assigned at birth, and sexual preferences, the idea of being "this or that" has evolved into a multi-faceted issue that deserves greater attention. Specifically, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students have been placed into a spotlight in recent years after greater awareness of being divergent from the long-held view of gender and sexuality being an either-or categorization.

Over the previous few years, an increasing number of students have embraced their self-identified gender and sexual preferences. Neshaminy School District has, in step, moved forward to acknowledge and respect the beliefs of these students, but implementation and physical manifestation of this acknowledgment and respect still remains a sought goal.

Accepting and embracing are two different actions, and in the case of Neshaminy High School, the former

has been the first, and unfortunately the only, step in allowing students that do not fit the binary gender system or the heterosexual view towards sexuality to feel comfortable at school.

One example is the current bathroom system; while most students take no notice to who enters which bathrooms, assigned male at birth students that identify as females may feel as if the male bathrooms are unfit for them. Again, most students are indifferent, and rightfully so, about bathroom use, but for a minority of students, being restricted from using the bathroom that feels comfortable is an unfortunate circumstance that holds no solution.

Accommodating for these students, those that conflict in biological gender and self-identified gender or those that feel no affinity for either, is not calling for a complete upheaval of the high school, but rather, an appropriate response to a minority of students that deserve to feel comfortable at school. Once again, it is iterated that these accommodations are not suggesting to replace the high school's current system of bathrooms or gym locker rooms, but to allow this minority of students to have a place to feel comfortable.

Such accommodations may include a few gender neutral bathrooms and locker rooms. These facilities do not need to match the number of facilities for male and female bathrooms and locker rooms, but there ought to be at least some to accommodate for the minority of students uncomfortable with having to conform to the current binary system.

Dissenters of accommodations for these students cite the relative minuteness of this minority population and the cost versus reward of paying for such

facilities to be added to or modified from the high school. However, the current lackluster effort to embrace the diminutive, yet diverse, minority of LGBT+ students reflects the unfinished battle for complete equality.

The American society has come to a general consensus, both by popular opinion and legal action, that marriage equality ought to be a guaranteed right for those interested in doing so, but a smaller portion of Americans are currently willing to fully embrace this history-changing Supreme Court decision.

Thus, the difference between accepting and embracing an idea is not in the motives, but in the varying degree of implementation.

The editors have agreed unanimously that accommodations are required for LGBT+ students, not only to provide equality for this minority group of students, but to also serve as an example of an enlightened school district that both recognizes and acts upon an issue that does, indeed, only affect a minute population of students, but contributes much to their long term success and happiness.

Ranging from student walkouts to physical violence, reactions to LGBT+ students have run the gamut of negative responses. Neshaminy High School's continuous acknowledgment, sans appropriate accommodations, should not be one more statistic used to further demonstrate the lack of equality many LGBT+ students face everyday.

The Unsigned Editorial represents the majority view of the Editorial Board.

Playwickian Publication policy:

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.

Fine line between costumes, appropriation

Legitimate costumes versus using Halloween as excuse for inappropriate costumes

By Brynn MacDougall
Op-Ed Copy Editor

With Halloween right around the corner, many have begun to prepare their costumes. While many costumes are harmless and fun, others cross the line into offensive. When costumes perpetuate racist stereotypes and costumes targeted at girls are overly sexualized, a reality check is needed.

In 2013, many people country wide dressed up as Trayvon Martin, COSTUMES - Halloween does not excuse wearing inappropriate or distasteful costumes.

Art/Kirsten Magas



complete with blackface. Others dressed up as Martin's killer, George Zimmerman. Another costume that made use of blackface was Julianne Hough's Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren from "Orange is the New Black" in 2013.

Other popular but racist costumes include, but are not limited to, Mexican Rancheros, Mexican Fiesta Costume and Hey Amigo Donkey Costume. All of these costumes use exaggerated and stereotypical features to mock Mexicans and their culture.

"Adding the word amigo to the title doesn't make this anymore Latino friendly. Latinos' roots come from a variety of cultures and countries, which span from Mexico all the way down to the tip of the Chilean Patagonia. Yes there are donkeys. Yes there are ponchos. But they are not worn everywhere or by everyone -- not by a long shot. Want to be cool this Halloween? Don't perpetuate Latino stereotypes," Carolina Moreno said in her article for the Huffington Post article "14 'Latino' Costumes That Should Have Never Been Made, Much Less Worn".

When white people use racist tools like blackface for their costumes, they

are perpetuating harmful stereotypes that affect people of color for their whole lives. Over sexualized costumes aimed at girls is another giant problem. As soon as children enter their tween years (10-12 years old) Halloween costumes become increasingly sexual.

This happens with almost every generic costume, from nurse to lion.

While it is important to let teenagers experiment with their sexuality, 10-12 year olds are still a little too young.

Some would argue that these costumes are only made because girls want to wear them. However, that is most often not the case. Women and girls are constantly sexualized in the media, causing many girls to feel that they have to live up to the images they see on TV or in magazines.

An unfortunately popular costume released this year is the Unisex Caitlyn Jenner costume. There are two versions: a pre transition



and post transition version. The pre transition costume features Jenner's outfit from her days in the Olympics and the second one contains a copy of the dress she wore for her Vanity Fair cover.

This is problematic because it reinforces the misinformed idea that transgender people are a joke and not really who they say they are.

"There's no tasteful way to 'celebrate' Caitlyn Jenner or respect transgender people this way on the one night of the year when people use their most twisted imaginations to pretend to be villains and monsters," Vincent Villano, a member of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in an interview with the Huffington Post.

A much better way to celebrate Halloween would be to simply dress up as a fictional character (without being derogatory) or a fantasy creature, like a centaur or dragon.

Racist, sexist, transphobic, and otherwise offensive costumes should not be tolerated by anyone. They have harmful impacts on real people.

'Stonewall' erases, whitewashes, misrepresents history

By Nina Tarenenko
Staff Writer

In 1969 one of the most important events in LGBT history took place, the Stonewall Riots, later leading to the gay liberation movement. Neither Stonewall nor the riots will not be erased nor forgotten, nor the people who impacted the LGBT community. That was until 2015 when Stonewall was released.

Stonewall tells the story of the Stonewall riots from a viewpoint of cisgender gay white man, Danny Winters, who escapes his

homophobic family only to stumble upon the Stonewall Inn. There he meets Trevor who introduces him to the world of gay activism.

The movie, though loosely based around the Stonewall Riots, erases the people who truly did something and made an impact. One of the most notoriously known members of the Stonewall Riots is Marsha P. Johnson. Johnson was a drag queen and gay activist at the time and was notably known for throwing the first brick at the Stonewall riots.

In Stonewall, we see Winters throwing the first brick, thus erasing

Johnson. Although Johnson is shown in the movie, she has no major involvement in the riots.

Many members of the LGBT community have claimed this movie "whitewashes" the actual Stonewall Riots, replacing many of the historic people of color with white actors or actresses.

At Neshaminy, Spectrum has spoken out about how Stonewall misrepresents the LGBT community as a whole. "The Stonewall Riots to me seem like the turning point for the LGBT community, the point where we broke out of submission.

It was the 'we're not going to take it' for us," Joey Rippert, junior and Vice President of Spectrum, said. "This event sparked an entire rights movement and changed society's views of all non-heteronormative people. That's why I feel it's so important and pivotal."

America in whole has a problem of erasing people from history to make it seem as though white people are the only contributors to history. It needs to be recognized that people of color and the LGBT+ community have made as much of an impact on American history as anybody else.

Trans-Pacific Partnership: Aids Pharmaceuticals, Not Working Americans

By Spencer David Potts

Op-Ed Copy Editor

Not many Americans may recall NAFTA, the North American Free-Trade Agreement, which drove several million Mexican farmers off of their land whilst simultaneously causing the loss of over 700,000 American jobs as production moved to Mexico. Now history is about to repeat itself as another corporate “free trade” deal is on the verge of passing, the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Critics have already nailed the TPP; one of the most apparent critiques would be the advantages given to “Big Pharma” companies, which would be an injury to the American people as well as the citizens of all developing Pacific nations by way of heightening drug costs, restricting production of biosimilar, non-brand name drugs, in addition to taking away jobs from all people, local or foreign, for the sake of billions of dollars of profits for pharmaceutical companies. Such a law would have these nations see a sharp increase in drug costs; this will be deadly for low-income populations.

The TPP Agreement’s provisions will greatly change the legal makeup of various developing nations including Malaysia, Mexico, Peru and Vietnam, among others. Specifically, one of the provisions will grant monopoly protection of biological drugs, a corporation-protecting patent law that currently doesn’t exist in those nations.

“The TPP will still go down in history as the worst trade agreement for access to medicines in developing countries,” Doctors Without Border, an international humanitarian-aid and non-governmental organization, said. The group was recently bombed by drones in the Obama administration while in a hospital in Afghanistan.

“The Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, though subject to much protest and controversy, are projected to affect forty percent of the world’s economy,” explained senior Chris Thomas, award-winning Model U.N. member, “Despite the immense influence of the on a multitude of international industries and institutions, the TPP will cement the power of multinational corporations, especially in the biotech industry.”

The TPP plans to further restrict intellectual property laws, similar to the failed SOPA (Stop Only Privacy Act) and PIPA (Protect IP Act), online bills claiming to protect internet copyright laws, in reality those bills would have infringed on free speech on the internet. In this situation the pharmaceutical companies and the government benefits whilst infringing on biosimilar, small-scale, medical drug production.

The pharmaceutical corporations will price-gauge medicine and profit off of both those in developing nations as well as Obamacare customers. Lower-income Obamacare customers will be coerced into an apparatus within the for-profit healthcare system under the guise of “free trade” and equal health coverage.

When the recent news of price-gauging of medicine and corruption within the pharmaceutical corporations are shocking the nation, the TPP Agreement should be receiving its due critique for the hell it will bring. Daraprim, a 62 year-old Toxoplasmosis and Malaria drug, had its price raised haphazardly overnight, increasing at 5,455%. Sovaldi, a new and crucial

Hepatitis-C drug, had its price set to \$1,000 purely arbitrarily, despite costing \$1 to make.

“Unfortunately, the everyday citizen will pay the price for the political lobbying and monopolistic protections hidden in the shadows of the negotiations,” Thomas continued.

The TPP agreement exemplifies the ties between the Obama administration, the big pharmaceutical market, and the governments across the Pacific and back. As the saying goes, “Abuse of power comes as no surprise.”



*Graphic/
Grace Marion*

Pressures of having the perfect body crushes teens' self-esteem

By **Brianna Rayner**
Op-Ed Editor

Macy races through the unwelcoming halls with a bag clutched in her hands; hidden inside is a bagel. With her eyes glued to the ground she tries avoiding as much confrontation as possible. The headphones are in but they're not loud enough to block out all the negativity, but she doesn't increase the tunes she listens to the judgments instead, she wants to hear them. She strives to "fix" herself, to fit in for a change.

As she reaches her destination at the frightening cafeteria, she sits by her lonesome and attempts to enjoy her food in peace.

Unfortunately she can't complete the task, two bites of the bagel are down but it's already trying to escape.

Jimmy always had this dream of being a professional football player. His parents encouraged him, and made him believe it was totally possible.

On the other hand, the kids at school crushed his dream and turned it into a cruel joke... All his life Jimmy has had Crohn's, (a lifelong inflammatory bowel disease) but of course that's no exception according to our revolting society. He was still treated diversely due to his to his petite body.

The truth is that society is never satisfied; at the end of the day it continues to strive to make everyone the impossible, perfect.

People are constantly judged by various aspects, but the question is, is there a difference in the way diverse genders are pressured to have the perfect bodies? As a kid I was considered overweight and I can honestly say people did treat me different then, compared to when I lost the weight and got older.

Back when I was "overweight" I barely had any friends, it was very unfortunate because I went to a very minor/ "family like" elementary school. Meaning you had the same 20-30 kids in your class from kindergarten to eighth grade. So you would expect to bond with those kids due to the fact that you're basically growing up with them. It was very upsetting because I was basically excluded from the groups they had, and no guy would ever think about talking to me.

By the time I was in seventh grade I started growing into my body a little better and thinning out. And honestly, the people that would judge me before they even got to know me began attempting to be my friends.

Now, the guys that used to ignore me and not give me any time out of their day are the ones arriving in my inbox calling me pretty, etc. but karmas, karma and I will always remember how they treated me and made me feel; they left deep scars so their messages remain unanswered.

Being in that situation really took a toll on my self-esteem. Of course I had realized I wasn't the skinniest girl in my school, and it did bother me; but them treating me differently because of it made me hate myself. I've become very insecure about my weight from then on, even when I lost weight. Not a lot of people understand how heavy the pressures are for girls to be perfect.

According to Kyle Schwenke, Neshaminy High School junior, guys are also pressured to have the perfect body. "Everyone expects you to be masculine and athletic; if not then you're frowned upon."

Schwenke stated with a disappointing tone in his voice. Were you ever bullied, I implied. "Yes I was in middle school because I was big." Schwenke also added, "Over the past year or so I've been trying very hard to lose weight."

Does anyone treat you differently now that you lost weight? I wondered. Schwenke assured me he does get treated somewhat different. "No one really judges me anymore in a sense, I worked really hard to lose these 60 pounds and all that matters to me right now is my health and happiness." Just by talking to him I could feel how proud and happy he was, and that's honestly all that matters. I can also say he looks astounding. Turns out guys are pressured just like girls are to have the perfect body.

The massive pressure we get put under can really leave a negative effect on people. It could lead to eating disorders, pressure to use steroids, an unhealthy preoccupation with weightlifting, etc. Most of us are disappointed about how society is turning out to be but then again we are society.

If we don't like it or disagree with what society considers perfect, then we have to make a change. Society can begin changing just by accepting all shapes, sizes, colors, etc. and not judging people by their appearance. Treat others the way you would want to be treated, and before you know it you might even be proud of the society you have formed. Just remember, it's never too late to make a change.



EXPECTATIONS - Students face increasing pressure to conform to society's expectations.

Photo/ Madison Pickul

Background/Gauri Mangala



Graphic/Grace Marion

Bring it Back?

A Journey Through the Past of Neshaminy: Digging Through the Archives

By Ashley Reiss
Student Life Editor

Playwickian Editor, Ashley Reiss, ventured through the old Playwickian files and researched about clubs and activities previously held at Neshaminy.

Glee Club- The glee club in 1945 were planning for Christmas celebrations and should bring it back because drama and choir is a growing club and why not combine the two in a club devoted to acapella.

Glee Club News

Jo Anne Bartoe

A big year is being planned for the Glee Club, with "Service," "Great Day," "Deep River" and "Beautiful Dreamer." The Christmas cantata is under way and assemblies may be exchanged with other schools.

Newest Club, Future Nurses Fete Children

On Thanksgiving Eve, a bake sale will be held in Feasterville and Penndel at Luken's and Browns. The Nurses Club is asking you to go out and support it if you can since it is supported by an organization with a worthy cause. The group is Neshaminy's own Nurse's Club; its immediate aim is to raise money to sponsor a Christmas party for children who must spend the holidays in hospital beds.

The Nurse's Club has another cause; this one is to be realized in the fu-

Nurses Club- Raise money for a party for kids who are too sick to leave the hospital.

Pep Club- The club that is only assigned to girls to make signs around the school for games—it was a club who was mainly for football and basketball but cheered for other schools as well.

The Pep Club

The Pep Club is an organization made up of the cheerleaders and those students wishing to help promote school spirit. The purpose of the Pep Club is to get all students who wish to make pep signs for the games to get together and do it as a group.

The group, headed by Carol Stankiewicz, is divided into three groups: Langhorne, which has approximately ten girls; Levittown, which has about forty girls; and Lower Southampton, which has about twenty girls. If any girl wishes to join, she should contact any of the following girls: Carol Stankiewicz, in charge of the Levittown group; Donna Turner, from the Lower Southampton group; Jeanette Wright, of Langhorne; or Barrie Brittingham, in charge of senior girls.

Students Take Physical

Wreck Tests

It's a brisk 40° and fifty smiling girls can be seen merrily skipping down the well-trod path to the track. These lucky girls will shortly attempt to run around the oval surrounding our hallowed football field, as a requirement in their physical fitness tests. The signal is given and the girls enthusiastically begin their jaunt. An icy breeze drives them on and everyone has gotten a good start. After two minutes several of the better runners can be seen limping in while others, staggering behind them, gasp for their breath. Teased hair standing on end gives the appearance of some-

Fitness Test- In 1962, JFK mandated a fitness test where students are tested to run a mile in a time limit. Some high schools still carry out this practice today.

Start Change You Want to See in World: Bring Back Challenge Day

By Dan Cho
Copy Editor

Isolation and loneliness. This alone can drive the mind of any human being manic. Through these conditions, enabled through their environment, their physical and mental health deteriorates over time from the consequences of bullying, addiction, and self-harm. So why was one of the only effective methods that joined unlikely students in creating genuine connections with others taken away?

Challenge Day; the only day where students, teachers, and staff are able to see each other eye-to-eye. On this day of reckoning, everyone exposes their vices and virtues without fear of embarrassment or exclusion – their hidden and pent-up emotions are free for all to see. The image a person walls up as a shell crumbles and the person, from

the perspective of others, seemingly transforms into a completely different person, except that person was there all along.

"It is one thing to know a person's title, accomplishments, successes or 'image.' It is entirely different to connect to their humanity, to learn the intimate details about them that you would know if you really knew them," Yvonne and Rich Dutra-St. John wrote in "Be The Hero You've Been Waiting For," "Many people are so afraid of getting vulnerable or, as we say at Challenge Day, 'getting real,' that they end up settling for superficial relationships and conversations rather than risking the possibility of sharing more personally, and then perhaps being rejected. People often compare their 'insides' to other people's 'outsides,' and relate image-to-image rather than heart-to-heart."

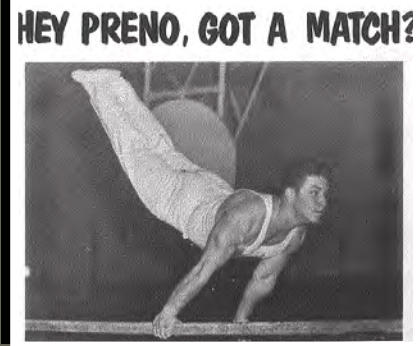
Despite the clear effects that seem to benefit the participants

and their community, the event was cancelled two years ago. Though this celebration of the human struggle was torn down, its impacts still lands a mark on past participants. "Honestly, the experience that I got from it in middle school helped open my eyes," junior Ryleigh Arlen said. "The people I saw in the hallways that looked like they were living perfect lives made me realize that they had put up a front, like all of us, to cover up. The only difference was that they were better at hiding it."

The beauty of the human struggle is not the finish line that marks the end of the strenuous and overwhelming journey, nor is it reaching the peak of the mountain top of an impossible challenge that makes everything worth the pain. It is instead the blood shed, sweat spilled, and tears shared that makes the rugged path more satisfying together than seizing the glittering prize at the end of the voyage alone. The strings that attach people emotionally in the violence of life are what make them human.



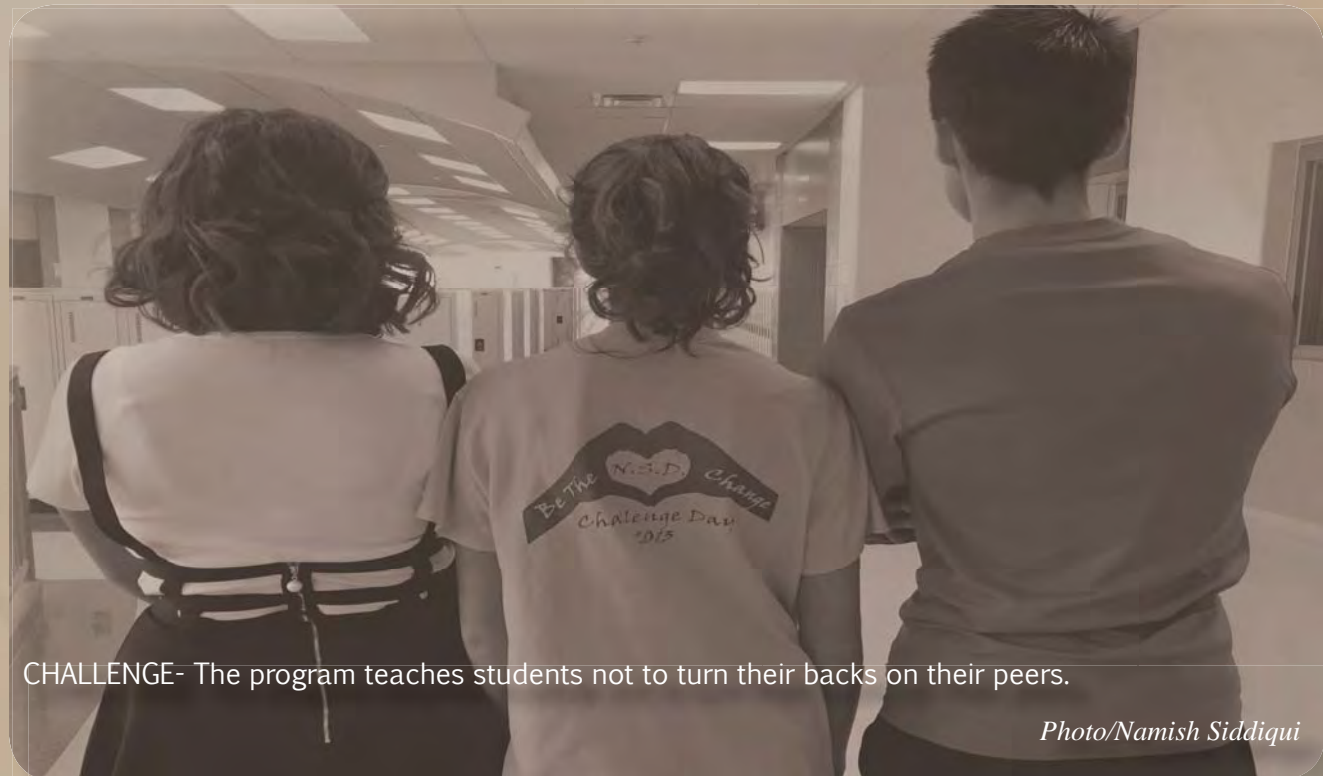
March of 2000



Febuary of 1963



March of 1950



CHALLENGE- The program teaches students not to turn their backs on their peers.

Photo/Namish Siddiqui

Homecoming Banner: Should be on More Than Just Football Fields

By **Doroty O' Connor and Namish Siddiqui**

Art Editor and Features Editor

Homecoming is widely anticipated at Neshaminy. It is the first major event of the year, and gathers the entire student body to usher in the new year. The freshmen were particularly excited to experience a Neshaminy Homecoming for the first time. Club stands lined Heartbreak Ridge, offering games, food and souvenirs to the attendees. The stands were packed with students

dance, after seeing dances in many movies and television shows. So why doesn't Neshaminy have a dance? Is it because administration does not want to spend the money or because each grade already has their own dance? Maybe nobody wants to work that hard this early in the year.

If there was a dance, where would it happen? Would all the grade levels be combined, or separated? So many questions and no answers. Amanda McLoughlin, ninth grade, said, "It would be a good way to



HOME COMING- The Neshaminy cheerleaders hold up the banner to begin the Homecoming football game.

Photo/Grace Marion

and alumni, who cheered the football team to victory.

The seniors were eager to learn the results of the homecoming king and queen elections. For the past few years at Neshaminy, each couple, as well as the members of student council, have been given a golf cart to decorate. At half time they drive them around the track before the winners are announced. This year's themes included Batman, Spongebob, Popeye, and Minnie and Mickey Mouse.

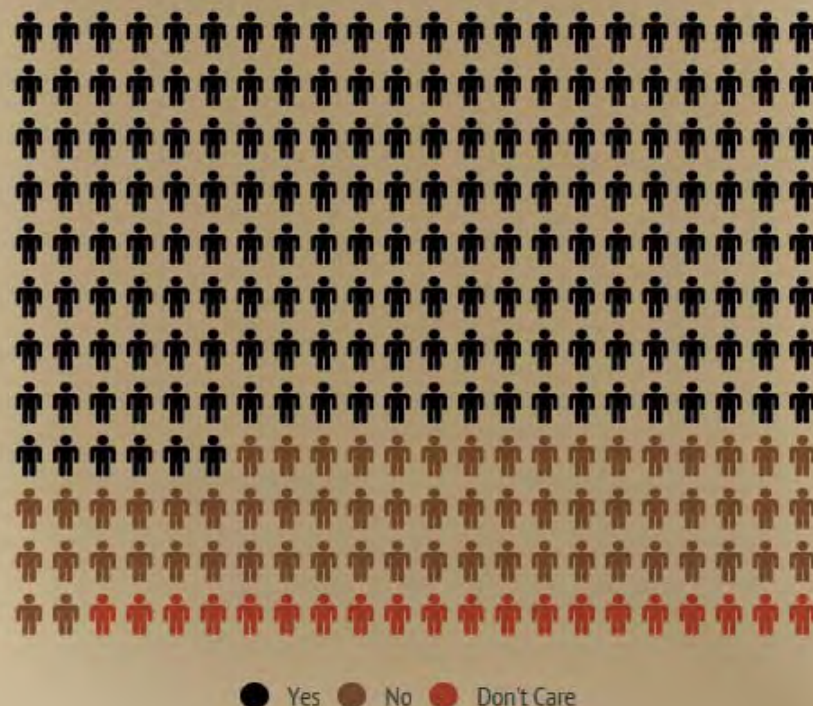
However, many freshmen did not know that there was no homecoming

transition into high school, and the year in general." Diana Jennings, a Spanish teacher agrees. "It would allow the freshman to see everybody in the beginning of the school year, and bring a level of comfort," she said.

Girls go all out for homecoming dances. They get dresses, corsages; get their nails and hair done. Boys are forced into going with their girlfriends or dates. There are thousands of different themes to choose from.

"It would be so fun to have a dance," freshmen April Phillipps said.

SHOULD WE HAVE A HOMECOMING DANCE?



HOME COMING SURVEY- Neshaminy students who form all four grades were polled as to whether or not they think there should be a homecoming dance. A total of 278 students were polled, around 10% of the student population.

192 Said yes, 65 said no, and 21 left the survey blank or wrote that they didn't care.

Graphic/Brendan McGoldrick



December of 1958

Pickle Ball or Yoga: A Student's Choice

By **Elizabeth Daniel**
Staff Writer

One of the most anxiety raising classes that high school students dread in their day is gym class. Although there are plenty of students that take gym class as seriously as an Olympic title, there are just as many students that absolutely despise the idea of showcasing their inability to perform as well as others.

A couple of years ago, Neshaminy High School got rid of the selection process that let students pick what gym activities they wanted to be a part of. They could pick from traditional sports, climbing, and even yoga. Options were offered that suited many different preferences. Students would rather have the option to choose what class they'll take for the year and it is for this and other reasons that gym class option should be brought back.

When students are forced to participate in something, it has been

proven that they end up disliking the activity in and even outside of school. This leads to less exercise and can contribute to the issue of childhood obesity. Giving students the options makes them feel more in control and less like they're being forced to do something that they do not want to do. There were a variety of options that accommodated different interests and satisfied almost everyone.

"I liked the old gym options better because we got to choose our classes and when you don't like a class you don't participate. Also, when we got to choose our classes we got to be in a class with kids that had similar interests as us," senior Louis Sotnick said.

Another reason why students preferred the selection process rather than the regular gym class rotation is because the pressure of doing well in front of their peers was less of a weight on their shoulders. Those that

aren't as athletic as others feel exposed and judged in an area where they are already insecure. This experience can be mortifying for some.

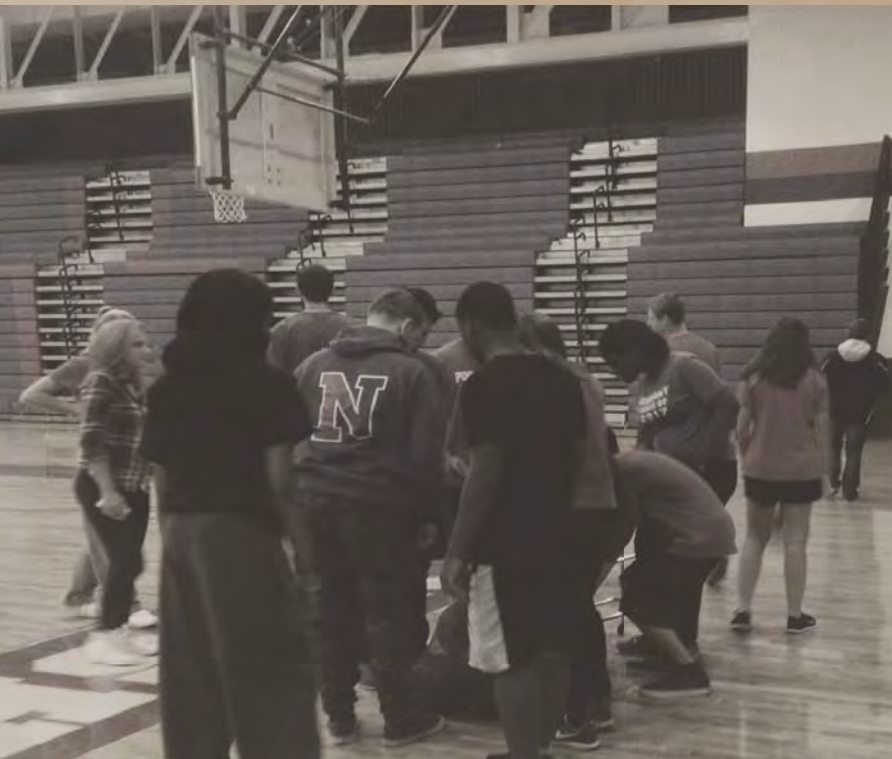
When students were given the selection process they could choose an activity that they could perform better in or do something they enjoyed. They could even choose some of the less intense options like walking or yoga.

"When we got to choose what classes we wanted to be in, we didn't have to worry about the overly competitive students getting upset when we would do something wrong. I got to do yoga with my friends and it was relaxing," senior, Elizabeth Herbst, said. Students should be in a friendly environment where they don't feel intimidated and can get more involved.

If so many students feel this way about the new system, why did we change it in the first place? Phys. Ed. Teacher, Mr. Tenaglia says, "A big part of why we got rid of the selection process was because it allowed the students to be exposed to more options rather than sticking to the same activity for a prolonged time period and giving them a feel for things that they might not have usually tried. It's all an ongoing process to see what would be best for the students."



February of 1950



GYM CLASS- Students in an upperclassmen gym class start their daily warm up of basketball.

Photo/Zoey Joyce

STUDENTS READY for FUN NIGHT

True Blue Blasts Rueful Red

BLUE TEAM, right to left: Mary Jean Balderston, 11th grade; Al Gaskill, 12th grade; Carol James, 12th grade; Jim Flanigan, 12th grade; Joanne Abramski, 12th grade; Harry Davis, 11th grade; Barrie Brittingham, 10th grade; John Kurtz, 11th grade.

Red Rebels Ready to Romp

RED TEAM, left to right: Diane Solvay, 12th grade; Jerry Mohn, 12th grade; Karen Ploeger, 11th grade; Tom Nuss, 12th grade; Claire Zavarich, 12th grade; Fran McCollum, 10th grade; Judy Wunsch, 11th grade; Bunli Yang, 10th grade; Sharon Maloney, 10th grade; Kathleen Rossili, 10th grade.

With wild anticipation the masses are engulfed in a frenzy. Hark! The knights of the blue table led by their bold leader, Gasptpe Vallent, march into the center of the battlements.

March of 1959

Common Application: Debunked

Dos, Donts, seniors' personalized guide for college applications

By Timothy Cho
Editor-in-Chief

CommonApp, the college and university application most institutions accept is an integral part for graduating seniors. However, for some, CommonApp is also cryptic, complicated and tedious, a process too complex to bother starting. Unfortunately, for them, CommonApp is an essential process for students hoping to attend college or university.

The first step of CommonApp is to register and make a profile, providing details about a student's basic information, academics, activities, interests, test scores (scores from the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT and AP Exams, which are the scores colleges and universities

see when reviewing a student's application), family background and of course, the personal essay.

Naviance, another program aimed at assisting students prepare to apply to college and university, is used to, "send supporting materials, such as transcripts, schedules, letters of recommendations and school report forms, to the colleges students apply," Neshaminy Guidance Counselors Patience Burton and Casey Rodgers said.

Once Naviance has been connected with CommonApp, students' applications are linked and able to be effectively coordinated between students, teachers and Guidance Counselors.

For some, this first step is the hardest, as bringing themselves to begin the college and university

application process may be the biggest obstacle in this process. Burton and Rodgers suggest that students, "take their time and thoroughly review all information provided in the CommonApp," in order to ensure the most accurate details are provided.

Brian Thomas, Neshaminy Class of 2015 and Drexel University Class of 2020, also suggests that, "seniors who haven't completed anything in relation to CommonApp (the procrastinators), just get it done and out of the way as soon as possible. You'll be grateful later."

The personal essay is arguably the most important aspect of the CommonApp; while students' GPA, grades, activities, interests and test scores define their academic rigor, the personal essay reveals their

personality, characteristics and essentially, who they are not as students, but as people. "Choose a prompt that complements who you are as a student, especially one that demonstrates some of the things you're passionate about...make sure you provide unique details to set yourself apart from those that choose to write the same essay option," Thomas said.

Furthermore, since the personal essay reveals an applicant's identity and personality, students are suggested to spend as much time as possible in creating the essay that brings out their best. Senior Natalia Bastida, who has already completed her CommonApp, thought the essay was the most time-consuming aspect; she recommends applying seniors to, "Do a bit of it every day so it's not

overwhelming, and to really put some time into it."

Some colleges and universities have a Writing Supplement, which may include more specific questions and additional essays to complete. In this case, "these should be completed IN ADDITION to the required essay in CommonApp. Sometimes the supplemental materials will be marked as 'optional' but the NHS Guidance Department STRONGLY advises you to complete them," Burton and Rodgers said.

The essay prompts for the 2015-2016 year are:

College breakdown easing student confusion

1. *Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.*

2. *The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?*

3. *Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?*

4. *Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.*

5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal that marked your transition within your culture, community, or family.

Students are recommended to have their profile and personal essay ready as soon as possible. When students apply sooner, rather than later, “the sooner they hear back and, in some cases, the better their chances of being accepted,” Burton and Rodgers explained. Once the profile and personal essay are complete, students add colleges and universities they wish to apply to under the “My Colleges” tab in CommonApp. Each college and university has their own separate application, most of which ask basic questions, mostly regarding general information, academics, activities, contacts and family information for applicants to answer.

Each college and university will have a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) statement. FERPA grants students the right to read and view their Letters of Recommendation, but if the FERPA statement is signed in CommonApp, students acknowledge that they have given up their right to read Letters of Recommendation, thus promising that their application is an honest one and uncensored one.

Transcripts, on the other hand, are permanent records of a student's high school career, composed of all courses taken and all grades received. Students may request transcripts from their Guidance Counselor.

Mid-year reports are just as they are named—reports of students' first half of their senior year's progress. After the second marking period, these are submitted through Naviance along with an

updated GPA by Guidance Counselors.

Letters of Recommendation, however, requires student-adult coordination. Students must speak with teachers, Guidance Counselors and other adults about receiving a Letter of Recommendation, and if approved, these individuals require time to write a Letter for the student. Luckily, “Teachers and counselors are able to complete all the required forms in Naviance so they can be sent to the required schools,” Burton and Rodgers said.

Once all of these steps have been taken, seniors can finally relax—CommonApp is over. The profile is completed; personal essay perfected; colleges and universities added; supplementary requirements finished; subsequent information prepared and all that remains is to review and submit the

application to each college and university.

For most colleges and universities, the Early Application's deadline is Nov. 1, while the Regular Decision's is Jan. 1. Early Application allows applicants to apply earlier, placing themselves in a special pool of applicants recognized for their preparedness and eagerness to apply; these applicants will receive either an acceptance or rejection notice by January or February. Seniors that apply under the Regular Decision will receive a notification by March or April.

The most important thing to remember is to take the first step. The rest will soon follow; granted patience and persistence are exhibited by applicants. The sooner seniors begin CommonApp, the more time they allow tomorrow's decisions to truly influence tomorrow's opportunities.



Photos / Elshna Ranganathan

Selena Gomez facing new issues

By **Brianna Herder**
Staff Writer

Selena Gomez, now a household name, has been in the lime-light recently for not only her release of her sophomore album “Revival,” but also due to her health crisis she’s been facing recently.

Gomez’s newest album, titled “Revival”, debuted on Oct. 9th, and has since been predicted to travel to number 1 on Billboard’s Top 200. Recently on Billboard, Selena’s album wasn’t the only trending topic. The 23-year-old announced on Billboard that she had been diagnosed with lupus, which was the main reason for her hiatus and cancellation of her 2013 tour to Australia and Asia.

Lupus is a disease when the immune system’s tissues attack themselves or other vital organs. It often strikes women ranging from 15-44 years old, but men and young children are still able to contract this disease; this disease is not contagious, meaning you can’t catch

lupus from another person in any way, including sexual contact. Symptoms of lupus include fatigue or fever, joint and chest pains, rashes on the bridge of your nose and cheeks, shortness of breath, dry eyes, and memory loss or headaches. However, symptoms vary from person to person. There is no known cure for lupus, but treatment helps.

Gomez took time off in 2014 to receive chemotherapy to treat the disease. Appearing

on The Today Show, she revealed she wasn’t completely ready to discuss the disease with the public.

The songstress stated to the hosts of the show, “To be honest, it still kind of makes me a little uncomfortable to talk about.”

Due to Gomez’s sudden disappearance in the Hollywood world, rumors were quick to begin circulating saying that she was receiving treatment for her drug and drinking abuse. Actually, Gomez was receiving treatment for lupus, which was the main influence for her break.

“That’s what my break was really about. I could’ve had a stroke,” said Gomez.

Regardless of her recent health scare, Selena is still going strong in the music industry releasing her most recent album titled “Revival.” Many believe it has the potential to reach the number one spot on the charts. It includes songs such as, “Same Old Love,” the lead single “Good for You,” and many more.



Graphic/
Grace Marion

Nitro Circus captivates crowd

By **Sloane Horton**
Archivist

On Oct. 15, the stands at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, PA were filled as the wheels started to turn when Nitro Circus approached the ramps. Members took on some of the most challenging stunts in the world on motor bikes, bicycles, inline skates, scooters, and skateboards.

When the hosts were ready to begin the show, they took their place on top of the ramps. The two intriguing MC’s had introduced the members of Nitro Circus and brought out Travis Pastrana.

“Pastrana is the starter of all action sports and the number one in the world,” said Jeremy Rawle.

Three brave volunteers were chosen from the audience to help with a stunt in which they had no idea about. These children were geared up and brought out from backstage. A rider on a motor bike had the three participants join him on the back of his bike. In attempts to complete this in the last city Nitro Circus had attended, they could not seem to land and everyone had fallen off of the bike. Luckily at this event, the biker landed the trick and the audience roared.

The next trick that the riders attempted on the motor bikes was called a “Nitro Bomb” and they had perfected the trick that night. This skill consisted of three sets

of three riders performing back flips one after another. Following this, the hosts announced an intermission and audience members could take a 15 minute stretch and purchase snacks and drinks.

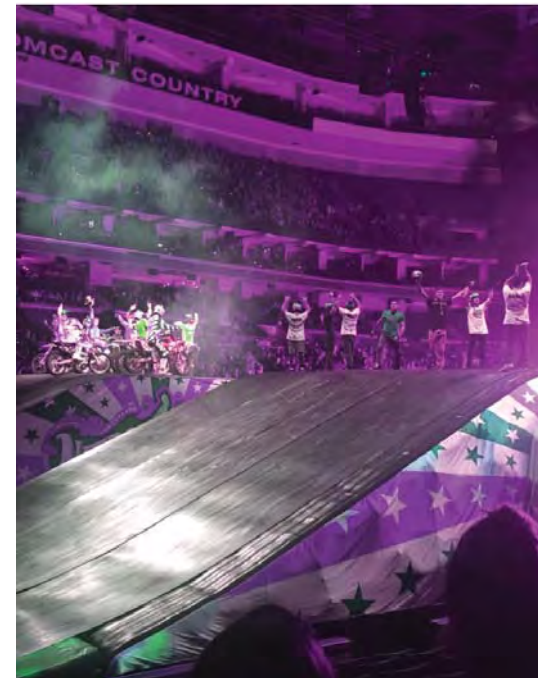
Shortly after the intermission, the show began to start up again. Rider Jed Miller was interviewed for his amazing performance on the first quad backflip.

“We were going 42 mph 21 feet tall. It was one of the most terrifying moments of my life,” said Miller.

Following Miller’s interview, the MC’s brought up another rider, Josh Sheeran, who accomplished the first triple back flip on a dirt bike. The crowd gasped as they could only imagine how terrifying it must have been to do the stunt.

“My ramp was 37 foot tall and I hit the base of it at 50 mph,” said Sheeran.

The next part of the show challenged the skill difference between the USA riders and the other riders from other parts of the world. The men were split into two teams, one named ‘Team USA’ and the other named ‘Team Rest of the World.’ Undoubtedly, everyone in the audience screamed for ‘Team USA’ and did not make a sound when ‘Team Rest of the World’ performed a stunt. At the end, USA took the crown.



NITRO CIRCUS- Members of Nitro Circus preformed tricks at the Wells Fargo Center.

Photo/ Sloane Horton

The way that every rider was supportive of each other and congratulated their team mates as they stepped off of the ramp was a pure example of great sportsmanship. At the end of the show, the participants gathered on the stage for one last round of applause and the audience left the show with one thought: How did they do that?

Walkers bite back: The Walking Dead released their first webisodes

By Mathew Soska
Staff Writer

The Walking Dead webisodes are a short series connected to the T.V show. Quick and clever dialogue cannot make up for the overacting and many other flaws in this series.

This is not very a well written series about a family caught in the zombie apocalypse. They have many unrealistic scenarios such as when Andrew (who is the husband to Hannah) jumps out of nowhere to save Hannah with a shotgun from a walker.

The characters seem very unrealistic as none of the characters sentences flow nicely, like their reading from a script. The characters never develop as they repeatedly make the same mistake. The characters are so annoying that the audience roots for the zombies.

The director couldn't have done a worse job of casting the characters. The actors don't make the series believable as they say everything with too much emotion. For example when Andrew and Hannah are talking to their kids they're screaming over their kids not picking up their toys.

Most of the lines in the series are cliché and overdramatic. The actors are crying more than they say actual words. Also the most lovable characters barely have any speaking lines. Like when

Hannah and Andrew's son is trying to describe his experience Hannah keeps interrupting him.

One thing the director did well on is the cinematography. The zombies look extremely realistic. The lighting and setting complement each other well to add a creepy effect.

The scenes don't flow well together as they skip around characters every two minutes. The director keeps the pace high in every episode so it's very easy to miss information.

The background music was used half of the time to create a dark mood. Other times the director used pop music, it would kill the mood of the episode. I would rate this series a one out of ten.



Graphic/
Grace Marion

All about that jazz Neshaminy music prepares for upcoming jazz season

By Kristen Magas
Staff Writer

Every year, around this time, Dan Weiner Jazz Band director, and Donna Burmylo-Magrann Jazz Ensemble director, sit patiently at a table in Neshaminy's orchestra room. They listen to each aspiring jazz member, one by one, play the part assigned to their respective instrument. The campaign to urge new faces to audition for Neshaminy's wonderful jazz program has already been repeated various times on the morning announcements.

Jazz is a genre of music originating in the U.S. in the late eighteen hundreds. Jazz music remains very popular, especially in New Orleans: a place the jazz students had the opportunity to take a trip to last year.

However, this year Burmylo-Magrann won't be directing the Jazz Ensemble, but she'll be working very closely with Pat Cassidy, Neshaminy

alumni, who will be taking over for the year. Senior and three year member, Drew Luniewski reacts positively to the unexpected change, "I think it's a great opportunity for the students to get a fresh insight on jazz" he said.

"We have three hour rehearsals twice a week. When competitions begin, they are added onto the

schedule on Fridays and Saturdays." *"I think it's a great opportunity for the students to get a fresh insight on jazz" -Drew Luniewski*

John Bilcik states in regard to the busyness of jazz season "It is not a program to be taken lightly."

Through a rigorous schedule that may test one's sanity, there is obviously a reason that the jazz members stay in the program. The members become a close-knit group of not only musicians, but friends.

The members gain a sense of pride winning caption and solo awards at competitions, learning about a different type of music they may not typically be exposed to, and working ridiculously hard, but above all, they have fun.

Hard-working musicians who are interested are encouraged to audition this upcoming November;

senior and Jazz Ensemble manager, Samantha Mamie stated, "Auditions may be scary, but the only way to be a part of such an amazing program is to prove you deserve the chance."

NETFLIX RELEASES

- OCT 22** **Results**
(2015 Indie/Romane film)
- OCT 24** **Jack Strong**
(2014 Drama)
- OCT 25** **Disney's Short Films Collection**
(2015 Fantasy)
- OCT 27** **August: Osage County**
(2013 Comedy/ Drama)
- OCT 28** **The Gunman**
(2015 Mystery/Crime)
- OCT 29** **Return to Sender**
(2015 Thriller)
- NOV 1** **Spongebob SquarePants Movie**
(2004 Comedy/Animation)
- NOV 2** **Last Tango in Halifax:**
(2015 Comedy/Drama)
- NOV 3** **The Midnight Swim**
(2014 Sci-Fi/Fantasy)
- NOV 5** **The Runner**
(2015 Drama)
- NOV 6** **Master of None**
(2015 Comedy)

Ultrazone unveils new Helios Pro sytsem

By **Brendan McGoldrick**
Entertainment Editor

At the end of this previous summer, Ultrazone laser tag arena implemented the long-awaited Helios Pro system, replacing the previous Infusion system, which had been in place for many years.

The new system, which involves a new set of packs and improved software behind-the-scenes, isn't a massive, groundbreaking improvement, but it lends enough to make a different feeling while playing.

Featuring a small touch screen on the top of the gun, it is now possible to check status such as game length remaining, power-ups active, and time to respawn after being shot. While not completely changing the game, being able to check these statistics on the fly helps to keep the flow of the game up.

Along with the handy-dandy touch screen, the new gun also has a much larger sensor to be shot at. While not being particularly nice while being on the receiving end of a shot to the gun, the larger sensor does wonders in balancing out those who rain down fire from up top, forcing them to pick-and-choose when to fire to avoid being shot from below.

Another problem that has been remedied, although it's one that usually only shows up in high-level play is that the time it takes to respawn after being deactivated is now even across all of the packs. When two players deactivate each other at the same time, (a common occurrence once the timing is memorized) it was expected that both packs would go back up at the same time, something that didn't happen with the aging Infusion packs, with certain packs respawning earlier or later than others, giving the later pack an advantage in a 1-on-1 situation.

While all of these improvements are nice,

they come at the "cost" of a much larger laser that's somewhat more unwieldy to hold than the previous Infusion gun. It's not uncomfortable, but it's now difficult or impossible to be able to smoothly switch hands with the gun to maneuver it around corners opposite to the way you're holding the gun, which is pretty inconvenient. For the average laser tag player, though, this isn't much of an issue to play through.

The new Helios system at Ultrazone is a fun improvement over the previous system that changes up the way the game is played mildly and brings a few outright improvements over Infusion, but it isn't quite enough to pull in those who didn't have any interest in the game before.

Ultrazone is located closely to Neshaminy High School, and can be found in the shopping center right behind the Neshaminy mall, with ~15 minute games for \$7.50 per person.

One of our writers spoke with the Ultrazone Assistant Manager, Kuron Couch for his thoughts on Helios Pro.

Q: Do you think that there's enough new with Helios to bring in people who didn't care about Zone before?

A: No. If you werent interested before in laser tag, there isnt much to attract you if there isnt any interests

Q: Do you think that the packs and guns are significantly more accurate than they were before?

A: No. They are exactly the same

Q: What would you say is the biggest improvement over infusion?

A: The pack timing

Q: Do you personally like Helios over Infusion as far as playing with it?

A: Yes

Q: Any particular reason?

A: Pretty much everything besides the lasers

Beach Music: exceeding expectations

By **Noah Burke**
Staff Writer

Over the past couple of years, the internet indie music community has kept Philadelphia singer/songwriter Alex G (Giannascoli) a secret from the world. Currently a junior in Temple University, his six self-recorded albums have gained him quite the followers, with his past two releases ‘DSU’ and ‘Trick’ propelling him to an almost fanatic fan base. Despite the commotion, he has managed to operate under the noses of the mainstream and released his latest seven length album, “Beach Music,” which pushed him into the limelight.

Written in his apartment while touring with Speedy Ortiz and Cymbals Eat Guitars, Giannascoli shaped the album based on his life as a touring musician. Giannascoli was able to show his time and commitment as he wrote each song within one month each other.

The album’s opener, aptly named “Intro,” experiments with harsh electronics and an overall jarring soundscape that flows into one of the album’s strongest songs, “Bug.” In this sweet, borderline twee song, it harkens back to Giannascoli’s soft sung indie rock origins but still manages to sound fresh.

The variety of styles presented in this album

is a feat in itself. Songs like “Bug” and “Brite Boy” are catchy, accessible songs, whereas songs like “Salt” and “Look Out” are more experimental, almost ethereal electronic songs.

In “Beach Music,” Giannascoli succeeds in piecing together something truly special. Rarely does an album establish such a deep bond with the listener almost immediately, and even rarer are albums able to keep this bond feeling special throughout the entire duration of the album. Giannascoli’s

ability to create things so intimate, but still broad enough to effect everyone is a truly special thing. A perfect album to ease you into the upcoming shortened days and cold weather, “Beach Music” is now out on Domino Records.

According to Rolling Stone, the 22-year-old artist says, “It’s like getting hired for a really good job or something. I have a career now. I have something I can count on to feed myself. That’s awesome.”

Fox screamin’ for Scream Queens

By **Corrine Calderbank**
Staff Writer

Fox’s newest fall hit is the television show *Scream Queens*. Created by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuck, and Ian Brennan, also the creator of *American Horror Story* and *Glee*, the show is a classic whodunit mystery with a comedy twist.

The show takes place at Wallace University and is centered on the sorority Kappa Kappa Tau, the most hated sorority on campus. The Kappa president, Chanel Oberlin, and her minions, known as Chanel Number One, Number Two and Number Three, are the most feared girls on campus. Around 20 years before the Chanel’s took over the sorority, a Kappa sister died after she had given birth in a bathtub and no one knows what happened to the baby.

When freshman Grace Gardner starts at Wallace and wants to pledge Kappa, things start to get crazy. A person disguised as the school’s mascot, The Red Devil, starts to kill off people. No one knows who this is or why they are doing this. The season is going on a course to try to figure out who The Red Devil is and what happened to the baby in the tub.

The show has a phenomenal cast including; Jamie Lee Curtis, Emma Roberts, Lea Michele, Keke Palmer, and Abigail Breslin. The writers are excellent with the witty and snarky dialogue. *Scream Queens* should be on everyone’s must watch list this fall. *Scream Queens* is on Tuesday nights at 9:00 PM on Fox.



Graphic/
Grace Marion

Varsity football finished with a record of 6-2-0. A highlight of the season includes the victory over Montclair High School. Last year Montclair was the New Jersey state champions.

Fall sports Wrap-up

Field Hockey had an outstanding season this year, boasting an undefeated record of 14-0, winning the suburban one league. The team will be back in action in playoffs.

Neshaminy's golf team secured a win over rival Pennsbury for a final record of 10-4-0, just behind Council Rock North.

Boy's' soccer went 7-5 for a 4th place finish just behind Council Rock North High school.

Boy's' Cross Country finished with a record of 1-5-0. Sophomore Rusty Kujdych finished second at the Suburban One League meet.

Girls' Tennis finished the season strong, sending junior Alice Borovsky and senior Katie Benson to the district-wide playoffs for

Girls' soccer finished with a record of 12-4-1 in the SOL, for a 2nd place finish, advancing to playoffs.

Girls' Cross Country ended with a final record of 4-2, for a fourth place finish in the Suburban One League. The varsity runners won the first place title at the Neshaminy Invitational on Oct. 17.

