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# The PLAYWICKIAN

Issue 2

Friday, November 17, 2006

www.playwickian.com

The Students' Newspaper of Neshaminy High School 2001 Old Lincoln Highway Langhorne, Pa. 19047



## Pay raise expected in Pa. by 2007

By Carol Mannix  
News Editor

A minimum wage increase from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.15 an hour, made possible by Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, is expected to be in effect by July 1, 2007. This will be Pennsylvania's first minimum wage hike in over a decade.

Rendell made it clear that he felt strongly that it needed to happen as quickly as possible. "We asked minimum wage workers to endure nine years without a wage increase. Is paying a worker less than the federal poverty level right?" he asked.

Rendell then proceeded to sign a bill declaring that worker's earnings would be increased gradually. Employers with less than 10 workers will receive steady increases starting at \$5.85 an hour on Jan 1, followed by a raise to \$6.65 an hour in July 2007 before reaching ultimately their \$7.15 mark in July 2008. However, the majority of companies, those with more than 10 workers, will receive an instant increase to the \$7.15 an hour in July 2007.

Usually, federal legislation sets the minimum wage in the U.S., such as the current \$5.15 enacted in 1997 by the Clinton administration. However, this time, local politicians thought it was time to do something about it themselves. "It was clear the Bush administration wasn't going to do it," Tom Cronin, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, District Council 47, told the Philadelphia Daily News, "[U.S. Sen. Rick] Santorum voted it down at least 12 times."

This new law will place thousands of workers across Pennsylvania above the federal poverty level, and will also put the state's minimum wage \$2 over the federal minimum. Pennsylvania is now the 21st state to raise its minimum wage.

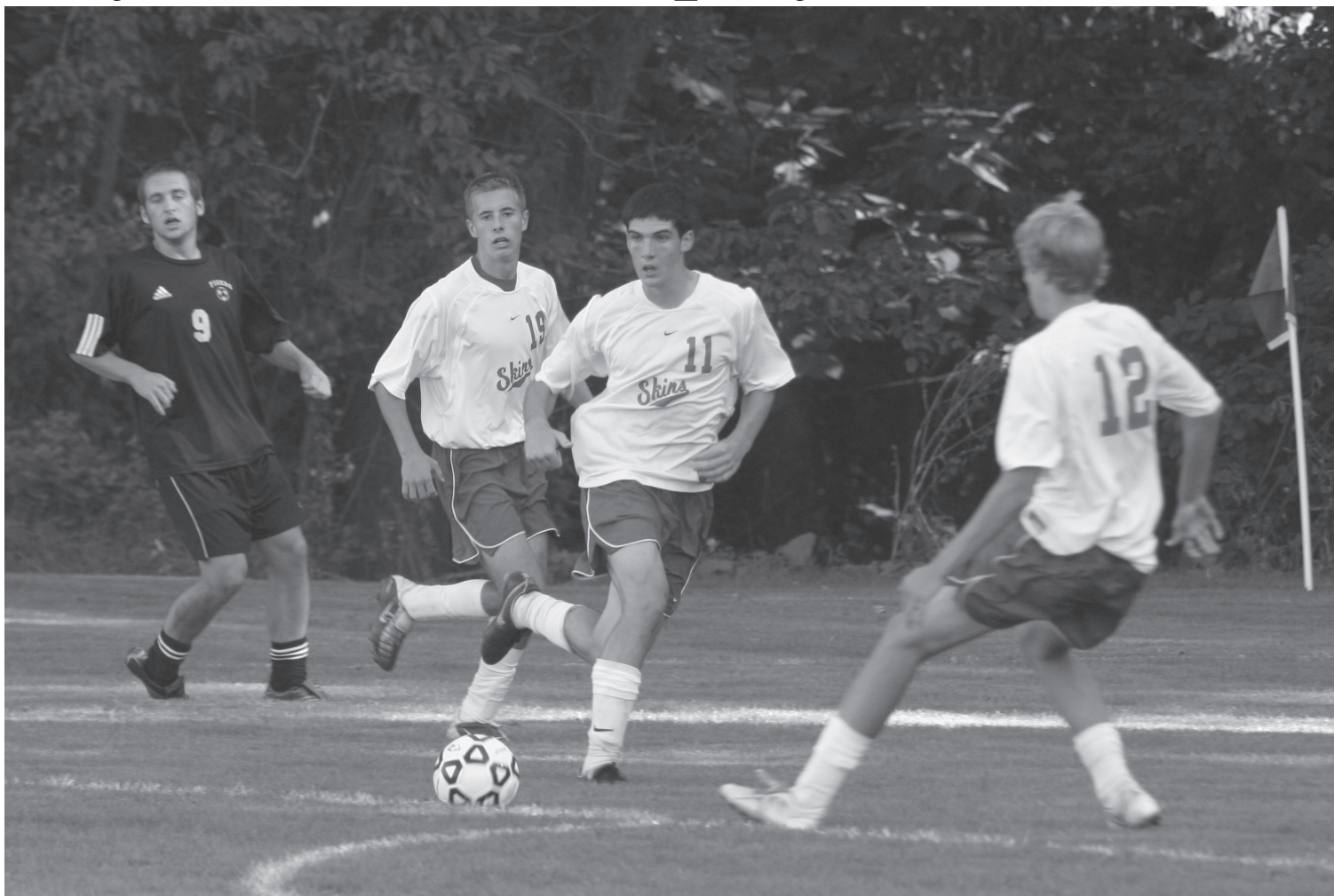
## Weekend Weather

**Friday:** Partly cloudy with a high of 53 and a low of 35.  
10 percent chance of precipitation.

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy with a high of 53 and low of 37.  
10 percent chance of precipitation.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy with a high of 53 and low of 32  
10 percent chance of precipitation.

## Boys' soccer state playoff run ended



Senior captain Tim Pfender (19) joined by Tristan Emig (11) and Greg Korhonen (12) showcase their teamwork and soccer skills.

Photo/Joe Geddes

By Rachael Campbell  
Staff Writer

The Neshaminy boys' soccer team's success landed them a 19-5-2 regular season record, placing them in the PIAA soccer state playoffs. However, their state championship dreams were crushed by a heart-breaking 3-2 shoot-out loss to CR-North on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Senior Frebole Kamara scored Neshaminy's only goal off a pass from jun-

ior Cody Antonini with 34:14 remaining in regulation play. This difficult loss left Neshaminy with a stellar 20-6-2 record.

The team's regular season ended in a tough competition against the Pennsbury Falcons. In double overtime, Neshaminy came through with a 1-0 victory, which led them to PIAA District One Class AAA playoffs.

The team overcame difficulties throughout their season. "There was a point where the coaching staff was getting frus-

trated," head coach Rich Reice explained. "They weren't doing the little things it takes to win. It felt like we weren't getting through to them."

The team began to straighten up their performance, which led to a 13-game winning streak. This streak gave the team the necessary momentum they needed to advance towards the playoffs.

see **SOC CER** on page 14

## Talent shines in Shakespearean parodies

This year's drama production puts  
a twist on classic Shakespeare.

By Ari Lipsky  
Managing Editor

Last night, the Neshaminy High School Drama department debuted "Drop Dead Juliet" and "Mmmbeth," two one-act plays which directly spoof Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth," respectively. The plays will continue their run to-night and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at \$3 a ticket for students and \$5 for adults.

"Drop Dead Juliet" is a comedy that follows the life of Juliet (Mary Mikulasko) after she grows tired of performing Shakespeare's (Jason McKairnes) version of her life ("Romeo and Juliet") time and time again. She rewrites the story to add more women and generally changes it in her favor. However, she runs into some unexpected surprises when Romeo (Jon

see **DRAMA** on page 2



William Shakespeare (Jason McKairnes - C) informs Romeo (Jon Segarra - R) of Juliet's (Mary Mikulasko - L) wish to rewrite the play.

Photo/Ari Lipsky

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# Teens support community through acts of charity

*Neshaminy High School students help the less fortunate by collecting donations.*

By Nicole Croyden  
News Editor

Neshaminy Cares, previously known as Greater Philadelphia, is representing Neshaminy High School students in a

positive light with their numerous community service and fundraising activities.

“Instead of teenagers being looked down upon, Neshaminy shows that teens are thoughtful, caring individuals,” Suzi Drake, the adviser for Neshaminy Cares, said.

Neshaminy Cares first participated in Light the Night, a fundraiser for March of Dimes, an organization that helps premature babies. This organization is currently

running a toy drive and Operation Paperback, which is a book drive to donate paperback novels to service men. Neshaminy Cares is also involved in Kids Helping Kids, a program at the elementary schools that serves as a reading and mentoring program.

Students participating in Neshaminy Cares and the numerous activities, are glad to have a chance to give back to their community.

“I find it extremely beneficial for the community and myself,” senior core member Anna Mathew said. “Tutoring with Neshaminy Cares has been one of the most rewarding experiences.”

Later this month they will also serve Thanksgiving dinner at the Masonic Lodge for 150 to 200 people coming from Woods Services and group homes, as well as for senior citizens. Neshaminy Cares members also bake cookies for hospice patients, once for the winter holidays and once in the spring.

Drake wants the kids to have a fun while helping out the community. “We’re all very fortunate,” she commented. “It feels good to give back to the community.” Last year, Neshaminy Cares made a huge impact and raised approximately \$10,000 for various causes.

“Teens are self-absorbed,” Drake

commented. “They need to focus more on the positives instead of the negatives. A lot of kids joining makes community service more meaningful.” The next Neshaminy Cares meeting will be on Dec. 7 for any students interested in helping the community.

Later this year, Neshaminy Cares will be co-sponsoring the second annual

Neshaminy Idol in the spring with the Drama Club. This was a tremendous success last year as they raised over \$2000 for St. Christopher’s NCIU. They are also going to be collecting gently used prom gowns and accessories in January for Fairy Godmother, an organization that puts together prom fairs so girls with financial difficulties can still attend the prom.

If anyone would like to make a donation for the toy drive or Operation Paperback, they can drop off their items in the Co-Curricular Office until the end of November. Toys must be new and unwrapped ranging in age from infancy to grade six. For Operation Paperback, romance and religious novels will not be accepted, and books are expected to be in good condition.

*Instead of teenagers being looked down upon, Neshaminy shows that teens are thoughtful, caring individuals.*

- Suzi Drake

# Harvard makes attempts to eliminate senioritis

*Harvard University decided to eliminate their early decision program in order to alleviate students’ stress.*

By Stephanie Takach  
Editor in Chief

On Sept.12 Harvard University eliminated its early admission program of 30 years and combined all admissions to the single application deadline of Jan. 1. This program broke a major trend in college admissions and will allow Harvard to pursue its efforts to extend financial aid and increase openness in its admissions process. This will take effect for students applying in the fall of 2007 for the freshman class entering in September 2008.

“The college admissions process has become too pressured, too complex, and too vulnerable to public cynicism,” Harvard interim President Derek Bok said. “We hope that doing away with early admission will improve the process and make it simpler.”

A major incentive for the move to eradicate early admission stems from university officials arguing that such programs put low-income and minority applicants at a clear disadvantage in the competition to get into selective universities.

Before this decision, applicants to Harvard could chose to apply under the “early action” admission program. This allows students who apply by Nov. 1 to know by Dec. 15 whether they are admitted, denied or deferred to the regular pool of applicants. If admitted, students are not obligated to accept the offer of admission until May 1, which is also the deadline for regular admissions.

This process differs from that of “early decision” in that it is nonbinding and students have the opportunity to explore different financial aid packages and scholarships from other colleges. Although Harvard University allows “early action” over “early decision,” administrators are still concerned about the stress of early admissions.

“We are concerned... that even our nonbinding program contributes to the pressures and inequities of the college admissions process,” William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions at Harvard College stated.

University officials also recognize that elimination of early admissions may not be a substantial success. As a result, Harvard will commence the single admission process for a trial period of two to three years. In this time period, admission factors will be monitored for the impacts of change and to assure officials that it is not having a negative impact on student quality.

“If after several years with a single admissions deadline, we find ourselves needing to reinstate early admission to preserve the quality of our student body, we will return to early action,” Fitzsimmons continued.

Harvard representatives are hoping for students to focus more of the rigor of high school curriculums rather than the pressures of college applications. The single admissions deadline will give more incentive for students to work hard in all classes during their final year of high school. Briefly, Harvard is eliminating senioritis.

Presently, Harvard officials are looking for allies to this major decision. “The impact will obviously be greater if other institutions join us in moving to a single, later, admissions cycle. I hope they will,” Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Jeremy R. Knowles confirmed.



## NHS construction right on schedule

Although it does not look like a lot of progress has been made, Superintendent of Construction Rick Marotto assures students and staff that much of the necessary base work has been completed in regards to the ongoing renovations at Neshaminy High School.

Concrete foundations have been poured for the new addition to Gym 3 and the workers are also in the process of pouring a foundation for the first of the two-story buildings that will contain classrooms.

In addition, the underground utilities for water, gas, sanitary lines and electricity are being created for both areas.

Most noticeably, walls and floor slabs have also been put in place between D and E halls for the new boiler room.

### DRAMA: from page 1

Segarra) does not feel the same way he used to in Shakespeare’s tale.

“Mmmbeth,” also a comedy, turns the well-known story of “Macbeth” upside down. After the three witches (Sarah MacKay, Becca Jensen and Elina Ospiyan) take over the story telling and transform Shakespeare’s play into a song-and-dance routine, it is up to MmmBeth (Fred Heineman) and his lady (Megan Magee) to

put the story back on track.

The plays are directed by English teachers Suzi Drake and Melissa Catrambone. To alleviate the pressures of directing two plays at the same time, each play alternated rehearsal days, so the cast of “Mmmbeth” rehearsed on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the cast of “Drop Dead Juliet” rehearsed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“It was fun to direct the plays,” Catrambone said. “The kids brought life to Shakespeare, and there were some very talented actors and actresses involved. It rocks.”

This is the first time in recent Neshaminy history that two one-act plays have been performed in place of a two or three-act play, such as last year’s “House of Frankenstein.”

Since there are two plays this year, there are also more opportunities for the drama students regarding their involvement.

“The one-act plays get a lot more people involved in the drama production,” Arielle Adler, a senior who plays the nurse in “Drop Dead Juliet,” said. “In the past, about 10 people were able to participate in a production, but now we have upwards of thirty.”

Although there is a number of new cast members this year, they are very enthusiastic, and they are doing a good job of filling the expectations.

“You don’t know if they’ll hold up; the expectations are higher,” director Suzi Drake said. “They have done a nice job.”

The performers have been anticipating the opening of the plays for some time now and hope that the Neshaminy community will come out to support them. “We’ve had a short time to put it all together, but, in all, it is hilarious,” senior Sarah MacKay said.

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# Democrats bring needed change to Congress

Change is what America needs and change is what the Democrats will bring. The public is calling on the democratic representatives and senators to “do something” as the Democrats will be taking control of Congress when the new session begins in Jan.

Democrats took over the House of Representatives in a landslide victory with the gain of 32 seats on Election Day, Nov. 7, and the Senate with the help of two independent senators. The Senate split 49 to 49, but independent Senator Bernard Sanders of Vermont will caucus with the Democrats, and Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut who is a Democrat but ran as an independent after losing in the primary to give the democrats control.

The turnover in both the House and the Senate is beneficial to the U.S. Government and will greatly effect the communication in Washington between President Bush and the Congress. Two prominent changes within Congress involve the Democrats seizing all of the committee chairs in House and the Senate, and that Democrats will chose which issues will make it to the floor for discussion.

The reaction after Election Day was one of relief amongst Democratic congressmen. “[It is] time for a change,” Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, who likely will become the new Senate Majority Leader next year, said Thursday at a victory rally outside of the Capitol building. “This country has spoken loudly and clearly.”

Not only have Democrats responded in a positive manner, but they have recognized the need to act on the issues rather than constantly debating them. “Stop the gridlock, stop the nastiness, and get something done. People are tired of excuses,” Kansas representative Nancy Boyd firmly stated.

“First order of business is to change the direction of Iraq policy,” said Sen. Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat expected to be chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the new Congress that convenes in January.

The plan is to begin a phased redeployment of forces in Iraq within the next four to six months. Democrats hope to signal to the Iraqis that the open ended commitment is over and that they are going to have to learn to solve their own problems in the future. The only way that Americans can end this “war on terror” is to concede to the mass criticism of the war.

Hopefully, this newfound energy will bring troops out of Iraq and home to their families. President Bush has also pledged to work with the Democrats in Congress for a consensus on how to best approach the issue.

“We can work together over the next two years,” President Bush commented.

However, Bush still considers the goal in Iraq to maintain a government that can sustain, govern and defend itself and serve as an all in this war on terror. It is up to the Democrats to work with Bush in their efforts to pull troops out of Iraq.

On the issue of immigration, Bush may find it easier to work with the Democrats because they have been much more supportive of his approach.

The democratic change is the transformation that Americans have been looking for. Issues such as health-care, minimum wage, the economy and defensive spending were heavily campaigned and will be brought to the floor for reform by Congress.

There is no doubt that with the Democratic victory in Congress comes the responsibility to step up and bring the much needed change to America.

“Look at it our way” represents the majority opinion of the “Playwickian” editorial board.



## Students to prepare for reality

By Irene Kipervasser  
Editorials Editor

Ever see the movie “Garden State”? If so, I recommend that you do. But to make this a little easier to understand, it’s about Andrew Largeman, a guy who’s been living on antidepressants for as long as he can remember. He is in a sort of coma, living life with no feeling, not experiencing anything. But when he goes back home and leaves his cabinet full of pills behind, he suddenly starts seeing life for what it really is.

He faces his past, finally confronts his controlling father and meets a beautiful girl who is full of life (that would be Natalie Portman...if you’re not already convinced to see this movie). So, why the plot summary? Think about it this way. We are Andrew Largeman. Neshaminy has been like our cabinet of numbing pills. College will be us leaving the pills behind.

Confused? I feel like for the past couple of years, we’ve all been in a kind of coma. Neshaminy, just like any high school, really, is so confined, so limited, so numbing. We are given very few options, barely any room to become the people we one day want to be. Though we are all pretty close to what is considered “adulthood”, we are still forced to abide by rules seemingly designed for children. Let’s face it, it really is hard to act like an adult when you have to ask permission and be signed out to use the bathroom.

But finally, next fall, the seniors are getting the chance to experience something more. Okay, so we all won’t figure out the meaning of our lives and Natalie Portman probably won’t come knocking on our doors wanting to be our friends. But in a way, I think we’ll all change for the better.

It’s hard to imagine what we will be like a couple of years from now because we have almost nowhere to begin. Sure, movies are entertaining and thought provoking, making us wonder about what else is out there. But how can we possibly know the different types of people we’ll meet, the things we’ll see, what we will eventually be passionate about? The greatest thing about this is that we can’t It’s all up in the air, and I personally can’t wait to find out.

College isn’t just about furthering your education or partying as much as you possibly can. It’s about opening your eyes, and realizing how much more there is in this world, how little of it you’ve seen, and how much of it you want to experience.

I know it’s only November and we still have a whole school year to go, but I can’t help but get excited just thinking about it. The Neshaminy experience has been fun, depressing, confusing, and at times, pretty lame, but I’d like to think that in the end, it was all worth it. Because when we look back, maybe...hopefully, we’ll be able to see just how nice it is to be living, growing, and changing in the real world.



Democrats knock out Republican control of House and Senate.  
Illustration/Michele Lestochi

### The Playwickian

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#### Mission Statement

The Playwickian, the voice of Neshaminy High School, is the student-produced monthly publication dedicated to reporting to the Neshaminy community hard-hitting news, enticing features and thought-provoking editorials in order to inform, enlighten and educate.

The members of the Playwickian staff dedicate their time and effort to provide the student body with a voice and exercise students’ First Amendment rights while remaining unbiased and truthful in the reporting of information and the quest for self-expression.

The news, features, editorials, sports, special features, entertainment, graphics, photography, copy and creative writing editors are devoted to the improvement of the school climate, and faithfully contribute their talents to help enhance the school’s diverse educational environment.

#### Awards

The publication has received recognition by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in the following years - First Place: 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994. Bronze Medalist: 2001. Silver Medalist: 1995, 2000, 2003. Gold Medalist: 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006.

#### Policy Statement

Published monthly, the student newspaper of Neshaminy High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its contents. The Playwickian refers to the "Associated Press Stylebook" on matters of grammar, punctuation, spelling, style and usage. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editors will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed and of appropriate subject matter. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school’s educational process. Opinions in letters or commentaries are attributed to the author. Such views are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or the policy of the adviser or administration, unless so attributed.

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# Teens should be held responsible...

By Irene Kipervasser  
Editorials Editor

Imagine that you are a parent of a teenager. As she nears adulthood, you want her to have a little more freedom, to show her that you're gaining trust in her. You let her throw a party and trust that she will be responsible. But when you find out that she abused your trust and there was, in fact, alcohol at this party, who is to blame? The parent for allowing his teenager a little freedom, or the teen for taking advantage of that? The obvious answer here is that the teenager is at fault.

At 17 years old, people know the difference between right and wrong. They are one year away from being a legal adult, in which case they will be held responsible for all of their choices. So why, when they choose to do something they know is illegal, like throwing a party with underage drinking, should their parents have to pay the price?

It would be nice to assume that parents keep tabs on all aspects of their children's lives, and are so in touch with them that they know exactly what goes on. But in today's world, that is just not the reality of the situation. Parents lead busy lives and often don't know the first thing about what their child is truly capable of doing. As bizarre as it may seem, the thought of their kids even experimenting with things like alcohol and drugs doesn't even cross some parents' minds.

Yes, we can say that these parents are clueless and should attempt to be a little more tuned in to what their children are doing. But can we really say that they should pay the price for the transgressions of their children?

Law enforcers seem to think so. Parents are being forced to pay the price of their teens' partying. As the new "Social Host Accountability Ordinance" in Marin, California states, action will be taken against "parents of teens who host parties in their homes even if the parents do not know the party is taking place," according to the Marin Independent Journal.

This is now becoming the case here in Bucks County as well. Recently, a Bucks County mom was sentenced to 11 to 23 months in jail for allowing her 18-year-old son to host parties involving underage drink-

ing. She pleaded guilty to hosting a party in January but claimed she was in another room and did not know what was occurring.

Judge Robert Mellon had a hard time believing that she was not directly involved and had some harsh words to share with her. "You are the personification of betrayal of one parent to all other parents. You put your head in the sand and looked the other way. Your behavior is atrocious," he said while delivering her sentence.

However, it's obviously not as easy to keep tabs on your teenager as it may seem. The other parents that Heath "betrayed" allowed their children to attend the party because they had no idea what was going on, just as Heath claimed was the case with her.

Even a so-called "good parent" could find themselves in this situation. Hazelden.org suggests certain rules in order to prevent something like this from happening. These include setting "a policy of no-closed doors" and "letting your child know that you won't just hide out while teenagers gather in private." But these suggestions

are a little intrusive and somewhat unrealistic. Whether a alcohol is involved or not, no teenager wants her mom or dad hanging around their party. This invasion of privacy would just prompt the teens to find somewhere a little less supervised to party.

Teenagers have a tendency to do what they want. Yes, it can be destructive and ultimately dangerous but it is a known fact. A parent can not control what they do not know. And since it is the teenagers' choice to do something illegal and hide it from their parents, they should face whatever consequences are in store for them.

# No, parents need to keep control...

By Bryan Kolbes  
Staff Writer

From the dawn of mankind children have tried to disobey parents, from sneaking a girlfriend into the back of the cave to throwing wild house parties. The blame throughout time for disobedience has and should always be put on the parent.

Parenting is no cakewalk, as my father always says, "No one gave me a book on how to parent or set up a course, because I'd be there in a heartbeat." The difficulties of parenting have escalated in the last decade or so, but parents need to

able in conjunction with their children's actions; their job is full-time, with no off days. Many parents lapse in their responsibility but too many act as a shadow to their children which just drives them further away. A parent needs to find a mixture where they can achieve a stern voice and approachable qualities. Too many parents however, lean too far to either sight, some becoming distant or abusive when the sternness is taken to an extreme, which often causes rebellion. Or they become "buddies" with their children and harbor the unsafe activities their child participates in.

No one is perfect but parents need to find an even level and develop and lay a ground work to help their children in life.

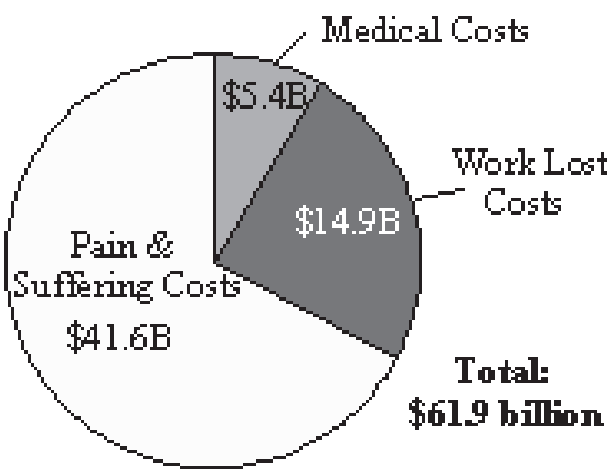
As National Institute for Drug Abuse reports, when parents are competent role models, their offspring are 56 percent less likely to indulge in high-risk behaviors. It just reinforces the idea that parents are to blame because by setting a tone in their own lives, they have direct influence on their children's.

This notion of setting the proper and safe tone for a household has not been adhered to by many parents it seems. According to findarticles.com, nearly 23 percent of Americans drink and nearly 22 percent of Americans smoke. Not only are parents making poor choices themselves, they are allowing, sometimes encouraging, their children to do the same.

While parental responsibly to their children is often thought to be just to feed, clothe and shelter, one responsibly is to nurture. Too few parents truly remain allied with this idea. They can have a true influence to show their children, so further on down the road, they realize that engaging in these illegal activities are not only dangerous but go against their conscious that has been built well.

Parenting is one constant battle: a fight between parents to live a life and to help advance their children's lives. There are ways to help combat dangerous and prohibited activities, by paying attention and learning how to either stop or help their children. As Sun Tzu, the famous Chinese philosopher and general stated, "If equally matched we can offer a battle." Parents must be equal or greater to their children, or the blame for these kids activities will ultimately rest on the parents' shoulders.

Costs of Underage Drinking  
United States 2001



Teen parties are not only dangerous, but costly to Americans.  
Photo/Courtesy of udtec.org

path and make sure they are not doing certain things, like throwing house parties.

Today, I do acknowledge that many households have two working parents, or single parent households, who do not always have as much time as they wish to spend with their children. As well, these kids are often older and mature, to the extent that they should be able to see for their own safety. But, until legally self-sufficient, these children are in the care of their parents and are at high risk to be arrested when they indulge in illegal activities.

Parents need to be held account-

# Rumsfeld resigns, Bush appoints former CIA agent Gates

Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld resigns in light of Democratic domination.

By Evan Hennessy  
Editorials Editor

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006, President George W. Bush announced that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld would be stepping down. This came as a surprise to many politicians as just a week prior the president said publicly that Rumsfeld would finish his job under the Bush administration. His extremely unpopular policies regarding the Iraq War have been heavily criticized. America's displeasure with the Iraq war was on display through this year's midterm elections, as the Republicans, in President Bush's own words, took a "thumpin" in the polls.

Rumsfeld, when official resignation occurs, will have ended his six year stint at the reigns of military operations. "I recognize that many Americans voted last night to register their displeasure with the lack of progress being made," Bush said in a Nov. 8 press conference. The president also expressed his belief that it is time for new leadership. "The timing is right for new leadership at the Pentagon," he said.

Replacing Rumsfeld will be former CIA chief Robert Gates. Gates began his work for the CIA in 1966, and served under six different presidents. Gates served during the George H.W. Bush administration, and retired from government service in 1993. Gates's credentials are impressive, however several democrats have been raising concerns about Gates's connections to the Iran-Contra scandal of the Reagan administration. Currently, Gates serves as the president of Texas A&M University.

I feel that Rumsfeld's resignation should have come in 2003 with Bush's impeachment. Time and time again, Rumsfeld refused to consider the advice of his generals and refused alternative courses of action. His management of the war thus far has been a terrible failure, and it is definitely time for change.

Interestingly enough, Rumsfeld jumped ship in wake of the democratic domination of

the midterm elections. In 2004, during the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal, Rumsfeld tried to resign, and Bush refused. It seems that he, and Bush, finally realized that his corrupt and twisted idea of reality would not stand now that the Democrats have control.

It does not come as a surprise to me that Gates was nominated for the job, considering the circumstances. Gates is a good family friend of the Bush clan. It seems that throughout his presidency, Bush has surrounded himself with friends and allies, rather than capable politicians.

I honestly know nothing about Robert Gates's character; only time will tell. I am only aware of his qualifications. Therefore, it would be illogical to jump to conclusions about him. He could serve well as the Defense Secretary, or he might not. However, I am quite skeptical; Bush does not have a great history of appointing stellar individuals to his cabinet. Gates is a very respected man among his colleagues; he is, in fact, the only entry-level member of the CIA to ever rise to the position of chief. One can only hope that he brings with him a fresh perspective and a plan to end the ugly and pointless Iraq War.

## Donald Rumsfeld:

Born July 9, 1932

Attended Princeton University

Served in Navy from '54-'57

Served in Congress for 8 years

Worked under:

Nixon

Ford

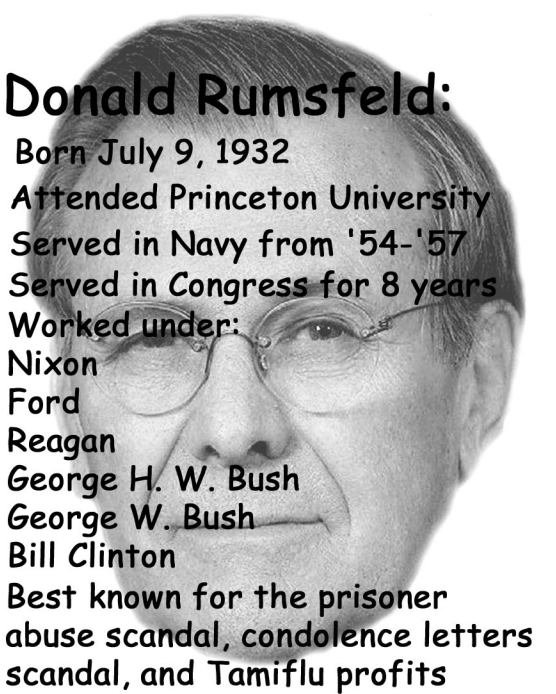
Reagan

George H. W. Bush

George W. Bush

Bill Clinton

Best known for the prisoner abuse scandal, condolence letters scandal, and Tamiflu profits





# Ugandan mass murderer will be pardoned

Recently, troubles in Uganda have made national news. Should the government pardon known murderers if they surrender?

By Mattison Curran  
Staff Writer

Members of the Lord’s Resistance Army surrendered to the Ugandan government in August, and government officials are considering granting the leader amnesty if he agrees to discontinue rebel movements. Uganda is located in Africa and borders Kenya. Joseph Kony, head of the LRA, believed that he was a messenger of God, whose purpose was to rule Uganda according to the Ten Commandments. Coincidentally, the group managed to violate almost every commandment in its efforts to overthrow the government. Kony’s beliefs are rooted in the teachings of Alice Lakwena, the African witch doctor who started the war. She is said to have been possessed by the “Lakwena Spirit,” and was motivated by the spirit to rally 10,000 troops to take over the government. Their attempt failed, however, and Kony stepped in. Unable to assemble enough willing soldiers, the new leader discovered a plentiful and defenseless crowd to utilize. Kony immediately began gathering children between the ages of eight and 12 to fight his war for him. He had his soldiers do anything and everything necessary to capture the kids. Kony oversaw for about 20 years as his subordinates kidnapped the innocent victims. In order to desensitize the children, leading rebels forced most of them to kill their own families, and in some cases to eat or drink their remains. If a child was disobedient, or attempted escaping “the bush” (the desert in which they were held hostage), they were severely beaten, disturbingly tortured, or killed. Eventually, his army was 80 percent children. Little girls who were not fit for fighting became the soldiers “wives,” or in other words, sex slaves. Even the few kids who successfully escaped “the bush” continue to experience the fear with every passing day. For example, one particular child claimed to get headaches if he did not see blood. Needless to say, the children, or at least the ones who survived, were, and remain completely traumatized. Twenty years of unrewarding conflict has apparently left Kony with no choice but to surrender to the government. Currently, Ugandan authorities, as well as U.N. members, are discussing the best course of action for dealing with confessing LRA rebels. The rest of Kony’s followers have an additional two months to gather at two designated assembly points in southern Sudan. During these next few months government powers, U.N. council members, and representatives of the LRA will write up a truce between the two conflicting parties. One of the several matters at hand is the punishment for members of the Lord’s Resistance Army, particularly Joseph Kony. There have been recent talks of granting Kony amnesty. According to <http://dictionary.reference.com>, the granting of amnesty can be defined as, “a forgetting or overlooking of any past offense.” Let me repeat that, “a FORGETTING or OVERLOOKING of any past offense.” Hopefully it sank in. Joseph Kony is responsible, whether directly or indirectly, for the displacement of 1.6 million people and the deaths of approximately 100,000 people. Because of him, every night about 40,000 children walk up to seven miles from their homes to sleep in crowded, unsanitary cities to avoid being kidnapped. A man in America who killed one other human would most likely be sentenced to

life in prison or receive the death penalty. However, Kony, who can be held accountable for at least 100,000 deaths, along with the torture of thousands more, will simply be exonerated as long as he agrees to relinquish from such violence. Now, of course there is some reasoning behind this proposal to pardon Kony of any charges. In the year 2000, the Amnesty Law was passed in Uganda. The law states that any Ugandan who has, since Jan. 26, 1986, been involved with war or armed rebellion against the government will be acquitted of all charges. The International Bar Association stated that, “[Ugandan] President Museveni offered a blanket amnesty to Mr. Kony, ‘if he responds positively to the talks with government... and abandons terrorism.’” Government officials had hoped that without fear of penalty, the LRA would be more likely to end the war. Unfortunately, the group was unmoved by the new law. Because almost 80 percent of Kony’s followers were originally forced to join the LRA as children, it would be very difficult for the government to decide who should take the punishment. Categorizing the victims and criminals would be a complex, and possibly fruitless task. Although it will be very challenging for Ugandan authorities, as well as the International Criminal Court, to generate an appropriate plan of action regarding the LRA members’ punishment, it is absolutely necessary. In reality, the Amnesty Law needs to be eliminated. It is completely unreasonable for a mass murderer to go unpunished. Manisuli Ssenyonjo of Oxford Journals offered, “While acknowledging the need for forgiveness and reintegration, it is argued that those who ‘bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed’ should be brought to justice.” This statement describes the need for a balance between peace and justice. The government cannot possibly execute, or even jail, every one of the LRA rebels. It would not promote peace, nor would it provide justice. In my opinion, the top LRA leaders should receive severe punishment for their accounts of murder, rape, torture, and other various criminal acts. The children and subordinate adult soldiers who were forced to take part in the war should be put into counseling immediately. Joseph Kony, along with his assistants, is a murderer. His appalling acts against humanity must be acknowledged and punished by the Ugandan government, despite the challenge it will be.



Joseph Kony, responsible for at least 100,000 deaths, may soon be pardoned.  
Photo/Courtesy of palmbeachpost.com

## High school students wake up too early to learn

Some teachers and students are appalled that students lose much needed sleep each school year.

By Brittani Ross  
Staff Writer

Nowadays, any person can go online, run a search and find countless articles on teenagers needing more sleep. Schools need to start later in the morning to accommodate these needs. “Once sleep is lost, sleep is lost,” English teacher Viki Guarrieri said. “You can’t

ever gain it back.” It’s a basic fact of life. Teenagers sleep, and they sleep a lot. They also need this sleep much more than any other person. Buses are coming earlier than ever, some before 6:30 in the morning. This means we have to get up an hour earlier to wake up, eat breakfast, shower, get dressed, and get down to the bus stop. After this, we spend over seven hours at school and come home. Many teenagers have to baby-sit, the majority have part-time jobs. Some need these jobs to help pay for college which high schools are urging students to go to. After this, students have homework to

do which can take several hours. By this time, it can be close to eleven at night. It takes the human body at least fifteen minutes to fully shut down, not including tossing and turning, bad dreams, restless nights, loud noises that keep you awake, or one of the many other factors. “I have math first period in the morning,” senior Amanda Schmidt said. “Almost everyone in that class sleeps, and a lot more people are absent or late than in any other period.” Sleep patterns are turned upside down

from the transition between weekend mornings and school day mornings. People shouldn’t be expected to ‘catch up’ on their sleep on the weekends and then wake up at the crack of dawn the next morning for five days in a row. “Research supports that the teenager’s biological clock isn’t set to get up so early,” math teacher MaryBeth Fellmeth said. “I find it appalling,” Guarrieri said, “that with all the research regarding sleep and start-of-day times for teens that we continue to begin our day at NHS at 7:15.” There are people, however, that argue students need to be home in time to baby-sit younger siblings who come home before them. “Society liked the older siblings home to greet the younger ones,” Fellmeth said. It is also true, however, that younger children are more active in the mornings than children are. It would be better for younger students to start school earlier and high school to start later. “The more active kids are, the better the grades are,” Kathy Lichtner said. Lichtner gives her comments as to how schools should not open later. “Students established as being late will always be late,” she said. In college, on average the classes start at 8:30 in the morning. If high school is getting us ready for college life, why are they waking us up so early? The suggestion of changing school time is up to debate and met with very different opinions. On one hand, students can get more sleep in the morning and be more active participants in class. On the other hand, they may have after school activities to do or younger siblings to look over.

**“I find it appalling that with all the research regarding sleep and start-of-day times for teens that we continue to begin our day at NHS at 7:15.”**

**-Viki Guarrieri**

## Tips for Seniors: applications, senioritis, stress

College applications can be confusing and stressful. Here are some tips for this year’s seniors.

By Drew Kalbach  
Editorials Editor

Senior year is quickly coming to an end and twelfth graders everywhere are in a rush to get their college applications finished. School is stressful as it is, but adding the pressure of college can make it unbearable at times. Applications may only take ten minutes to fill out, but those ten minutes are more nerve wracking than child birth. Not to mention the final product is much more interesting: namely, a college education. Students are told at a young age that if they do not succeed in school, they will end up fixing Razor scooters for the rest of their lives. The only way to be happy and healthy is to get an A in Calculus; nothing else matters. In fact, if somebody does not get into MIT or Harvard, they will work

in a cubicle for the rest of their lives. Forget about making money and raising a family; if the student isn’t good enough for Ivy League schools, then clearly that student is a failure at life. But have no fear, there are certain things seniors can do to avoid falling short of their parent’s and expectations (and thus, failing at life). First, get college applications done as soon as possible. There really is no reason to wait. Choose some colleges, preferably Ivy League, fill out the applications, and then wait for the acceptance letters to come rolling in. If rejection letters come instead, don’t be disheartened; even a

failure is allowed to live in this beautiful country we call America. Don’t wait to get senioritis. It seems obvious, but take it from me, some people continue to work hard all through their senior year. It makes much more sense to slide by with the minimal amount of work. Senioritis is going to take hold of almost every senior; instead of prolonging the inevitable, take the initiative and start right away. Sure the first marking period may seem important, but in reality it’s about as important as voting. The pressures of school will almost literally melt away once the senior slide begins; it doesn’t matter if your GPA melts away as well. Harvard and MIT never look at senior year grades. Trust me. Remember, getting that A in high school Algebra will either make or break your adult life. Only a degree from Harvard, Yale, or Princeton will bring happiness. Save some time and forgot about applying to schools like Temple or West Chester; no matter how much is learned at these schools, that managerial job at Burger King awaits their graduates.



If you don’t go here, you are a failure.



# NHS students unite against sexual discrimination

*Spectrum, the new gay/straight alliance club, provides a safe place for students to talk, comfort and interact with their peers.*

By Alex Kline  
Staff Writer

Imagine a place where students can go to feel safe, talk with friends and even interact with teachers out side of school and not seem awkward. Neshaminy has such a place. In early November, a large group of students and a few faculty members met in room G8 for the first meeting of GSA, also known as the Gay/Straight Alliance. The purpose of the Gay/Straight Alliance is to ensure that gay, bisexual, and straight people feel safe and respected around each other. The meeting was to determine who was interested and pick a name. The par-

ticipants decided on the name Spectrum. Club officers were also picked. Dave Bria was named President, Sam Toder as vice president, Sam Braun as Secretary, and Brittani Ross as Treasurer. “It’s a good club for people to share lives and support each other,” Ross said. Dennis Howie, the faculty adviser of Spectrum stated, “Simply put, NHS needs this group, GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) students feel much safer and are more successful when they are supported.” Educational and advocacy events will be planned to benefit the student of Neshaminy. The club intends to participate in the National Day of Silence on April 18,

*“I’m happy to be here today to support all students here at Neshaminy High School and to help create safe spaces for everyone.”*

- Joan McGinley

2007, as well as show movies at meetings to celebrate the individuals that came out for the club. This group is not just for the members of Spectrum, but to raise awareness in the school and community. “In many ways, the ultimate goal of the group is to make NHS a safer, healthier, more accepting place for GLBTQ students and their allies,” explained Howie. The club is trying to come up with a mission statement to properly explain what their mission at Neshaminy is. There are three groups working on a mission statement, and one will be used, or pieces of each will be combined to adequately explain their mission.

A regular meeting time has yet to be determined. The club is looking to meet twice a month but the day of week depends on when the majority of the students and faculty are available to attend. Spectrum will take the place of the former Positive Opinion Club and is now a school funded and supported activity for students. Spectrum has received support from G.L.A.S.S (Truman High School’s GSA) and The Rainbow Room in Levittown and Doylestown has offered to help as well. “I’m happy to be here today to support all students here at Neshaminy High School and to help create safe spaces for everyone,” Spanish teacher Joan McGinley said. Everyone in the building is encouraged to join. Whether as an ally or as someone who needs the support, students, faculty and administration are all encouraged to join in the club’s cause. The next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 20 in room G-8.

# Indian-American community maturing in various ways

*The fastest growing community among Asian Americans is making efforts to get their voices heard.*

By Steve Jiwanmall  
Features Editor

To clarify: Indian Americans are not Native Americans. They are also not the people that Columbus mistakenly named the Indians. The fastest growing community among Asian Americans is indeed the immigrants from India. According to the 2000 United States Census, the overall growth rate for Indian Americans during the past year was an astounding 106 percent, while the Asian American community as a whole grew at a respectable rate of 48 percent. More than 2.3 million Indian Americans now live here in the United States, according to the 2005 Census, while millions of other hopeful immigrants thousands of miles away wait for their visas. The numbers don’t lie. Many Indian-American communities abound in large metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, New York, and Philadelphia. Edison Township, N.J., has the nation’s largest percentage of Asian Indians within its community, making

up an outstanding 17.75 percent of its population. The growing community is continually striving to have its voice heard concerning topics such as politics and racial issues. Madhulika Khandelwal, president of the Asian American Center at Queens College,

“I’ve been community for 20 years and, five years, something happening. Indian nally out there speaking Khandelwal com-

Like many mi-Americans experience a crimination, not only lationally. In July, Sena-Delaware said that Indian nopolize 7-Eleven and stores across the coun-The Boston Globe that Virginia Sen. George that Indian American man a “macaca,” which is a type of monkey, as well as other offensive terms.

These racist remarks angered many in the Indian community who then quickly responded. Sanjay Puri, founder of the U.S. Indian Political Action Committee, along with other Indian leaders, met with Allen, who later publicly apologized. Pennsylvania Republican Congressional candidate Raj Bhakta, a relatively new leader in the Indian community, commented on Biden’s remarks. A former contestant on The Apprentice, Bhakta condemned Biden’s statement as racist. “These are ridiculous, callous, and insensitive comments...You would never know from listening to Biden that Indian Americans have contributed to this country other than making a mean cup of coffee.” Despite the discrimination, the Indian community continues to grow not only numerically but also politically. As an Indian American, I believe our community will continue to prosper, and our voices will be heard across the country as a growing minority.



Former Apprentice contestant Raj Bhakta, now running for Congress in Philadelphia, supports the Indian American community. Photo/www.rajforcongress.com

studying the com-in the last four or different has been Americans are fi-for themselves,” mented. norities, Indian good deal of dis-cally but also nator Joe Biden from Americans mo-Dunkin’ Donuts try. reported in August Allen called an In-

## Science Club shares shoes to spread hope

By Nicole Boyer  
Staff Writer

Neshaminy High School Science Club formed a drive to collect used sneakers to benefit a family in Ghana. Gale Donohue, a science teacher at Neshaminy, wanted to form a way to help our environment and people at the same time. Her husband happens to work for an environmental protection agency and it was he who proposed the inspiration to go through the Perpetual Prosperity Pump foundation to achieve this goal. For every 500 pairs of sneakers collected, this organization will provide an irrigation system for the family’s farm, seeds, live stock, a well, and a bicycle pump among other things. This program has been around for only two to three years and it has already made a difference in Africa. Science Club President Jake Lucas stated, “It is awesome how a little thing like collecting old sneakers could help out a needy family to that extent.”

*“It is awesome how a little thing like collecting old sneakers could help out a needy family to that extent.”*  
- Jake Lucas

fect of having the right nutrients. Food fuels the brain so when children do not get the right nutrients they are not able to pay attention while trying to obtain an education. When individuals throw out old shoes, the shoes end up in a landfill rather than helping out. Mrs. Donohue noted, “It is really amazing how this organization imposes a way of lifting someone out of poverty and at the same time decreases pollution to our environment.” During the homecoming game, a stand was placed to promote collecting these used sneakers. Along with being able to donate used sneakers at the game, students had the opportunity to drop off the sneakers in room A-32 throughout all last week.

The Science Club will receive pictures and contact information of the “adopted” family helped. This will be given to the students in the club, so they will be able to keep in touch with the family and write them letters. At the conclusion of the drive Donohue commented, “Thanks to the generosity of the students, families, and community in whole, the quota of 500 athletic sneakers was met and Neshaminy High School was able to ‘adopt a family’.” The Science Club hopes to continue its success throughout the year.

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# SOPHOMORE CLASS

## President Elena Goldblum



I think you need to be involved in school to really get the most out of it. I think school spirit is a crucial element to feeling a part of your school. I would like to encourage all students to be more involved in the great clubs and activities. Show spirit by supporting the Redskins in all sporting, musical and academic competitions. I would like to start a “School Spirit Project”. How would you go about accomplishing your goals? This “School Spirit Project” could be as simple as wearing school colors or attending a game. Encourage support and participation at various activities. Getting involved is the best way to meet new people and feel a part of your class. School spirit could be connected to the Senior Project.

I enjoy meeting new people, making new friends and organizing things to do. I basically love to be a part of all activities. This summer I had a great opportunity to represent the U.S.A. as a student ambassador. I traveled to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. We visited High School students in these countries and spent time in their schools. I made new friends and learned about their customs and culture. School spirit was evidenced even in an Indian village in Fiji.

## Yijie Feng

If elected I would organize class events to the liking of the class, encourage the student body to get involved in clubs and improve some aspects of the school’s atmosphere.

I think the best way to go about accomplishing these goals would be to interact with my peers and get feedback from them.

I am extremely dedicated in school and attend most school events.

## Lauren Brescia

As president, I want to help keep things well organized. I would really like to make the sophomore dinner dance a success. It is also important to me to help the students want to get involved. I want them to get excited about school. I think it would also be helpful to improve communication between everyone at the school.

To accomplish these goals, I would get ideas from the sophomore class and work together with the other officers to promote our events in a way that makes kids interested. If we spread the word through students so that everyone hears about an event and wants to go to it, we can help get everyone in the class acquainted with each other. New and different ideas may help people get involved who haven’t been in the past. If possible, I would like to hold meetings for interested sophomores after school so that they can offer suggestions to improve the school.

My main qualifications as a candidate are that I’m outgoing, open-minded, organized and intelligent. I think my most important qualification is that I really care about our school and really want to help make it a better place for everyone.

## Tristan Emig

I think hallway traffic is a fairly large problem and I’d like to do something to help it. I have heard several students complain of classrooms being hot and hard to concentrate in. I think it is important to participate in things during high school and would like to see more students join or do some-



## Darin Yrigoyen

If elected to this office, I would like to accomplish reducing hallway traffic, improving school-wide communication and better the lavatory environment. To accomplish these goals, I would sit down and speak with the adult officials who head the school and explain to them the problems that have been voiced by the students. Hopefully, they would be interested in helping to make these changes over time. If not, I would go to you, the student body, with my goals and take other suggestions.

Then, if I was supported by the body, I may have to take these matters into my own hands in an honest attempt to be true to myself and you. I believe that the students should have the power to make changes in our school. I am experienced in speaking to large crowds and trying to captivate an audience. I also think that it is important to stand by your opinions and beliefs to overcome adversity, not giving in to what everyone else wants. Also, I have participated in many different aspects of school life and believe that I can help everyone during my venture.

## Jenny Hentz

If elected class President, I would strive to make our sophomore dinner dance a memorable night for everyone. I would also represent the opinions of the whole class.

To accomplish these goals, I would get all the officers elected to work hard to make our dance original and fun. I would get everything organized and get the best I could for our dance. I would also listen to the class as a whole, not just my friends.

Some qualifications I have as a candidate consist of being able to work well with others, being hard-working, an honor student, responsible, and outgoing. I am able to handle many tasks at once, and I won’t leave a job unfinished. I was in Student Council and National Junior Honor Society last year and I am a good leader. I feel I would be able to do a good job as your president.

## Kristin Farina

If elected class president I would like to accomplish having a class reunion with 100% participation. I’ll try to get as many students as possible to participate in class/school functions and raise awareness on the tragedies of drug and alcohol abuse. Also, I’d try to raise participation in the next three years of high school creating bonds that will not want to be broken.

To accomplish this goal, I’d try to provide activities that appeal to a large spectrum of students, and bring in guest speakers for assemblies.

I would work extremely hard and give 100% to whatever I am committed to. I’m outgoing, outspoken, and I communicate well. I’m involved in many different activities and have a variety of friends.

Students seem to be very “cliquey”. I would love to see everyone be friends, this would really unite the class.

## Vice President Pooja Thakkar

If I am elected Vice President, then there are two goals I would like to see accomplished. My

thing after school.

The best way to accomplish anything is with persistent effort and not stopping until you get your goal. I’m a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Tri-M and I participate in sports.



no one left out of anything. If any ideas come to me, then I will not hesitate to share those ideas with my classmates because without their support, it would have been impossible to come this far. As for my second goal, I plan to make an “opinions jar.” In this jar students will be able to put any ideas or suggestions in making the school a better place. At the end of the week, we will read them and try to put them into action.

My main qualifications as a candidate are that I am a very good listener. I am also respectful and kind to anyone that talks to me. If someone comes to me for help, then they will not leave in disappointment. I have always thought of others before myself, and I am very good at persuading other people.

One thing about Neshaminy High School that might be improved is that eventually each student will have a say in all issues discussed by the class officers. No one will be left out of anything and more students will be involved in school activities.

## Alicia Eissler

If elected as vice president, I would like to accomplish multiple things. I would like to hold lots of fundraisers for the current sophomore class, but also for other causes. I would also like to be able to listen to student concerns and effectuate change if necessary. Another goal of mine would be to assist the president in their various duties.

To accomplish my goals, I would make my opinions, or the majority of student’s, opinions known to the rest of the class office members. I would also make sure I would be available at any time to communicate with the student body. Lastly, I would make certain that all plans and issues are addressed, handled, and followed through correctly.

As a candidate, one of my main qualifications is that I understand the issues, problems, and concern of the sophomore population. All throughout middle school I was involved in a variety of groups, such as music, sports, and community service activities, so I know the major concerns of each group. I also am a good listener, and willing to hear about your concerns and issues.

## Secretary Rachel Coleman



If elected as secretary I would like to involve more students in class activities. I would like to represent the sophomore class in a positive way by voicing the opinion of the student body. As the sophomore secretary I would like to make the 10th grade dance a fantastic night and raise money for other fun and memorable experiences through fundraising and involvement in our community.

I would go about accomplishing my goals by being a spokes person for our class, by being a good leader students can come to and voice their opinions. I will take the ideas of the class and take action to create the best experience at Neshaminy High School for every student.

My main qualifications as a candidate are I am a determined person whom accomplishes anything I put my mind to. I am hardworking and dedicated. Last, I have leadership qualities such as taking charge, being responsible and relating to all students view points.

## Anyssa Bonino



I would like to create a lot of events for the sophomores such as dances, trips and other things to make this year a memorable one. To accomplish my goals, I would talk with my other officers and together we would come up with ideas of events and then we will proceed to plan out what is need to be accomplished for that particular event and then move on from there.

My main qualifications as a candidate would be to understand what a large time commitment that being a class officer requires. I am willing to deal with that because I care about and work hard to succeed in everything I do.

## Betsy Thomas

If I were to be elected to this office, I would like to accomplish many things. My goals for this year are to make sure that the sophomore class gets involved in all of our school functions. I would want to make sure that all of the events like the Sophomore Dinner Dance would run smoothly. All events should be announced so that all sophomores would know what’s going on. As Secretary, I would never get off task and would make every effort to talk to everyone.

I would go about accomplishing my goals by staying after school for as long as I need to when the sophomore class has events. I would be willing to contact people and make sure that everything gets done.

My main qualifications as a candidate are that I am very hardworking, responsible, easy to talk to, and very open-minded. If any student has any suggestions, I would be willing to listen to them, and consider what they have said. I’m never a procrastinator. You can count on me to be your trustworthy secretary!

## Beth Jensen

If I am elected to the class office, as secretary, my goals that I would like to accomplish would be having a successful 10th grade dinner dance, having the flag football game in December, helping with the winter ball in any way possible, and also helping with the junior and senior prom if needed. I would like this tenth grade year to be as great as possible and do as many things as I can to make it that way.

If I am elected to the class office I would go about accomplishing my goals by helping in any way possible, giving my ideas and thoughts, accepting any suggestions given to me, and always being open for any questions.

As a candidate, my main qualifications are that I always have good grades, I am very organized and can take good notes. I’m up for any ideas, and troubles that come my way.

If elected to this office the one thing I would want to improve about Neshaminy High School is the hallways, they are always so crowded. Our system now is okay with certain hallways being let out early, but there still is a lot of crowding in the hallways and I would like for that to be improved in any way possible.



# ASS ELECTIONS

## Treasurer

### Ryan Vaccaro

If elected Class Treasurer, my main goal would be to keep an accurate account of our class' money and get the best value for our dollar. That way, when activities such as our sophomore dinner dance, arise we will be able to purchase cool decorations and accessories to make our dance memorable.



The smartest way I think to accomplish my goal is to keep a detailed list of all our incoming and outgoing money. Keeping lists of everything we purchase, looking for the best deals and the simplest solutions

to our money needs. I would also look for simple, fun, fundraisers so that everyone could participate in and also enjoy helping out in trying to make this year as smooth and fun as possible.

Some of my qualifications are being the president of both the Tri-M music honor society and band council president at Neshaminy Middle School. I have communicated with large groups and helped with fundraising, such as collecting toys, collecting money for gifts to our directors, and helping with the annual shoe and clothing drive.

One thing I would like to see improved on is including our students in fundraising and activities that our class council will partake in. I would also like to put the "FUN" back into "FUN"draising.

### Blair Harman

If I am elected as treasurer, I would like to help make all of the sophomore class activities run perfectly. I would help out all my other officers with the best interests of the students in mind.



I would accomplish these goals by always making fair decisions with the rest of the students in mind, even if I have to work long hours to accomplish my goals.

My main qualifications for the position of treasurer are my great leadership skills I display in the classroom and in sports.

### Staci Speece

If I'm elected to this office, I would like to accomplish as much as possible! My goal is to make sure that we as a class have as much fun as possible! By the end of our high school careers I want us to be able to graduate as a family, leaving with a lot of



memories that go back to our sophomore year.

To accomplish my goals, I will work hard to make sure that my job as treasurer is done to the fullest and I want to know what our interests are. I think that your class officers should knows what types of things that we as a class are interested in, so that no one is left out of any class events. If I'm elected for office, I will make sure that I know what our interests are and I'll do my best to make sure that everyone is included.

I am very hardworking and very dedicated to what I do. I'm not the type of person who is in this to gain popularity or to show off popularity. I'm actually in this because I'm a great leader and I want the sophomores to enjoy their time here at high school.

### Lauren Hicks

If elected to office I would like to accomplish many things. I would like to make sure the sophomore dinner dance is extremely successful and enjoyable for everyone attending. I would be active in every fundraiser, dance and any other event planned by the class office.

To accomplish these goals I will work extremely hard and focus on the tasks at hand. I will be creative and make sure everything I do will be beneficial to whatever project I am working on. I will make sure that the dinner dance, winter ball, and any other fundraisers are fun and enjoyable for everyone who attends.

My main qualifications as a candidate are that I'm extremely hard working and when I start something I make sure I finish it. I am a very easy person to work with and I am very creative and I can come up with ideas very easily. Also I love planning big events and I am very reliable. I am outgoing, optimistic, and I feel I would be able to carry out the duties of class treasurer.

### Stefania Mancino



If I were elected class treasurer, I would take on the responsibility of managing our class's finances. I would also like to come up with fundraising events to help those less fortunate.

I would accomplish these goals by using math skills for figuring out the class budget. Also, I would focus on fundraisers and charity events by thinking up ideas with the other class officers along with the thoughts of the rest of the students.

My main qualifications as a candidate are being able to focus on an issue and carry on with the task.

### Morgan Benedict



If elected to be treasurer of the Class of 2009 I would like to accomplish having a successful tenth grade formal. I would also like to raise money for different kinds of organizations that need our help, (band, sports, charities, etc.). I plan on having different activities throughout the year to help our school and community. I plan to make our sophomore year one of the most memorable and successful years to be.

In order to accomplish these goals I will work together with the rest of the officers as well as the student body on fundraisers, school functions and activities. I will listen to others for their opinions and requests and do my best to fulfill all my obligations.

I am hardworking, responsible and I'm focused on getting a task done. I have been on the honor roll throughout my whole school education. Math is one of my stronger areas in school. I work well with others. I enjoy school and look forward to making a difference.

### Valentina Souprountchouk



If I were elected to office the goals that I would like to accomplish would be to make the three year at Neshaminy high school enjoyable and memorable for the class of 2009. I am also very excited for the sophomore dinner dance, I would love to use my ideas and creativity for our class to have a

wonderful night. I want to help out and make a difference in bringing our sophomore class closer together.

The ways I would go about to accomplish my goals would be to listen to ours students opinions and try and please everyone. I would be open minded and hard working, if elected.

I believe my main qualifications as a candidate would be that I am a very out going and hardworking person. I am always determined to accomplish the goals that I set for myself.

One thing about Neshaminy High School that I think might be improved would be to bring the class closer together. Providing activities for everyone to join in. For everyone to meet new people and make their high school experience a little brighter and pleasant. Giving everyone a chance to be involved in school activities.

## Historian

### Joseph Seborowski

I want to construct an inclusive, informative and exciting chronology of the class of 2009. This includes academic, social, athletic, and club



organizations and activities that will give us all great memories. I would also like to use activities and school calendars to construct a time line of events of the class of 2009. I would attend meetings and events and record the experiences with photos, interviews and commentaries.

I would attend meetings and events and record the experiences with photos, interviews and commentaries. I also want to make sure that as many events as possible are covered so that all students are part of the history of this year.

I am a dedicated and hard-working student. I am very trustworthy and helpful in any situation that requires support. I am very well-organized and always completing my work in a timely-manner. I also do my extreme best by attending all meetings and events and recording them with the computer or with photography.

### Chris Ramsey

If I am elected into office I would like to collect as much money as possible in order to create the perfect 10th grade dinner dance and organize different in school and out of school activities for the sophomore class.



To accomplish these goals I would talk to my fellow classmates and get feedback on their preferences and what they would like to see done.

The following are my qualifications; I am a social and outgoing person. I would like to see improvements in our school and I will work hard for them. Also, I was on Student Council in 9th grade and have experience in planning dances and school activities.

### Caitlyn Kershaw

If elected to this office I would like to unite the 10th grade class. I would hear out what the sophomore class has to say and what they want done and help in any way I can. My main goal is to help make high school the best three years of our lives and to have an overall better school life.



I would listen to people who have opin-

ions on something, keep an open mind, write down what they want done, and finally, bring it to the attention of the rest of the council.

I am a caring and very compassionate person. I am also very determined to make these next three years the best years of our lives. I listen to anyone who seeks out my help and I am very open-minded, so I will not shut out anyone's opinions. I also am very easy to get along with and will try my hardest to satisfy everyone's needs.

### Lynn Roberts

If elected as class historian, I will focus on preserving precious memories of the sophomore class. I would like to interview random students and find out their favorite memories of the sophomore year and quote or poll them and compare events.



I will capture video, pictures, and audio and use CD's, videos, photo albums, and scrapbooks to organize them. I will interview students and record their opinions and thoughts.

I learned leadership from teaching Tae Kwon Do and Tang Soo Do in my own karate class for three years. To receive my second degree black belt and instructor's license, I had to have perseverance and confidence, along with strength and self discipline. I also went to Tyler School of Art and took Portfolio Preparation and Earth, Wind, Fire, and Form. In these summer courses, I learned to organize art work, photographs, and designs. I participated in many community service projects last year and helped organize a Chinese auction to benefit homeless pets.

### Alex May

If elected to this office, I would like to provide the class of 2009 with an accurate history, both written and visual of memorable and significant events throughout these next three years. Also, to plan and execute the experiences and events that will make our time at Neshaminy more enjoyable.



I will go about accomplishing these goals by having an open mind and listening to other student's opinions. I will talk to my classmates and ask them what they think needs to be improved. Finding out what would make special events more appealing to more students is important.

In ninth grade, I was president of student council and vice president of honor society. I was also a member of three musical groups and two sports teams.

Sophomore Elections will be held today, Friday, Nov. 17, 2006 during an extended homeroom period. Ballots will be distributed by your homeroom teacher. If there are any questions about sophomore elections, contact the adviser, Jim Gosser in A-25.

The Sophomore Class will be hosting a co-ed flag football tournament on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006 at Maple Point Middle School. The entry fee is a total of \$50 per team and must be given to Sophomore Class Adviser Jim Gosser by Dec. 1, 2006 in room A-25.



# Teacher opens students’ eyes to literature

*English teacher Dan August hopes to motivate his classes and give them a sense of appreciation for excellent literature.*

**By Samantha Urda**  
*Circulation Editor*

To read or not to read—that is the question. Perhaps due to his strong Shakespearean background and gratifying experiences with his students, Neshaminy High School English teacher Dan August has established his answer. For him, a classroom full of intellectually curious students and a copy of “The Moor’s Last Sigh” will suffice.

“When I read, I like to feel as if I can become a part of the story,” August said. “A book should hook you in. With ‘The Moor’s Last Sigh,’ you feel like you know the characters, bond with them... and then it’s over.”

Well, he knows as well as anyone else that a classic novel never truly ends. Even after all the pages of a story have been read, its power and significance can live on

forever, serving as a motivational source for one of its readers or a topic of discussion in an English classroom filled with them.

“I love being able to hold a conversation with my classes about what I like to read,” August pointed out. “I also enjoy the opportunity to interact with kids.”

Neshaminy High School is not the only environment that presents August with the opportunity to work with kids. His one-and-a-half-year-old son gives him that luxury everyday in his own home. In fact, spending quality time with his son and taking him to the park are among August’s favorite pastimes. He also enjoys spiking the occasional volleyball and engaging in a softball game.

Although he is a man who is grateful for what the present



English teacher Dan August enjoys reading Shakespeare.  
Photo/Michelle Lestochi

gives him and anxious to see what the future holds, he has not lost touch with his “historical roots.” August was not necessarily dead-set on becoming an English teacher from day one. At one point, in fact, he was torn between English and History.

Fortunately, August is satisfied with his decision to teach English and hopes that his students are able to derive a passion for literature and elaborate on their reading preferences.

“I hope that after my class students can appreciate literature more,” August said. “They don’t have to like it, but appreciate it for the art that it is.”

August knows what it is to value a piece of writing; he has a particular apprecia-

tion for Bob Dylan’s work. He considers Dylan to be a truly gifted song-writer/poet and is captivated by his ability to capture so many ideas and his use of imagery.

Even so, Dylan probably couldn’t hold a candle to August at Neshaminy High School. August’s determination to open his students’ eyes to a whole world of unbeknownst literary works and his genuine enjoyment over what he does everyday have made him a role model to his students.

August certainly understands the concept of being a “role model”—he lived with his for his entire childhood.

“My role model is my mother,” August revealed. “She raised me by herself; it was just the two of us. She taught me everything I know, without any help from anyone, and I respect her for that.”

Perhaps that is how August obtained his knack for teaching and communicating with a classroom full of students—he has the will to teach his students as diligently as his mother taught him, even if it they have to stick their nose inside a book in the process.

# Students from abroad share their experiences

*Right here at Neshaminy, numerous students from all over the world are learning how to adjust and thrive in their new environments in order to prepare for their futures.*

**By Julie Morcate**  
*Sports Editor*

The sea of American faces encountered during a day at Neshaminy High School is overwhelming. However, beneath this overtly American surface, there are many immigrant students that are just trying to adjust to the numerous changes in their lives in a completely different country.

One such student, senior Igor Sas, grew up in Ukraine and moved here two years ago with his parents and his sister in order to find better jobs. Like many of the other immigrant students, he misses his friends most.

He said that the hardest part of his moving experience was learning the language, but he took English classes in order to adjust more efficiently. Naturally, he felt inclined to establish friendships with peers who spoke Ukrainian or Russian as well. “Even if they were born here, their parents taught them the language,” he explained.

He also remarked on the fact that there are many more laws in the USA than Ukraine. “Even when you’re 18 you don’t have many freedoms, like being able to go to some clubs or drink.”

Another student, senior Frebole Kamara, is from Liberia. He is very new to America; he just moved here on June 12. He came over with his parents and siblings because of financial and religious problems in Liberia.

Although he very much misses his friends, his school, and the warm, tropical weather

of his home country, he loves the school, the sports, and the people here. According to Kamara, in Liberia, there were fewer rules and more freedom; in America, there’s more traffic, more industrialized companies and better electricity and water. “The civil war in Liberia spoiled the facilities,” he commented.

Kamara took English classes and adjusted to his new life pretty quickly. It was easy for him to make new friends because he joined the soccer team. When he’s not playing soccer, he spends his free time with family and working at Friendly’s.

“I like the people here, but I still miss the people back home,” Kamara stated.

Grishma Patel, who is a junior, moved here from India a year ago. “I miss everything from India,” she said. However, she said she does like the school and her new friends here. One unique thing that distinguishes Patel from the majority of Neshaminy is that she practices Hinduism.

Patel doesn’t think that there’s any one distinctive difference between America and India; she thinks that the people and the whole of both countries are entirely different. She plans on staying in this country; she is thinking about college, but isn’t sure what she wants to do yet.

Junior Raminta Feiferyte was born in Lithuania, and moved to America four years ago. Her parents moved here first, and she came over with her brother later. “I like it here because it is very easy to get more, and better, education,” she said.

Like many of the other students, she said she thinks everything about America and her home country is different. She explained that not only are the schools different, but also the people, and their attitudes.

“The hardest part of moving was leaving my friends and family behind,” she concluded.

With such a broad range of experience and world knowledge, these students look bound for success in a country such as ours that emphasizes global community and diversity.

# Neshaminy hockey skates off to an icy start with rival

**By Shannon Simcox**  
*Business Manager*

Neshaminy fans anxiously waited to walk into Grundy’s skate rink for the first of two consecutive Redskins versus Falcon hockey games. The anticipation and rivalry could be felt upon entering the rink, and the game began.

The first two minutes of the game set the tone for the duration. Sticks were broken, blows were thrown, and Neshaminy pushed the puck out of their end of the rink; just as they would for most of the game.

The fans cheered approvingly with every hit and anxiously waited for the second period when Pennsbury’s goalie, Steve Perry would take up the net on the home side. With 5:35 left in the first period

Pennsbury’s Sean Grevy slid like a rag doll on the ice after being hit by a Neshaminy player. The first period ended with a score of 0-0, the fans and players just getting warmed up.

The arrival of the second period was like fresh meat in a shark pit. Along came the jabs and jeers from the Neshaminy fans, trying to assist their players to victory by getting into the heads of the Falcon’s players. The Falcons and Redskins went head to head all through out the second period. Neshaminy came out in the lead 1-0 when with 0.03 seconds left in the second period, team captain, Swank Walther scored the first goal.

Things really started heating up at the start of the third period. Neshaminy goalie Kevin O’Neil made an awesome save

with 14 minutes left in the period.

Neshaminy continued with their second goal of the game when Sean Stahl slid past Perry and churned the fans even more. Pennsbury mustered up enough to score a goal, Sam Kornblum, after Neshaminy was winning 2-0, and with 5 minutes left in the third period Neshaminy finished it with their final goal by Dave Dugan.

O’Neil was like a wall in the goal, blocking with finesse 17 shots and letting up only one goal the entire game. “I was very happy when we won,” O’Neil said. “They are our biggest rival. I always wanna beat Pennsbury, no matter what.”

Adding to the excitement and talent of the team are Ryan Orrison, Mike Clark and Dave Savage. Orrison and Clark both suffered multiple penalties but allowed the ‘Skins’ to push their way to victory.

The game ended in chaos. The tension that was building throughout the entire game was released with the final buzzer as fights ensued both on and off the ice. Neshaminy and Falcons fans were told to exit the building but not before Falcon’s hockey players provoked an altercation with co-captain Mike Carroll. By the time the referees and coaches caught up, almost all players, along with one special Neshaminy fan were matched up red on black and blue on orange, fighting it out.

This resulted in six suspensions per team. Neshaminy suffered


the loss of Orrison, Carroll, Clark, Walther, Savage and Garrett Hary. Pennsbury answered when they skated over Neshaminy Nov. 9 with a 3-1 win, Neshaminy without it’s tarters.

“We try to install discipline in our players,” hockey coach Ray Sherno said. “Last game [first against Pennsbury] there wasn’t a lot of discipline. We have a lot of talent and hopefully we can keep growing, add discipline and make a stretch for the playoffs and the Flyers Cup.”

Neshaminy is currently 2-4-1, sitting fourth in the standings of the Lower Bucks County Scholastic Hockey League. Neshaminy faces Holy Ghost Prep tonight, Friday Nov. 17 at Grundy in Bristol.



Goalie Kevin O’Neil blocks an attempted shot from Pennsbury.  
Photo/Shannon Simcox



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# Madonna’s adoption raises argument over legality

*Some have claimed Madonna received preferential treatment in the case of her African adoption.*

By Chase Grier  
Staff Writer

With the sudden increase in celebrity third-world adoptions, it was only a matter of time before singer and actress Madonna, famous for changing her style and personality to fit the time period, would reinvent herself as a baby-stealing pop princess from Malawi, South Africa.

Nearly a month ago, Madonna first made press statements to the effect that she planned to adopt a small orphan from a third-world area. The only problem was that she stated that she wanted to adopt an orphan i.e. a child without a parent.

During her trip to Africa, Madonna sought out the village of Lipunga, which she had first seen in a documentary she is currently financing. Upon her visit to the

village, she met young David Banda, a 13-month-old ‘orphan’ with a father.

Apparently, this child was so adorable that Madonna had to take him with her, in which, through adoption services and several translators, she worked out a deal with Yohane Banda, David’s father, and they both signed adoption papers. It wasn’t until after Madonna arrived home in England when questions arose as to the legality of the adoption.

Banda, after the press had moved in, began to claim through interpreters that he had no idea what the adoption papers he was signing said, and did not agree to have young David taken from him.

According to CNN.com, Banda stated, “I was never told that adoption means that David will no longer be my son... If I was told this, I would not have

*“I didn’t want to leave him in the orphanage because I knew they didn’t have medication to take care of him.”*  
-Madonna

allowed adoption.”

Immediately after Banda’s claims, press swarmed the small village of Lipunga and accused Madonna of stealing an illiterate man’s son. One would ask themselves why after she ‘stole’ young David from the village because he thanked Madonna for saving him “from poverty and disease,” according to CNN.com.

In response to the accusation that she tricked Banda into giving up his only son, Madonna did the only rational thing- she went on Oprah to discuss the situation and dispel any rumors. As to the reason the adoption was rushed and David was taken out of Africa so quickly, Madonna said she was “in a state of panic, because I didn’t want to leave him in the orphanage because I knew they didn’t have medication to take care of him.”

Doctors told Madonna upon her visit to the orphanage that young David has survived tuberculosis and malaria, but still suffers from pneumonia. After leaving the orphanage, Madonna took David to receive better treatment in order to fight his illnesses.

While the question of the legality of the adoption still looms over Madonna’s head, it seems that Banda has given up the fight over his son.

“I don’t want my child, who is already gone, to come back. I will be killing his future,” Banda is quoted from a Time magazine article.

Celebrities will never cease to do the bizarre, but they need to remember where they stand in the country’s spotlight. If Madonna was any other American, this adoption would most likely have been stopped by proper authorities. In the end, the adoption may have been completely legal, but with a superstar like Madonna, no individual wants to point the finger of blame.

# Glance into the less-than-fabulous lives of super models

*‘Top Model’ puts the personal lives of real fashion models on display.*

By Tracie Dossick  
Entertainment Editor

“America’s Next Top Model,” is a competitive reality TV show created by supermodel, Tyra Banks. Its first premier was in May of 2003 and was one of UPN’s highest rated shows. The show puts contestants against one another in a variety of competitions all for a \$100,000 modeling contract with CoverGirl. This new season the extra winnings include coverage in Seventeen magazine and representation by Elite Models.

This new cycle of contestants (the 7th cycle) premiered on Sept. 20. The judges for this cycle are Tyra Banks, Twiggy, Nigel Barker, and J. Alexander. Twiggy had claimed modeling fame in the ‘60s, Barker is a fashion editor and stylist and Alexander has been the shows runway coach since the first season. The fashion model-aspirants are photographed by Jay Manuel, who is a stylist and personal friend of Banks.

Each episode usually starts off with the contestants being trained in a certain area of modeling. Some examples are runway walking, applying makeup for certain occasions, or acting. After that a related challenge will be assigned such as a mock runway shoot, interview, etc. The winner of that will get a night off, prize or advantage at the next photo shoot.

The next segment of the show is the actual photo shoot which is looked at very carefully by the judges. The girls pose in lingerie, bikinis and/or nude, with a male model, or an animal.

The third part is giving the contestants a challenge such as posing, selling a product, style or makeup look for a certain prompt, or runway walking. Then each contestant’s photos are given to the panel of judges to be complimented and criticized.

The final part is the actual judging of the contestants. Once all of the pictures have been evaluated the contestants leave the room so that the judges can discuss who should be sent home for that episode. Each elimination process is the same, as Banks reveals and hands out the photos of the girls who have not been eliminated. The “bottom two” or the last two girls standing are brought forward and Banks critiques each until she reveals which one will be going home.

There is a lot of criticism toward the show in saying that these girls are not really models and that the judging is not fair. Senior Kirsten Malinowski stated, “I feel that the show is very interesting and it shows what a model’s life is really like. Each model is beautiful in their own way.”

As of now on this seventh cycle, there are only five girls remaining. So much drama has already occurred between them, like when Monique threw out all of the girls’ food because she could not find her bag of Doritos that she had claimed someone had

eaten. Also, Anchal overheard Melrose talking about how she, “isn’t getting any more beautiful.” When she confronted her about it, Melrose bluntly stated that she does not care about being the nice guy, and she is just there for the prize.

This show proves that modeling isn’t all it is made out to be. One does not just become famous and go to parties and get pictures taken. There is actually a struggle behind it, and that is what Banks shows through the grueling challenges she puts the competitors through. Keep your eye out next Wednesday to see who gets sent home, and who is still in the running of becoming America’s next top model.

# Volkswagen: cars with guitars

*Volkswagen teams up with First Act in its 2007 line guitar promotion.*

By Matt Huston  
Entertainment Editor

Volkswagen is gunning its way back into the spotlight with an ingenious promotion: an electric guitar plug-in enabling any worthy VW driver to shred directly through the car’s stereo.

In a partnership with guitar manufacturer First Act, Volkswagen is handing out brand-new GarageMaster guitars with each recently-released 2007 model. Every Jetta, New Beetle, GTI, or one of several other Volkswagen designs will come equipped with one of these custom, VW-inscribed axes.

Buyers choose from a red, blue, white or black color scheme. Along with the VW logo adorning the knobs and fretboard and the seatbelt-strap, one of the guitar’s most unique attributes is a metal plate attached to the back of the headstock, engraved with its mother-vehicle’s identification number.

The guitar features a built-in pre-amp specially fashioned to replicate vintage amp tone; the guitar simply plugs into the car’s auxiliary jack and it’s ready to go.

First Act has a pretty solid history: among its customers are guitarists from Aerosmith, Franz Ferdinand, Dave Matthews Band, Los Lonely Boys and System of a Down. The music company has exhibited a wealth of effective design and quality hardware.

“We are excited to be working with Volkswagen because of what our two brands can generate together,” First Act’s Chairman of the Board Bernard Chiu said on the company’s website. “Like Volkswagen, we value technological innovation and inspired design.”

The website also quoted Volkswagen’s Director of Brand Innovation, Kerri Martin, “The Volkswagen brand is culturally known for its celebration of music and all things creative. This exciting collaboration makes a statement that Volkswagen is much more than just a car but a brand with innovative ideas and an unparalleled ability to create unique and appealing connections with its consumers.”

Since the concept’s promotional debut, Volkswagen has released a series of stunning advertisements showcasing several guitar-elites as they rock with GarageMasters in hand. John Mayer spins out a Beetle-style blues jam, while Slash of Guns N’ Roses blasts away with his own automotive amp-stack.

The commercials certainly represent a unique technique in advertising; Volkswagen’s television campaign is attracting buyers both visually and audibly. If First Act’s guitar sounds anything in the parking lot like it does on TV, a whole new VW craze may very well be on the way.



# Sensational Scissors

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Volkswagen advertises a shiny new sales deal: a customized guitar for every VW buyer .  
Photo/Courtesy of 3dnew.ru



# Kessler relieves stress through his fine drawings

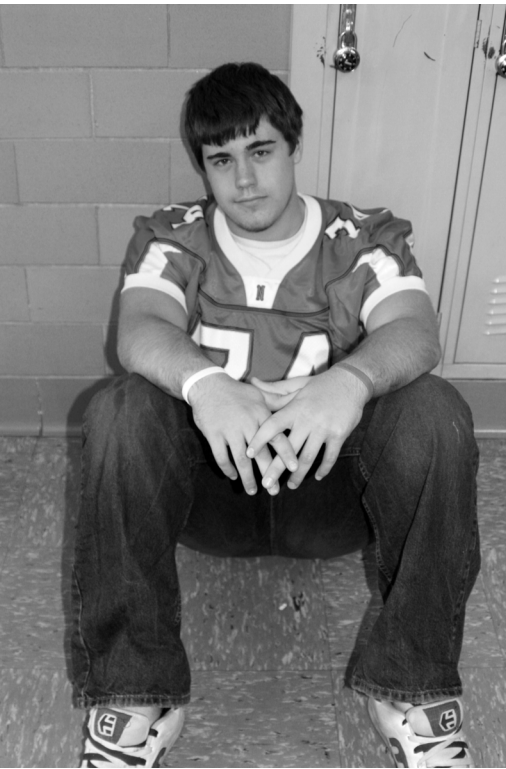


Neshaminy’s most artistic football player spends hours expressing himself through his artwork.

By Jillian MacMath  
Special Features Editor

Many people go through high school joining different sports and activities searching for their niche. Senior Matt Kessler ended his search early, when he realized that art was what he really had a passion for.

At age four, Kessler first picked up the pencils and started drawing. He looked up to his older brother for inspiration, who liked to draw and was taking art classes in school. Since then, he has developed his skill through doodling on papers during class and sketching things out when he would think of a new idea. In high school, he began taking art classes and is now a student in Justin Bursk’s Advanced Art III class.



Perfectionist Kessler focuses his inspiration from older brother into his various drawings.  
Photo/Michele Lestochi

“Art is a good way to express myself, when I’m in a bad mood or a really good one,” Kessler explained. “I’m such a perfectionist.”

For Kessler, a simple drawing can take anywhere from 20 to 30 minutes, while a full page drawing can take him hours.

“He was always very detail-oriented,” Terri O’Neill, his former art teacher said, “When he truly likes something, he’ll put all he has into it”.

Kessler most enjoyed O’Neill’s class last year and constantly worked on improving his talents.

“My art teacher last year, Mrs. O’Neill, really helped me develop my skill. She’s been my best teacher so far, and now I’m looking forward to this year.”

Kessler’s current art teacher, Justin Bursk, is anticipating seeing what Kessler will do in the upcoming marking periods and after high school.

“He’s slow- paced but consistent and his results are always worth the wait,” Bursk commented, “I would love to see him go to an art school.”

Whether it be the hours Kessler puts into his work or his constant desire for perfection, he’s finally being recognized in the community for his artwork.

After he was chosen by O’Neill, Kessler submitted one of his pieces into a

contest at Bucks County Community college. The winner was to have his artwork hung in the congressman’s office. Though he did not win, the congressman selected his piece in addition to the winner’s to be hung as well.

Kessler hopes that this is just the beginning of his future in art. After graduating this year, he hopes to study at Tyler, the art program connected at Temple University, and maybe go on to be a high school art teacher.

“I’m not really sure where art is going to take me, it’s just something I always do and I don’t plan on stopping.”

## JET’s sophomore ‘shines’



JET’s second release “Shine On” meets fans high expectations.

By Gaelen Miszencin  
Guest Writer

The best way to describe the Aussie rock band, JET: they are what would happen if AC/DC and The Beatles decided to raise some kids in Australia. When JET burst onto the rock scene in 2003, straight from Queensland with its hit album, “Get Born,” it made a deep impression in American music.

JET’s fresh sound, reminiscent of both the Australian hard-rock band AC/DC and The Beatles, was a breath of fresh air to the music community.

“Get Born” was something new, boasting the hits “Are You Gonna Be My Girl,” “Look What You’ve Done,” and “Cold Hard B\*\*\*\*.”

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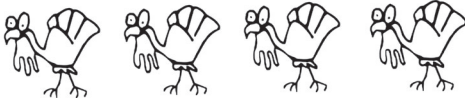
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Turkey Rating:



## ‘Emo’ concert attracts masses



The LiveNation tour with headliners All American Rejects hit the Tweeter Center on Nov. 4.

By Ashlyn Coyne  
Entertainment Editor

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I stumbled upon perfection at work. One of my co-workers asked me if I was interested in going to see the All-American Rejects, The Format, The Starting Line and Gym Class Heroes. Not only were they tickets in general, but they were front row! I nearly cried.

I snatched those tickets up for \$100 and my boyfriend, Jillian, Meredith and I bundled up and headed for the Tweeter Center on Saturday Nov. 4. We got there at a reasonable hour but split up shortly after we arrived to find our seats. In the front row, the view was perfect, and I just knew that the night would be amazing.

The one scar on the otherwise flawless face of my night was the first band, Gym Class Heroes. Yes, they may be “talented,” but aside from the three girls in front of us, jumping up and down, no one was really into them. A person dressed in a fat suit took the stage to open the night up for entertainment, but really just creeped the audience out. They tried their best to impress the crowd, but we weren’t biting, so we went and sat in the lobby.

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# Kessler relieves stress through his fine drawings



Neshaminy’s most artistic football player spends hours expressing himself through his artwork.

By Jillian MacMath  
Special Features Editor

Many people go through high school joining different sports and activities searching for their niche. Senior Matt Kessler ended his search early, when he realized that art was what he really had a passion for.

At age four, Kessler first picked up the pencils and started drawing. He looked up to his older brother for inspiration, who liked to draw and was taking art classes in school. Since then, he has developed his skill through doodling on papers during class and sketching things out when he would think of a new idea. In high school, he began taking art classes and is now a Bursk’s Advanced Art student in Justin III class.

“Art is a good self, when I’m in a bad one,” Kessler explained. “I’m such a perfectionist.”

For Kessler, a take anywhere from 20 full page drawing can

“He was talented,” Terri O’Neill, his said, “When he truly put all he has into it”.

Kessler most class last year and conproving his talents.

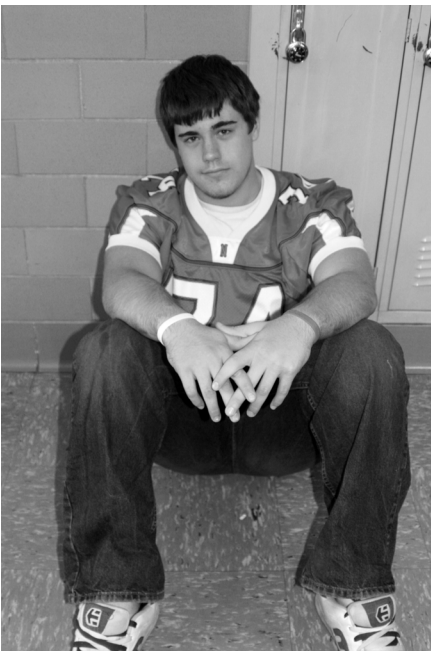
“My art teacher really helped me develop my best teacher so far, forward to this year.”

Kessler’s curtain Bursk, is anticipating will do in the upcoming after high school.

“He’s slow and his results are all-Bursk commented, “I go to an art school.”

Whether it be the his work or his constant he’s finally being recognized in the community for his artwork.

After he was chosen by O’Neill, Kessler submitted one of his pieces into a con-



Perfectionist Kessler focuses his inspiration from older brother into his various drawings.

Photo/Michele Lestochi

way to express my-mood or a really good

simple drawing can to 30 minutes, while a take him hours.

ways very detail-ori-former art teacher likes something, he’ll

enjoyed O’Neill’s stantly worked on im-

last year, Mrs. O’Neill, my skill. She’s been and now I’m looking

rent art teacher, Jus-seeing what Kessler marking periods and

paced but consistent ways worth the wait,” would love to see him

hours Kessler puts into desire for perfection,

test at Bucks County Community college. The winner was to have his artwork hung in the congressman’s office. Though he did not win, the congressman selected his piece in addition to the winner’s to be hung as well.

Kessler hopes that this is just the beginning of his future in art. After graduating this year, he hopes to study at Tyler, the art program connected at Temple University, and maybe go on to be a high school art teacher.

“I’m not really sure where art is going to take me, it’s just something I always do and I don’t plan on stopping.”

## JET’s sophomore ‘shines’



JET’s second release “Shine On” meets fans high expectations.

By Gaelen Miszencin  
Guest Writer

The best way to describe the Aussie rock band, JET: they are what would happen if AC/DC and The Beatles decided to raise some kids in Australia. When JET burst onto the rock scene in 2003, straight from Queensland with its hit album, “Get Born,” it made a deep impression in American music.

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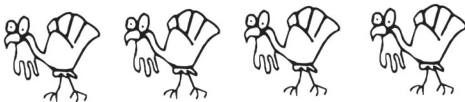
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# Cross country teams wrap up successful seasons

Two runners qualified for states after the boys' and girls' cross country teams competed in meets, SOL's, and Districts.

By Maria Kelmansky  
Staff Writer

The boys' and girls' cross country teams concluded their seasons and competed in SOL's and the District championship, which qualified two runners from the boys' team for the State championship. The boys' cross country team, coached by Russ Horrocks, ended their season with a 4-3 record, including wins against Truman, Pennsbury, Bensalem and Abington Senior High. The top runners were juniors Ted MacDonald, Brett Swartz and Greg Gough.

"Our team had an outstanding season with a lot of great accomplishments," senior captain Alex Irion explained. "The underclassmen had a great showing and I expect to see some more highlights next year." After ranking fourth in SOL's, the boys' team competed in Districts at Lehigh University on Oct. 27. The team placed 27, while MacDonald, Schwartz and Gough placed 45, 47 and 149, with the times of 16:07, 16:10 and 17:04, respectively. MacDonald's and Schwartz's high ranks qualified them for the States, which were held in Hershey, Pa on Nov. 4. "I'd like to finish top 70, but in the back of my mind I'd like top 50 or lower. It would be a good finish to a season that I've worked so hard in," Macdonald said prior to the meet. Macdonald accomplished his primary goal by finishing 59 with a time of 16:35, while Schwartz finished 108 with a time of

16:57. "The season was an overall success and I'm glad to have made it to states," Schwartz said. The girls' cross country team, coached by Steve Harnish, concluded their season with a 2-5 record, recording wins against Bensalem and Truman. The top runners were junior co-captain Brooke Airey, senior co-captain Meredith Randall as well as junior Courtney Onisick. Freshman Jordan Bernhard and junior Allison Flesher also impressed Harnish.

Both the boys and the girls had young teams, as a result of the number of runners that graduated last year. Despite the injuries of top scorers, the teams worked hard and adjusted to changes. "This was my youngest team, but the hardest working group," Horrocks said. Many cross country participants will continue practicing after the season ends. "In track there is no off season. Our runners will continue to run and put on heavy mileage," Irion said. The coaches and runners have high expectations for next year's season. "I can't wait. My top three runners are returning," Horrocks stated.

***"Our team had an outstanding season with a lot of great accomplishments. The underclassmen had a great showing and I expect to see some more highlights next year."***  
***- Senior captain Alex Irion***

# Wrestlers adjust to new PIAA rules, prepare for season

Neshaminy's wrestlers are adjusting to the new health and weight regulations the PIAA has recently instated.

By Shannon Simcox  
Business Manager

Wrestling season is right around the corner, but Neshaminy wrestlers have been preparing for quite some time now. In light of past years of uncontrollable weight loss, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association has established new guidelines to prevent critical weight loss. On the PIAA website one can find the wrestling weight control guidelines. There are multiple parts to establishing minimum weight requirements, the first of which is hydration test. The gravity of the wrestler's urine must be equal to or less than 1.025 before he can proceed to the next step, the body fat assessment. "We have about 50 kids going out for the team; about 33 have gone through certification," wrestling coach Mike Ortman said. When asked who qualified, Ortman responded, "I prefer not to make that public knowledge at this time." In order to wrestle at all, PIAA wrestlers must have a certified minimum wrestling weight; once contested at this weight class. they cannot appeal or retest. In order to establish a minimum weight class the wrestler's body fat must be seven percent of the weight at which he desires to wrestle. If this percentage is not true at any time during the

season, a doctor's note is needed to say that it was achieved naturally. The first day the wrestlers could test was Oct. 2. Only a few of Neshaminy's wrestlers actually qualified on this date; many have utilized the appeals process. They have until the first regular season practice date Nov. 13 to establish a weight class if they wish to participate in the entire season; otherwise, the wrestler cannot practice until the minimum is established. All minimums must be in by Feb. 14, 2007 to be established for the PIAA Individual Wrestling Championships Tournament series. What does this all mean? The test establishes a minimum weight class at which a wrestler may wrestle at any point in time. A timeline is set up for wrestlers to achieve their projected weight. By week eight of the season the average weight loss limit is set at 1.5 percent of a wrestler's body weight. A wrestler who participates at a weight class below their eligible weight class will forfeit. The new guidelines are pretty tough, but the boys are ready for it. "Most of them were not too happy [with the new guidelines]," Ortman stated. "It's a new system that we have to get used to. In the long run they should like it. It'll prevent them from cutting too much weight; they'll wrestle at high weights. Like anything new, it'll take time to get used to." Like it or not, the new season is here. Practice was held for those that had already gone through certification; everyone else will soon follow.

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***- Coach Mike Ortman***

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### SOCCKER: from page 1

"We've really pulled through, working together to achieve the common goal: to succeed," senior captain Rich Watson said. Even with the loss of great senior players from last year, the young team has demonstrated the meaning of unity. "Different people have been stepping up in different games; it's great," Reice said. After the regular season, the soccer team continued to playoffs. Without a problem, the 'Skins won their first playoff game. They dominated the field with a 6-1 victory over Pennwood on Oct. 24. The soccer team's next goal was to beat Truman on Oct. 26. After losing to Truman in the regular season twice, the coach and the team went in with great motivation to win. "Not being intimidated was a big part in winning. The fact that we lost to them in regular season gave us more momentum to beat them," senior Frank Mettee said. Sure enough, Neshaminy broke through their losing streak against Truman, and concluded the game in overtime with a 3-2 win. The next playoff game was held on Oct. 30 against undefeated Strath Haven. Neshaminy (No. 10) may have been the underdog, but they silenced their critics by defeating Strath Haven (No. 2) 2-1; goals were scored by Matt Anderson and Cody Antonini. The 'Skins continued their winning streak, which led them to West Chester High School East, where they defeated Souderton on Nov. 1 by a score of 3-2. The game held Nov. 4 against Council Rock North was to determine the PIAA District One Class AAA champion. Anderson's goal only 5:27 into the first half was good enough to bring the word 'champions' to the mouths of his teammates. Defense showed their highest capabilities, since the majority of the second half was spent in Neshaminy's defensive zone. 'Skins soccer had their first state championship quarterfinal game Nov. 7 against Mechanicsburg. In a thrilling match, the 'Skins won by a score of 2-1. The goals were scored by Kyle Soroka and Frebole Kamara. On Sat. Nov. 11, the team traveled to a neutral field to take on an extremely competitive Emmaus team in the PIAA Class AAA quarterfinals. The 'Skins defeated Emmaus by a score of 1-0 in a thrilling double overtime game. The team suffered their only loss since ending the regular season to Council Rock North in a 3-2 shoot-out eliminating them from the state playoffs..

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# Quenzer shows off talent with ‘Skins

Senior captain Laura Quenzer has been a key component of the Lady ‘Skins’ recent league domination.

By Joe Fida  
Sports Editor

The ‘Skins field hockey season ended abruptly last Saturday against Warwick in the quarter finals of the state playoffs. This meant many different things for many of the players. It meant that their season with the seniors is over and for the seniors it meant that they will never dress as a Neshaminy Redskin again. One of those seniors is Center Forward and Captain Laura Quenzer.

Laura Quenzer finished the 2006 season with playoff experience for college. The duo of Jen Wrublesky and Chelsea Rota

on her line only helped Quenzer earn her four goals and 12 assists throughout the season.

Quenzer made some significant changes in her routine to get ready for high school play. Since joining the high school varsity team she has participated in various clinics during the off-seasons with Wrublesky and working with the other captains to develop leadership ability. “I just wanted to be able to show more girls what they should do,” Quenzer said.

This year many critics of the ‘Skins have said that they are a very young team ; they lack the experience necessary to go deep into the playoffs. A fourth place finish in districts and advancing to the state quarter finals silenced their critics. “We work harder than most teams,” Quenzer said. “We have a lot of heart!”

Quenzer has worked on a championship team since joining the Lady ‘Skins. This has helped her and her veteran teammates in this years’ run. “It reminds you of

what you need to make your team work at,” Quenzer said.

The ‘Skins seldom loose once, let alone back-to-back games. To recover after a loss Quenzer and the team has a hard week of practice following the loss. They have a lot of meetings and the coaches are hard on everyone. “We basically try to get everyone’s heads on straight,” Quenzer said.

Quenzer plays for the crest on the front of her jersey and not the name on the back. She would rather finish a game with three assists than with three goals. “I don’t score often and assists show more of a team effort,” Quenzer said.

Quenzer her younger teammates with a few words of encouragement. “It’s a lot of hard work and you have to want it,” Quenzer said. “Remember that plays work when you work as a team and just have fun.”

Quenzer wants to play field hockey in college, although she is currently undecided as to where she wants to attend.

athlete  
of the  
issue



Name: Laura Quenzer  
Number: 11  
Position: Center Forward  
Favorite College Team: Temple Owls  
Favortie Television Show: Desperate Housewives  
Favorite Movie: Grandma's Boy  
Favorite Color Yellow

# Field hockey stopped short in state playoff run

After winning the SOL title for the fifth consecutive year, the girls obtained the fourth place spot in District One AAA tournament. Their dreams of bringing home a state title were unfortunately not accomplished.

By Erin Poserina  
Staff Writer

A 1-0 loss to Warwick on Nov. 11 in the state quarterfinals ended the ‘Skins hopes of winning the state chmapianship. By no means does this mean that the season was a loss; the team has an outstanding record of 18-7, and had a great time besides.

Leadership from four-year varsity players Steph McGinty and St. Joseph’s bound Jen Wrublesky helped make this year’s season a successful one. In the Lady ‘Skins’ game against Coughlin on Nov. 7, both girls stepped it up, scoring on penalty shots in the first half of the game, which earned them their chance against Warwick.

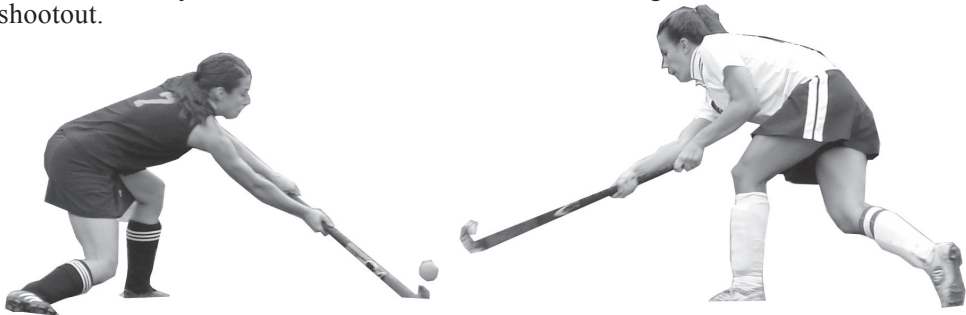
“The girls were really strong and worked hard; it’s what helped them bounce back when Coughlin was down our end,” head coach Lisa Pennington said. The way the girls blended together and stepped it up was one of the most memorable moments this season for Pennington.

The team has had a lot of memorable moments this season. Although most of these moments included ones that led them to victory, they also remember their two losses in a row in the District One Class AAA semifinals. As Claire Lomanto, a senior defense player, explained, “Any loss just makes us work that much harder.”

That seemed to be attitude of the girls after a tough game where the ‘Skins ended their five-game winning streak against Mount St. Joseph’s. The game started off for the Redskins when two goals were scored against them in the first half, giving St. Joe’s an advantage, and ultimately leading to a 4-0 loss for the ‘Skins. With a record of 21-1, Mount St. Joseph’s held one of the top seeds in the semifinals.

“We’ve had a lot of tough games, but luck seems to be on our side,” senior goalkeeper Jamie Eiseman reported after an intense game where Neshaminy defeated Plymouth-Whitemarsh, 1-0, in an unheard-of double overtime that ended in strokes.

The girls’ triumph was not an easy one as they fought scoreless for two extra fifteen minute periods. Cheers from teary-eyed mothers, the JV team, and the boys’ soccer team only added to the excitement as five of the girls went to strokes in a rare shootout.



Senior Steph McGinty (R) battles a Pennsbury player for the ball. Photo/Rob Gimello

## RAGE: from page 16

Some parents are embarrassed about their child’s performance out on the field, but I think it might be a little more embarrassing for the child when his father hops the fence, sprints across the dirt and socks a 70-year-old umpire in the face for calling a strike, when it could have been a ball.

Parents are supposed to be the sources of encouragement before the game, the cheering section during the game and the hug plus the “great job out there” after the game.

In order to stop the aggression of raging parents, many solutions have been voiced. Some think sports should be aggression free and others feel that cheering at sporting events should be banned.

Okay, someone please explain how any of this could work. Aggression-free sports? How does that even make sense? Sports will always be aggressive, both mentally and physically. Some sports (football, hockey, soccer) were designed to involve a lot of physical contact, but in these

types of sports it is also about mind games. This is all aggression. As for the cheers, the loud voices, the chants and noise makers, these all keep the players motivated.

There is one solution that has potential to stop the misconduct of outrageous: fist-throwing parents, the implementation of signed oaths for parents. “This means that in order for kids to participate in organized sports, parents have to sign an agreement to face the same penalties as their children for transgression, such as being banned from games for poor sportsmanship. With adults, though, they of course can be charged with assault or other crimes by the police,” an assistant basketball coach for Prince George’s County, Md. John Hyater said.

Parents just need to be parents. They need to drive little Billy to his football game, sit in the stands and support him, and when that final whistle blows to signal the end of the game, they should hand him his juice box and cookies, that way even if the referee is “blind,” the game will end without an arrest or a trip to the hospital.

# Girls’ tennis gains experience

The girls’ tennis team gave the season a good effort but came up short in the end.

By Kenny Thapoung  
Staff Writer

The girls’ tennis team finished their season with a win against William Tennent on Oct. 6 with a score of 5-2.

It was not the best season for the girls, but they still managed to have fun since the players got to pair up for a great time of mixed doubles after school.

Their record for this season of 3 wins and 14 losses is less than amazing; however, the team was highly determined to come out on top and gave it their all in each match up.

Their losses may have been because of the fact that the team lost most of their key players this year and only had five returning players from the previous season, just one of which was a senior.

“It’s not like we didn’t try, because we did; there wasn’t anything else we could’ve done,” senior varsity player Lauren Phillips stated.

Also, the teams’ losses could be attributed to the lack of experience on the team. Since the middle schools do not have actual tennis teams, players came onto the high school tennis team with no practice in months.

The team’s captain was a junior, and although she did have plenty of experience, it was impossible for her to hold the team together by herself.

“Not only were most of the players inexperienced, but they were also new to the game,” Mark Rosenfeld, varsity coach, said.

Considering the types of players that were on the team, the team started from scratch. Many of the players had to learn the basics of tennis, such as serving, before they were ready to participate in the matches.

Overall, the girls’ tennis team wasn’t the best team in the league, but the players did enjoy gaining their own individual points each set.

In the District One tournament, the double players, Crissy Pulsinelli and Aryna Chushkova, played very well. Although they put a lot of heart into the match, they lost in the end.

The team accomplished their goal of finishing their season strong with a win of 5-2 against William Tennent.

At the conclusion of the season, a lot of the tennis players returned for a fun game of doubles tennis after school where they could play with a less competitive edge.

“I think the kids had more fun playing in the doubles tournament because it was a noncompetitive tournament and they didn’t have to worry about letting down the whole team or scoring points,” Rosenfeld said.

The doubles tournament didn’t last for very long but the kids still had fun playing in it. Also, students were permitted to chose their partners for the tournament.

The boys’ tennis team was invited to the mixed doubles tournament to warm up for their season beginning in the spring. Now Rosenfeld plans on starting an intramural tennis team to let other kids get a feel for the game.

“We really had to start from scratch in the beginning but I think that by the end of the season, the girls had improved by a lot,” Rosenfeld concluded.

BASIC  
FUN

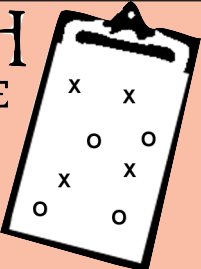


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COACH  
OF THE  
ISSUE



# Reice rallies team to wins

By Brett Schwartz  
Staff Writer

Rich Reice's soccer season started with several sluggish games. Many questioned the young team's confidence and ability. Then came along transfer student Frebole Kamara.

"When Frebole joined the team, we instantly had more confidence. His goal-scoring has also helped our young team to improve," Reice said. Reice credits the addition of Kamara as the turning point of the season. A few days after Kamara's first game, the Redskins began a winning streak that has carried over into the playoffs.

Similar to Frebole's impact on the team, Coach Reice's mentor played a significant part in changing his life around.

After graduating from Penn State in '78, Reice went on to play professional soccer. He played for the Philadelphia Fury for two years in the North American Soccer League, then joined the American Soccer league for four years and concluded his playing career in the MISL (Major Indoor Soccer League).

After his playing days were over, he began to work at a pizza shop in Richboro. His high school coach, Hal Hefflefinger, walked in one day and had a very meaningful conversation with Reice.

"He told me that I should really get my life together. He said that I should go out and try to get involved in soccer again," Reice said.

Reice was inspired and filed for the new coaching opportunity at Neshaminy. He has been coach of the boys' and girls' soccer teams for the past 12 years.

"Hefflefinger coached me in high school and remained a coach for twenty-six years. It really got me thinking about soccer and the possibilities of coaching," Reice said.

This year's team has finished off the year in great fashion, as they are advancing to the State tournament. Reice's team started the tournament off with a 2-1 win over Mechanicsburg. He hopes to have more success this year.

Reice hopes to bring back Neshaminy's first state title since Hefflefinger's coaching days.

# Loss late in season ends playoff hopes

The 'Skins end an overall exciting, successful season with a loss to Pennsbury on Nov. 3.

By Matt Share  
Sports Editor

Expectations were high for the 2006 Neshaminy Redskins following a season in which they earned a spot in the state playoffs. Unfortunately, the loss of numerous senior starters proved to be too much for the team to handle.

That didn't prevent the team from being competitive; the 'Skins were eliminated from the playoffs on the final day of the regular season, following a loss to Pennsbury and a Plymouth Whitmarsh victory over Cheltenham. The 'Skins and the Colonials, as well as Abington, held identical 6-4 records at the end of the season, but the 'Skins were eliminated from the playoffs because of the tiebreaker.

Even though they missed the playoffs, Redskin-faithful were still treated to many thrilling games. On Oct. 14, the 'Skins squared off against Central Bucks South for Neshaminy's Homecoming game. After trailing 26-14 at halftime, the 'Skins rallied from behind and eventually brought home the win by a score of 43-29.

Kitt Anderson had a day to be remembered; he was named Homecoming King, caught a touchdown pass and ran for two more. Andrew Fogel threw two touchdown passes and ran one in for a score.

Winning the close games is what separates the good teams from the great. On Sept. 21, Neshaminy and Abington played one of the most exciting games of the season. Tied 21-21 with only three minutes remaining, junior runningback Jason Ulmer broke off a 67 yard touchdown run. Abington drove into the Red Zone, but the 'Skins were able to hold their ground, preventing Abington from scoring and securing another win.

Fogel threw two touchdowns, both hauled in by senior wide receiver Ryan Evans, and ran for one more.

The 'Skins' offensive attack was headed by senior quarterback Fogel, who threw for 722 yards and 10 touchdowns. Fogel was just as lethal with his legs as he was with his legs; he added 485 yards and five touchdowns on the ground. The threat of Fogel taking off had many defenses thoroughly confounded. Ulmer headed Neshaminy's rushing attack with 612 yards and nine touchdowns, while Evans was the team's leading receiver with 222 yards and

four touchdowns.

On the defensive-side of the ball, the team managed to force 11 turnovers. Justin Kinney intercepted opposing quarterbacks three times, while Fogel, who in addition to playing quarterback played safety, intercepted two balls. Roland Wensae, Kinney and Fogel led a defensive unit that allowed the fourth-fewest points in the Suburban One League.

Although the season did not finish the way that the 'Skins expected, it does not mean that it was a failure. The returning underclassmen will learn from this season's successes and failures, take those lessons, and build for the future.



A swarming Redskin defense corrals the Central Bucks South ball carrier, contributing to the come-from-behind victory at the 'Skins' Homecoming game.  
Photo/Michele Lestochi

## Sportorial

# "Sports rage" in parents affecting youth sports

Youth sports are conducting a long line of violent outbreaks among parents.

By Kelsey Ruffing  
Features Editor

For most parents there is nothing better than watching their child blow past a defender and kick a ball that grazes the back of the net, or sprint from the 40 yard line breaking tackles, cutting back and forth, to score that winning touchdown, but lately, throughout the country the competition has been between parents on the sidelines.

At a youth hockey practice in Ma., one of the nation's first fatal instances of

parental violence occurred. It started out as a battle of words, but quickly escalated into a battle of fists, ultimately resulting in the death of a father. The most ridiculous aspect of this argument was they were fighting over the practice getting too rough. That's not hypocritical or anything now is it?

Hockey is not the only sport that allows parents to lose their temper. Football, baseball, soccer and basketball have all contributed to the recent chain of "sports rage" incidents.

In Northeast Philadelphia, a 40-year-old dad became so angry that his son was not receiving enough "playing time" that the man and coach began fist fighting. Shortly after, the father pulled out a .357 Magnum on the coach. The team of five- and six-year-olds ran to the end zone and crouched in fear. These children are very young; to them, playing time does not matter.

At a basketball game in Pittsburgh a man's wife was thrown out of the gym for derogatory comments. The man then went out onto the court and body slammed the referee. Every woman wants her man to stick up for her, but turning an innocent basketball game into a WWE wrestling match is not the way to do it.

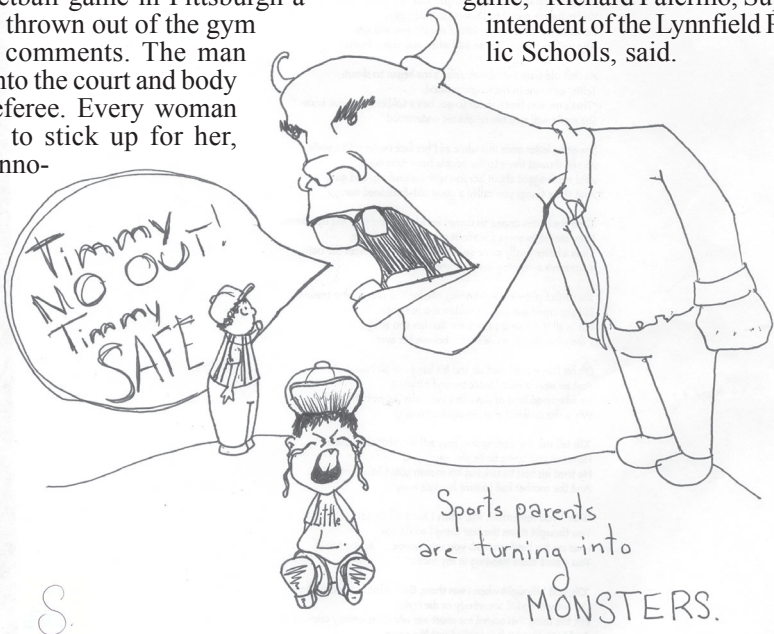
The reasoning for these sudden outbreaks of parents throwing tantrums varies. Some believe that there is too much pressure put on children who play sports to go above and beyond, to simply

be the best. Some parents are going as far as to put their three-year-old in uniformed league games because they think that the sooner the kids are introduced to competition, the more athletic they will become. I'm sorry, but three-year-olds should be eating Mac and Cheese in front of the TV instead of tackling.

Parents are also sometimes accused of trying to live their lives through their child, so they push their children to become something that they could not.

With these kinds of expectations set, a child can suffer tremendously. If his batting stance is sloppy or his glove just couldn't capture the ball, he will later hear all about it during the car ride home. Not only are the coaches and referees getting yelled at, but the kids, I think, suffer even more.

"I've heard parents use derogatory remarks towards their kids. It is just amazing—they don't remember that it's just a game," Richard Palermo, Superintendent of the Lynnfield Public Schools, said.



## BEAT THE EDITORS

Joe Julie and Matt  
Sports Editors

## RESULTS

Mr. Tenaglia  
Physical Education Teacher

Tenans @ Titans  
Titans - Win  
Seahawks @ Chiefs  
Seahawks - loss  
Jaguars @ Eagles  
Eagles - loss  
Cowboys @ Panthers  
Cowboys - loss  
Patriots @ Vikings  
Patriots - Win  
Overall Record: 2-3

Tenans @ Titans  
Tenans - loss  
Seahawks @ Chiefs  
Chiefs - Win  
Jaguars @ Eagles  
Eagles - loss  
Cowboys @ Panthers  
Cowboys - loss  
Patriots @ Vikings  
Vikings - loss  
Overall Record: 1-4

See "RAGE" on page 15